Social Services and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2013 Submission 17

From:

To: Community Affairs, Committee (SEN)
Subject: Deeming on Allocated Pension Funds
Date: Monday, 9 December 2013 1:14:50 PM

Importance: High

I would like to raise my concerns regarding proposed legislation which would result in Superannuation Account Based Pension Accounts being subject to the deeming rules. Currently these pensions receive favourable treatment under Centrelink's income test rules. As a Financial Planner for over 20 years, I have been dealing with pre-retirees and retirees finances and have encouraged Clients to contribute funds to Superannuation so that (in part) they can access the concessional treatment of pension accounts when they retire. With the many changes to Superannuation over this period, this has been the one constant which Clients have been able to rely upon.

Most of my Clients would be disadvantaged under the deeming rules if this legislation is passed. My Clients are not wealthy, they are hard working people who have sacrificed lifestyle over the many years until retirement so that they can contribute more money to Superannuation (as encouraged by Government also) and aim at achieving a comfortable lifestyle in retirement. I believe that if these accounts were to become subject to the deeming rules that many people would simply 'give up' on Superannuation as a means of building their wealth to retirement and indeed spend more in their working lives with the aim of maximising their Age Pension entitlements.

Yours sincerely

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