

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

23-May-2005

Also EMAILED TO: economics.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Sirs,

I am writing about the amendments to the Taxation Administration Act 1953 referred to as the shortfall interest charge.

The whole reason for this Act coming about, is due to the many Australian Taxpayers, myself included, who have been unfairly treated over what is referred to as the 'Mass-Marketed Schemes' that were apparently approved and above-board, and later, became 'unacceptable', which thus made all who took part, appear to be criminals in the eyes of the ATO.

This Legislation ignores these people most affected by limiting the Act to the current tax year which means in effect it has no benefit to the most affected Australians who relied on apparently sound legal advice for their tax planning, and now face high tax penalties PLUS high interest on those penalties.

My family and I have had several years of upset and anxiety over the huge tax burden placed on us over the shifting opinions of the Tax system, and it will not be over for many more years yet while we continue to pay back these unreasonable penalties

The uncertainties in the self-assessment tax system where the ATO can appear to approve affairs and then change its position need to be addressed.

I fail to see why we should continue to be penalised, when Australians getting themselves into the very same position this year can have the relief this legislation brings.

The Dept. of Treasury has clearly found the self-assessment system does not protect ordinary Australians against unfair treatment by the ATO.

*Please do not allow this legislation to pass without fixing it.
Please stand up for us on this matter.*

With Regards,

Yours Faithfully,

