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## Superannuation industry loses one of its greats

**18 February 2015**

It is with great sadness, that the **Australian Institute of Superannuation Trustees (AIST)** and **Women in Super (WIS)** announce the passing of Mavis Robertson AM.

Ms Robertson, who died yesterday in Melbourne aged 84, was one of the leading pioneers of Australia's compulsory super system.

In a career that spanned more than six decades in the union movement and superannuation, Ms Robertson was fund secretary of BUS and AUST before leading the merger of these funds to create Cbus, becoming its CEO and later its Chair.

She was an integral part of many industry initiatives including being a founding member of the Conference of Major Super Funds (CMSF); Australian Institute of Superannuation Trustees (AIST); Women in Super; the Australia Council of Super Investors (ACSI); and the Mother's Day Classic – the latter having raised more than \$24 million for Breast Cancer research.

During this time, Ms Robertson was a vocal advocate on women's issues and retirement, helping drive legislative changes that improved retirement outcomes for all Australian women, particularly those on low incomes. She also recognised the benefits of looking outside Australia to form international alliances and share best-practice and was an original member of the International Corporate Governance Network (ICGN).

Ms Robertson mentored many of today's senior female figures in superannuation and she fought hard to ensure that women from all levels of the industry were well-represented on boards, committees and at industry events. In 1994, she was awarded membership of the Order of Australia for her services to the superannuation industry.

**AIST CEO Tom Garcia** said Ms Robertson was a remarkable person who never lost sight of the social policy side of superannuation and the not-for-profit ethos.

"Mavis leaves an enduring legacy in superannuation. Many of the successful initiatives that have been borne out of the not-for-profit super sector are a direct result of her vision and passion".

**WIS Chair Cate wood** said Ms Robertson was a visionary with incredible drive who was instrumental in the establishment of many institutions focussed on the good governance of the not for profit superannuation sector.

"Mavis was the exemplar of a good citizen dedicating her intellect and energies to the benefit of others and leaves a legacy of institutions which will continue to work for the rights of women and achieving a dignified retirement for all working people," Ms Wood said.



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Mavis is survived by her son Peter, her daughter in law, Marjorie and grandchildren Alec and Molly.

**Further media enquiries: AIST Media Manager Janet de Silva: 0448 000 499**

*AIST is the peak industry body for the \$650 billion not-for-profit super sector which includes industry,*