



## Committee recommends consultation on super account merges

The House Economics Committee released its advisory report today on the Tax and Superannuation Laws Amendment (2013 Measures No. 2) Bill 2013.

It recommended passage of seven of the Bill's eight schedules, but called for Treasury consultation with industry on Schedule 5, which provides for trustees to merge multiple super accounts within a fund.

"The Bill makes important and beneficial changes to tax and superannuation laws", said Committee Chair, Ms Julie Owens MP.

The committee did not receive any submissions on Schedules 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8. The report focuses on issues raised on Schedules 1, 5 and 6.

Schedule 1 defines a 'documentary' for the purpose of accessing film tax offsets, and makes explicit that game shows are not eligible programs. The definition is based on the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) Guidelines, as was used by Screen Australia prior to the *Lush House* case.

"Reinstating the ACMA Guidelines definition of a documentary will help provide clarity when administering the Producer Offset", said Ms Owens, "but there is a need for ongoing dialogue between Screen Australia and industry to ensure that the application of the definition remains responsive as the documentary genre evolves".

Submitters unanimously supported the intent of Schedule 5; to merge multiple accounts within a fund to reduce the amount members pay in multiple sets of administration fees and insurance premiums, and consequently increase retirement savings.

Some groups were concerned that the reference to merging multiple accounts if it is in the super member's best interests could obligate trustees to have regard to a member's individual circumstances, rather than the collective best interests of fund members. The committee acknowledged that in some circumstances complex cases may need input from affected members.

The committee recommended that the Government consult with industry groups to ensure that undue liability is not being inadvertently placed on trustees who are working in good faith for the benefit of members when merging multiple super accounts.

The committee supported the changes in Schedule 6 which scale down the operation of the government super co-contribution, as part of wider superannuation reforms to ensure that schemes are well targeted and effective.

The report includes a dissenting report by the Coalition members of the committee.

**For media comment:** Please contact the Committee Chair Julie Owens MP:

Electorate: (02) 9689 1455

Parliament: (02) 6277 4134

Mobile: 0418 772 457

**For background information:** Please contact the committee secretariat:

Phone: (02) 6277 4564 Email: [economics.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:economics.reps@aph.gov.au) Website: [www.aph.gov.au/economics](http://www.aph.gov.au/economics)