



28 September 2017

Committee Secretary
Senate Economics Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

UnionsWA Incorporated • ABN 64 950 883 305
Level 4, 445 Hay Street, PERTH WA 6000
PO Box Z5380, St Georges Tce, PERTH WA 6831
Tel: +61 8 9328 7877 • Fax: +61 8 9328 8132
unionsyes@unionswa.com.au • www.unionswa.com.au

Email: economics.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Madam/Sir

Inquiry into the Treasury Laws Amendment (Improving Accountability and Member Outcomes in Superannuation Measures No.2) Bill 2017

UnionsWA is the governing peak body of the trade union movement in Western Australia, and the Western Australian Branch of the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU). As a peak body we are dedicated to strengthening WA unions through co-operation and co-ordination on campaigning and common industrial matters. UnionsWA represents around 30 affiliate unions, who in turn represent approximately 140,000 Western Australian workers.

UnionsWA thanks the Committee for the opportunity to make a submission to the inquiry into the *Treasury Laws Amendment (Improving Accountability and Member Outcomes in Superannuation Measures No.2) Bill 2017*. UnionsWA is writing in support of the ACTU submission to the above inquiry. We believe that the legislation proposed will have an adverse impact in the operation of Industry Super in Australia.

Many of our affiliates are sponsoring organisations of Industry Super Funds and union members have a vested interest in their success. They invest in long-term projects that deliver jobs, and ensuring that all profits are returned to members. WA Union members are employed because Industry Super Funds have invested in projects such as the Dampier-Bunbury Gas Pipeline and the Perth CBD Courts Complex.

Superannuation has been recognised as an industrial matter for some 30 years, and industrial matters afford the right for workers to negotiate collectively. This legislation seeks to strip the right for collective negotiation by workers in this space.

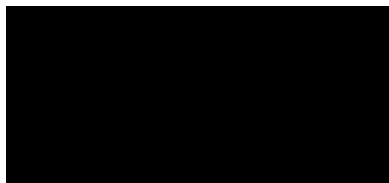
Legislation should not limit or curtail this right.

Unions negotiate industrial outcomes to suit their industries. By negotiating collective funds, unions have been able to ensure compliance with the Superannuation Guarantee. This practice benefits good employers by easing administrative burden.

By contrast, choice of fund arrangements can be manipulated to assist an unscrupulous employer to avoid paying the Superannuation Guarantee. If a single fund applies at vulnerable workplace, then the ability to verify payments at legislatively prescribed levels is significantly easier to monitor, and workers don't lose out.

Please contact me on [REDACTED] if you wish to discuss these matters further.

Yours sincerely

A large black rectangular box redacting the signature of Meredith Hammat.

Meredith Hammat
Secretary