

Dear Sir/Madam

Re : Your Inquiry into the Tax Laws Amendment (improvements to Self Assessment) Bill (No. 1) and the Shortfall Interest Charge (Imposition) Bill 2005.

I am a small business owner who works very long hours (probably as many as you), and deal every day with the stresses that come with making sure the business runs smoothly --- while planning for the future of the business. Presently, the business provides full-time work for 102 people, including myself --- so it's a big small business.

I have worked very hard to build the business over the past 21 years, and have always acted with fairness, honesty and integrity.

For 6 years or more now, my family and I have had to deal with the additional stress and pressure, as well as very heavy financial consequences, as a result essentially of the failings of the Self Assessment system.

I have had excessive GIC and penalties imposed on me, and feel I have been punished, harrassed and intimidated by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) --- due to a one off investment in 1996 to an Employee Benefit Arrangement as recommended by my tax accountant at that time.

Ironically, I am one of the people whose treatment caused Treasury to recommend the law be changed, but I am excluded from the benefits of the new laws.

I believe I deserve the protection of the legislation more for the past where I am locked in --- at a time when I was less knowledgeable.

It is not logical to introduce legislation to alleviate a defect, but allow the ATO in the future to amend assessments and apply the defective law for 2003/04 or earlier.

As part of your Inquiry, can you please recommend that the new legislation be made retrospective.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

[Redacted signature and name]