

MEDIA RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thursday October 3rd 2013

AIST cautions against a one-size-fits-all approach to advisor education

The Australian Institute of Superannuation Trustees (AIST) has cautioned Australian Securities & Investments Commission (ASIC) against adopting a one-size fits all approach to education requirements for financial advisors.

AIST support higher standards for financial advisers, including the eventual requirement for a bachelor's degree for practitioners providing a *personal* advice service but does not support a degree requirement for practitioners who provide a *general* advice service.

A joint AIST/Industry Super Australia (ISA) submission calls for an extension to ASIC's proposed timetable, and questions the need for those providing general advice to have similar qualifications to personal advice practitioners.

"It is critical that super fund members have access to affordable advice, particularly around superannuation. We believe those providing the more detailed personal advice need degree qualifications, however we question whether it is in members' best interests to mandate this level of qualification for those advisors providing general advice, as ultimately general advice could become more expensive," said Richard Webb, AIST's Policy and Regulatory Analyst.

"The changes need to get the right balance between providing affordable accessible advice to super fund members and more sophisticated services that require a higher level education from providers."

The submission notes that the proposed implementation date of 1 January 2015 will not allow for adequate development time for any required new content.

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A copy of the submission can be found here:

http://www.aist.asn.au/policy-research/submissions/2013-collection/09_sep/joint-submission-to-asic-cp-212-training-requirements-for-financial-advisers.aspx