



**Tasplan  
super**

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# Media Release

**Tasplan is Tasmania's largest multi-industry super fund with over 90,000 members, 8000 participating employers and \$500,000,000 of funds under management**

## Call For Super Action

Leaders of Australia's superannuation, financial and business sectors have joined forces to question the Federal Government's retirement and incomes strategy..

Peak trade union and employer organisations are part of a group which has called on the Commonwealth to urgently review all aspects of its retirement policy - including superannuation.

Calling themselves the Call For Super Action, the group has urged the Government to make a real difference in the future living standards of Australians by:-

- removing the Government's 15% Contributions tax.
- extending the co-contribution incentive up to those earning \$60,000.
- accepting the Senate Select Committee finding that the goal for an adequate level of retirement income should be around 65% of pre-retirement income.
- continuing to improve the feasibility of integrated work and retirement during a phased retirement period by enabling all persons under age 70 to be able to turn the income stream from an allocated pension on and off, with no work test applying.

Call For Super Action includes amongst its membership the peak national bodies for business, trade unions, super funds, accountants, banks, insurance companies, financial planners and actuaries.

According to Neil Cassidy, General Manager of Tasplan, Tasmania's largest multi-industry superannuation fund, the Federal Government would do well to heed the recommendations of such an expert and representative group.

"The future ageing of Australia's population is well-known" Mr.Cassidy said, "by 2005 there will be more Australians aged between 60 and 80 than under age 20".

"Unless we move to implement a more efficient retirement and incomes strategy, future generations could be shouldering a massive social security burden which could be beyond the resources of the country to sustain".

Mr.Cassidy said that whilst there has been international praise for the framework of Australia's retirement income system – age pension, compulsory super and voluntary super – urgent fine-tuning is needed if this framework is to meet the future needs of the nation. Reforms endorsed by Tasplan include:-

- current compulsory contribution of 9% is inadequate
- removal of considerable complexities and anomalies in the current system which discourage employee saving and add considerable cost.
- more encouragement for longer term personal saving
- retirees should be allowed to maximise employment options and long term financial returns

According to Mr.Cassidy, the reforms advocated by Call For Super Action are affordable and will make a real difference to the retirement living standards of many Australians.

"The significant unity within the superannuation, financial services and business sectors ( unions and employers ) about the future direction of super is unprecedented, Mr Cassidy said."The Federal Government would do well to embrace the principles developed by the Call for Super Action as part of any future review of its retirement income system."

Mr.Cassidy said further changes to superannuation announced in the Treasurer's Budget speech were welcome but fell well short of what was needed:-

- co-contribution to rise to \$1500 to match a \$1000 personal contribution.
- Surcharge rate to fall more rapidly to 7.5% by 2006/07.

He called on the Treasurer Peter Costello to seriously address the recommendations made by Call For Super Action.