

My late husband Ross and I were the Trustees in Microtrend Providend Fund contributing to the ARP Growth fund since approximately 1990 although in those days the company was Professional Pensions Pty Ltd.

During the 90's we were diligent in putting money into our Super fund as we felt that by the time we retired, the government would be overloaded with seniors and it would be a struggle to exist comfortably on the pension, hence we wanted to be self funded retirees. We put many long hours into our working days to build our nest egg and expected to enjoy a comfortable retirement.

Ross was the main contact with our Financial Advisor Mr. xxxxx whenever any details, updates and information were received from our fund. Unfortunately when Ross passed away unexpectedly in January, 2006, I began a big learning curve on dealing with my superannuation fund. I still didn't have a clear understanding of how everything worked but as we had been dealing with this company for 15 years, I admit I put a lot of trust in Mr. xxxxx advice.

The combined amount of funds in my "Super Fund" as I thought it was called was in excess of \$1,200,000 because Ross' funds were combined with mine after his death.

In early 2008 I began receiving a drawdown from my fund each month as a pension and when the Global Financial Crisis began, I was receiving statements from ARP Growth showing that our fund was still performing well even though the Australian Share Market wasn't. I spoke with Mr. xxxxx and he assured me that the reason we performed well was our investments were not in the USA or Australia where the problems were but in BVI and other areas that weren't affected.

In November 2008, I requested an extra drawdown of \$100,000 and received a call from Mr. xxxxx asking me if I'd reconsider this request as it would place a burden on the monthly pensions of all the members receiving pensions at that time. ARP Growth was supposedly making regular payments to unit holders of \$300,000 per month and if I continued with my request, they would have to sell of shares at a much lower value due to the GFC. I would therefore cause a major impact on the total cash pool that was paying the pensions of the other members at that time. I didn't want to jeopardise the payments to the others so I increased my monthly payments instead of receiving a lump sum.

I wasn't aware that there was a difference between having a Superannuation Fund and a SMSF and therefore my funds wouldn't be covered by any Government protection.

I also thought since I was paying ASIC fees and Auditors fees, that the company would have been well scrutinised in case of any of mismanagement or fraud. I also thought there were adequate Insurance policies in place in case unforeseen problems.

Like all other members, I was shocked and upset to learn that we would receive nothing from what we thought was a safe investment of our hard earned money and since our funds were all managed by the same people who looked after the Super Funds, I don't understand why through no fault of ours that we can't be compensated the same as the others.

Why did we bother paying fees to those responsible for supposedly keeping companies honest?
Who is keeping these Government departments and Auditors honest?

Since leaving school to begin work I have never had to collect unemployment assistance and as I stated previously, wasn't expecting to have join Centre Link for financial assistance in my retirement, but of course I have now had to do just that at the age of 64 years.

I also hope some of the comments made by Justice P. Garling during Shawn Richards trial about "what was the investment committee and board of directors doing", and that ASIC and the Auditors didn't seem to be held accountable, carry some weight during the enquiry.

Yours faithfully,

Rena Anderson