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Reforming payslip reporting will help address super 'theft'

The Australian Institute of Superannuation Trustees (AIST) has reiterated its call to reform payslip reporting to help address the problem of unpaid super, which is estimated to cost workers more than $2.8 billion each year.

Commenting on last night's **ABC 4 Corners program** which revealed how café workers in Bendigo had been robbed of several thousand dollars of super entitlements, **AIST CEO Eva Scheerlinck** said requiring employers to report the *actual* amount of super paid into their employee's super fund on each payslip was a much-needed reform.

"The story of a Bendigo café worker on the Four Corners' program is a prime example of the need to better address reporting super on payslips to ensure that workers can easily keep track of what is being paid into their super fund," Ms Scheerlinck said. "As the program noted, unpaid super is wage theft. The sooner employees can act on unpaid super, the better."

While the café worker's payslip showed an amount of super paid – including a 'year to date' amount - the worker's superannuation fund did not receive all these payments.

Employers are currently only required to pay super to employees quarterly and many payslips simply provide details of the super amount "to be paid" – effectively a super 'IOU'. This makes it difficult for employees who want to check that their super is being correctly paid by their employer.

Ms Scheerlinck said the profit-to-member super sector played a very active role in addressing unpaid super, with the Industry Fund Services (IFS) having last year collected $187 million from over 36,711 employers on behalf of 226,000 employees.

AIST has also called for the ATO to be better resourced to recover unpaid super and take action against the employers involved.

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AIST is the peak body for the $1.2trillion profit-to-member superannuation sector which includes industry, corporate and public sector funds.