

The Secretary
Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Suite SG.64
Parliament House
CANBERRA, ACT 2600

Dear Sirs,

We have experienced the upset, dismay, desperation and anxiety over the last 5 years by clients (average Australians) caught up in the mess of the uncertainty of the self assessment system, severe penalties and interest. The uncertainty of after entering into a transaction in good faith to be hit with large assessments and penalties which cannot be planned for so the solution is to be in fear for six years.

We are concerned with the date of application of these new measures. In this bill, the new law will only apply to amendments made to returns for the 2004/05 year and beyond. But in respect of 2003/04 and earlier years the ATO will still be able until at least 2009 to amend returns and impose GIC under the old law at 12 to 13%. Why one should be penalized for earlier years at higher rates when there was less experience in such transactions doesn't make sense.

The Government having identified defects and claiming to fix them for the future, but not fixing it for the past, even though it has caused great damage - and also leaving everyone exposed into the future in respect of past returns is clearly wrong. Please do not allow it to happen please fix the problem properly and stand up for us.

With kind regards,

Yours faithfully,

[Redacted signature]