

**Friday December 2, 2016**

### **AIST welcomes Senate inquiry to investigate billions of dollars lost in unpaid super**

**The Australian Institute of Superannuation Trustees (AIST)** has welcomed the announcement of a Senate Economics References Committee inquiry into the impact of non-payment of the Superannuation Guarantee (SG).

**AIST CEO Tom Garcia** said billions of dollars in unpaid super were quietly leaking from the super system as a result of employers either failing to meet their obligations, sham contracting or insolvency.

“Unpaid super is a problem costing billions of dollars each year which impacts both workers’ retirement outcomes and the wider economy,” Mr Garcia said. “Many of those missing out on super are low paid workers who can’t afford to have this problem ignored.”

Mr Garcia said not all workers were aware of their rights in regards in super entitlements so government, regulators, employers, super funds and other stakeholders had an obligation to protect their interests.

Mr Garcia said while organizations like Industry Funds Services (IFS) - as well as leading not-for-profit funds - had played a major role in working with employers to recover unpaid super for their members, more resources were needed to tackle the issue, particularly in regards to monitoring and collecting information.

“We need to ensure that regulatory agencies such as the ATO have the resources to monitor, investigate and recover unpaid super,” Mr Garcia said. “Non payment of superannuation not only affects workers, it also impacts on the competitive landscape for employers, with those who meet their super obligations potentially at a disadvantage to employers that are not doing the right thing.”

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

***AIST is the peak industry body for the \$700 billion not-for-profit super sector which includes industry, corporate and public sector funds.***