

AIST announces Cate Wood as Trustee of the Year

Thursday 23 March, 2017

The Australian Institute of Superannuation Trustees (AIST) has today announced **Cate Wood** as the recipient of the **AIST Trustee of the Year Award** at the **Conference of Major Superannuation Funds** on the Gold Coast.

Cate Wood is current chair of CareSuper and is also Chair and National Spokesperson of Women in Super.

AIST President David Smith congratulated Ms Wood on her achievement and acknowledged her significant contribution to CareSuper as a director since 2000 and Chair since 2014.

“Cate is highly regarded in the superannuation industry for being a passionate and committed trustee director and Chair at CareSuper,” said Mr Smith. “She has played a key role in many developments and initiatives at CareSuper, including the fund’s successful merger with Asset Super in 2012.”

Mr Smith also commended Cate for her tireless work across the profit-to-member superannuation industry, including volunteer roles at Women in Super, the Mother’s Day Classic Foundation and other industry organisations, such as AIST.

“Cate has been particularly active about ensuring women and low income earners get a better deal from super,” said Mr Smith. “She has a laser focus on members’ best interests and regularly challenges the status quo in a bid to achieve the best policy outcomes.”

Accepting the award, Cate Wood described it as a reward for “being an annoying and persistent” advocate for workers.

“As a former union official, I’ve always had a passion for looking after working people...super is one of the great achievements of the union movement in helping ensure that ordinary workers get to enjoy a decent standard of living in retirement,” she said.

Ms Wood also acknowledged the role of the Labor Government as well as the greater profit-to-member sector in working hard to ensure that decisions made about superannuation and retirement income policy are made in members’ best interests.

The Trustee of the Year Award – which has been sponsored by Schroders for the past seven years – recognises the crucial role that representative trustees play in Australia’s \$2.3 trillion superannuation industry.

Presenting the Award, Schroders’ Institutional Client Director, Kerrie Howard, noted that trustees were under increasing pressure to perform duties to an even higher standard.

“Trustee directors have an endless array of responsibilities from accountable dialogue with fund members; negotiating a path through the constantly changing regulatory environment; to the broader commitment of improving the profit-to-member segment of the super system,” Ms Howard said.

Further media enquiries:

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AIST is the peak industry body for the \$700 billion profit-to-member super sector which includes industry, corporate and public sector funds.