

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## Australian Investors Association

### Why all Australians need to know more about investing

Western Australia is the only state that has legislation allowing employees to select their own superannuation fund. There is debate whether this is good or bad as there is concern that many employees do not have sufficient knowledge nor inclination to select funds appropriate for their long term needs.

In light of poor returns of many super funds over the last couple of years, there are others who would prefer to have this responsibility rather than rely on the choice of their employer.

“As the uncertainty of superannuation returns grows, it is clear that more and more Australians are going to have to take more responsibility for their long term financial security,” advised Bob Andrew, President of the Australian Investors Association.

Recent changes in legislation further complicate an already complex issue. For many Australians the issues of selecting super funds, choosing when to retire, selecting income streams for retirement are tasks that are not only daunting but one they are not necessarily interested in. The trick then is to know how to obtain unbiased information on the selection of appropriate financial advisers, brokers, superannuation funds etc.

“A good place to start when embarking on this quest is the Australian Investors Association (AIA),” advises Bob Andrew. “It is the only independent, non-profit association of its kind in Australia and comprises only individual investors. Corporate membership is not allowed.”

The AIA was formed in 1991 by a group of investors who recognised there was a need for an organisation which could represent the interests of individual investors across the broad spectrum of investment products available in the retail market.

The Association’s focus these days is primarily on helping people learn to be better investors so they can confidently select their own advisers, funds, shares, brokers etc. This is done through their publications, information meetings, conferences and seminars.

“Unlike the heavily publicised ‘get-rich-quick seminars’, the Association’s seminars are inexpensive and provide investors with a very accessible, enjoyable means of learning more about managing their own money. They are not a front to sell a questionable investment scheme or software,” says Bob Andrew.

“Being a non-profit organisation of *investors helping investors* the AIA can offer an excellent line-up of speakers for a very reasonable cost,” advises John Venn, the AIA Councillor residing in Perth. “Our regular monthly Perth Meetings and the National Investors Conference to be held on the Gold Coast in June are examples of this.”

“In addition to our seminars, many members find the greatest value is being able to discuss their investments openly with other investors,” adds Bob Andrew. “Members have these opportunities at local discussion group meetings and conferences.”

Other benefits include a wide range of member discounts on software, publications and

research websites, networking opportunities, and perhaps, most importantly, the knowledge that this organisation is one which endeavours to help protect investors' rights.

The first twelve month subscription costs \$82.50 and annual subscriptions are \$71.50. For further information on the AIA and how it can help you to become better educated, please visit the website [www.investors.asn.au](http://www.investors.asn.au) or call 1300 555 061.

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