We’re living longer than ever - will your super savings last?

WAYNE DAVY, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Quadrant Superannuation

With the Australian population hitting 22 million on 1 October, our country continues to grow faster than official predictions and is now expected to reach 40 million in 2050. This healthy growth means that retirement will become an increasingly hot topic for governments as they manage the ever increasing number of retiring Australians. On top of this, we’re living longer than ever.

As life expectancies rise, it’s becoming even more important for people to be able to figure out exactly how much they’ll need to fund their retirement. Studies have shown that for most people, this figure is going to be somewhere around 60% of your annual income. So if you’re earning $80,000 you’ll probably want to aim for an annual income of almost $50,000 to live in the style you’ve become accustomed to! The other critical question is how long will you spend in retirement?

One hundred years ago a man retiring at age 65 could have expected to live another 11 years. These days it could be 20 to 30 years. The number crunchers also tell us that for a couple retiring in 2045 (male aged 65 and female aged 60) the probability that one of them will still be alive at age 90 is more than 70%.

There are a number of ways to help you plan for retirement and decide just how much you will need. Internet resources such as the Australian Superannuation Funds Association website have retirement standard benchmarks that calculate annual retirement budgets by city or region, taking into account the cost of living and your goals for either a comfortable or modest retirement. For most people, seeking the advice of a qualified financial planner, or attending a retirement planning seminar is the logical first step to make sure you won’t outlive your savings and will achieve your retirement goals. For more information, visit www.quadrantsuper.com.

Taking a Proactive Approach to PR

Opportunities are never lost - someone else will take the ones that you miss. How many opportunities are lost or overlooked every year as a consequence of ineffective communication with stakeholders, both internal and external?

In today’s dynamic global and electronic marketplace, news travels faster and has a shorter life than ever before. The active presence of the Internet in our day-to-day lives means new news is old news before tomorrow’s newspaper has even been delivered. Coincidently, an issue or feature does not die with the release of tomorrow’s newspapers. It is stored, online, for an indefinite period; available for anyone - friend or foe - to locate, redistribute, or reference.

Proactive public relations; forward, dynamic, practical communication strategies that highlight to ratepayers the lengths to which Local Government is prepared to go to improve our cities, towns and municipalities is key in maintaining an active, receptive presence in the community. The Principal Advisor of a new public relations and communications firm in Launceston, MWPR, Mark Wells, says that taking a proactive approach to public relations will always result in a stronger outcome for the client, and less hostile stakeholders. “Proactive public relations is very important in Local Government, especially when it involves communicating a change in policy or direction,” Mark said.

MWPR is located at Level 2/39 Paterson Street, Launceston. Phone 1300 933 220.
You should consider whether the product is right for you and read the Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) before making any decisions about Tasplan. Please call 1800 005 166 to obtain a copy of the Tasplan PDS.

Help at Hand with SuperFriend

NEIL CASSIDY, CEO
Tasplan

Mental illness is a major risk factor for suicide, with psychological autopsy studies showing that up to 90% of people who suicide may have been experiencing a mental disorder at the time of their death. In an effort to counter this and in response to the high incidence of insurance claims arising from mental illness and suicide of members, the Tasplan Industry Funds Forum has created SuperFriend - a nationwide initiative aimed at improving the mental health and wellbeing of industry superannuation fund members.

Mental illness has a huge social and economic cost - for the individual and the community. Untreated mental illness is a major contributor to family breakdown, loss of time from work, and crime, affecting the community and business, as well as the individual and their family. In Australia, suicide is the leading cause of death for men and women under the age of 35, mental illness affects one in five people, Tasmania has the highest suicide rate per capita in the country, and the State of Young People report has found that one in four teenagers live with a mental illness.

To help prevent suicide and to reduce disabilities resulting from mental illness, SuperFriend aims to:

- Support and encourage people in need of assistance to seek help early from mental health professionals;
- Provide increased identification of and access to mental health services offered by mental health organisations participating in the program;
- Educate members, employers and other fund participants about mental illness and how to recognise the symptoms early;
- Help remove the stigma of mental illness;
- Increase the tolerance of individuals and the community of people with mental illness; and
- Offer a range of educational materials and programs to raise awareness of mental health issues with staff, members and employers.

To find out more information about SuperFriend, follow the links from the Partners button on the Tasplan homepage at www.tasplan.com.au.

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Veolia Welcomes New General Manager

Veolia Environmental Services has appointed a new Group General Manager, David Beard, 45, who joined Veolia in 2005 and was most recently the company’s General Manager - Waste Services in Victoria.

Mr Beard, who arrived in the state in October, said Tasmania was well placed in an Australian context with respect to its clean and green status, and Veolia was well placed to continue providing innovative environmental solutions to respond to government policy and business needs.

Mr Beard said virtually every sector of the economy had suffered because of the financial downturn. “Veolia operates at the back end of industry, so when there is an industry downturn, we get hit,” he said. “Importantly, during periods of downturn, we have not cut back on our service commitment, or our service standards and will continue to work with our customers to meet their challenges.

Mr Beard has a Masters of Business, a Civil Engineering Degree, is a Fellow of the Institute of Engineers (Australia), is a Member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and is a Director on the Coliban Water Authority. Prior to joining Veolia, Mr Beard was Director Engineering Services for the City of Greater Bendigo and Director of Engineering Services at the Murrindindi Shire.

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