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AIST welcomes stability on superannuation policy

The Australian Institute of Superannuation Trustees (AIST) today welcomed the Government's announcement of a breather on major superannuation changes, saying it would help build consumer confidence and provide stability for the superannuation industry.

AIST CEO Tom Garcia said AIST was pleased that the Government recognised the need to remove short-termism from the superannuation policy debate and provide some breathing space on any major policy changes.

"We welcome the recognition from both sides of politics that if the public is going to have the confidence to make decisions about their super and retirement, they need certainty that the rules will not be subject to constant change and annual budget cycles," Mr Garcia said.

Mr Garcia said while the super system still had some way before it reached full maturity and therefore would continue to change and evolve, a period of stability would help the industry to consolidate the Stronger Super changes and provide a basis for deep discussions about ensuring our super system was sustainable and equitable over the long term.

"Neither side of politics should forget that there remains a deep gulf between many people's experience of superannuation, notably between the retirement outcomes of women and men. There is still a lot of work to be done to ensure our retirement incomes system is both equitable and sustainable in the long term, particularly in the post-retirement space".

Mr Garcia said the Government's commitment to raising the SG to 12% and the Low Income Super Contribution (LISC) scheme was particularly welcome as both measures were vital to ensuring future generations of working Australians retired with adequate superannuation.

"These policies deserve the certainty of bi-partisan support as they will significantly improve the retirement outcomes of all Australians and particularly help low-income earners."

Welcoming the legislation to create the Council of Super Custodians, Mr Garcia said AIST looked forward to working with the Council and helping shape future policy outcomes in superannuation.

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AIST is the peak industry body for the \$450 billion not-for-profit super sector which includes industry, corporate and public sector funds covering the super interests of nearly two-thirds of the Australian workforce.