

Sir,

As a member of a SMSF, I wish to make the following points re this review.

* The superannuation system needs to maximise incentives for self-reliance in retirement saving. The social benefit is to reduce in proportionate measure reliance on the Government and future generations for retirement income support.

* The tax-free withdrawal of superannuation benefits for those aged 60 and over is a critical concession that should be maintained into the future.

* Reducing the costs and complexity to superannuation members can best be achieved by promoting fair competition between superannuation funds. Open, transparent competition will make all superannuation providers more accountable to members. SMSFs are critical to effective competition in the overall superannuation sector. SMSFs promote self-reliance in retirement saving by delivering choice, flexibility and control to individuals.

* The non-SMSF sector is seeking to impose greater regulation on SMSF trustees. Such change is driven by anti-competitive motives. Greater regulation of SMSFs will add to complexity for members and become a disincentive. Existing regulation of SMSFs is sufficient. In addition, the imposition of mandatory training courses would discriminate against trustees located in regional and rural areas. Many non-metropolitan trustees would face difficulties in accessing course providers in their region.

Yours faithfully

Ranald Macdonald