

Forsyths Knowledge

March 2011

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How to take control of your Super.

If you are tired of the effects of the GFC on your super fund, maybe fed up with not-so-super returns or feeling at the mercy of your current fund manager, a Self Managed Super Fund (SMSF) could be the answer.

Not all super funds are created equal – some are very expensive, others offer limited investment options and most don't provide the flexibility people are looking for to maximise their returns.

A growing number of people want more choice and greater control, with the ability to tailor super to their own needs and have a say in how their money is invested. The demand for a more attractive and tax-effective super option has seen SMSFs emerge as one of the fastest growing sectors of the superannuation industry.

SMSFs are a popular alternative to traditional super funds for anyone wanting to take control of their own retirement planning. When a fund is correctly structured and managed it can provide many extremely powerful benefits to its members such as greater flexibility, reduced costs and wider investment choice.

Understanding how a SMSF works

A SMSF, in simple terms, is a small superannuation trust that can receive contributions from all sources including your employer, the Government and voluntary individual contributions. As the member is also the trustee of the fund, *you* effectively control and manage your own super.

With SMSFs you decide what you want to invest in and when to buy and sell. Your SMSF can also include up to four family members, which allows you to combine multiple super balances and reap the rewards.

Whether you are establishing a new SMSF or you already have one in place, you need to ensure you access the right information and strategies to successfully manage your fund in any economic environment.

A Financial Adviser's point of view

Forsyths Financial Advisor Kylie Alcorn said superannuation is complex and constantly changing and SMSFs are a highly specialised area.

"SMSFs are not something you can set and forget, there are many rules and regulations that govern your superannuation so it's essential to get things right from the start if you want to ensure your fund is fully compliant."

Expert advice from specialists with a wealth of industry experience can mean the difference between smart decisions and costly mistakes.

"Our dedicated super team at Forsyths Financial Services have established and serviced hundreds of funds, and we know what it takes to get a fund up and running fast and keep it running smoothly," said Kylie.

"We know we're doing our job well when we make the process simple and straightforward for clients, and through us they have access not only to superannuation experts but can call on our qualified accountants, financial advisors and investment consultants as needed too."

Kylie's advice is to find a team who know super inside and out, offer the latest information, explain everything in an easy-to-understand manner and provide a comprehensive range of SMSF services that includes: *please see next page*

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**DO YOU KNOW
ANYONE WHO
MAY BE
INTERESTED
IN JOINING
OUR TEAM?**

We are currently
recruiting for the
following position in
our Tamworth office.

Operations Manager
(Financial Services)

Armidale p: 6773 8400

Coonabarabran p: 6842 0000

Gunnedah p: 6748 5000

Tamworth p: 6763 0100

1. Establishing your SMSF
2. Administering your SMSF
3. Managing annual reporting and auditing
4. Providing investment advice
5. Developing super strategies to maximise returns
6. Reviewing and transferring existing SMSFs
7. Providing training and assistance to support.

Is a SMSF right for you?

“At Forsyths we start by helping people determine whether a SMSF is right for them,” said Kylie.

“While a well-managed SMSF can give people a great lifestyle in retirement, not everyone has what it takes to manage their fund on their own.”

“That’s why it’s important to be able to call on advisers who make the ongoing day-to-day management of the fund as simple as possible.”

Kylie said helping someone realise their retirement dreams is a very personal process – it has to be all about them and putting them in control of their super and financial future.

“You can only do that by listening, learning about the people concerned and tailoring the right super solution to their individual needs, instead of just promoting some off-the-shelf product.”

“Clients tell us they appreciate our genuine care, guidance and personal service, but also value the fact that we are open, approachable and straight talkers.”

Deciding what you want from your super and retirement is a great start - knowing the steps you should take to get there is easier with experienced financial advisers at your side who actually care about getting you there.

Forsyths not only assist people starting their SMSF from scratch, but also provide an obligation-free second opinion for anyone who is already managing a fund on their own or seeking assistance from someone else.

Planning for retirement is one of the most important things we can do in life. For most Australians superannuation will be their largest asset outside the family home when they retire, and still remains the most tax-effective way to save for that comfortable retirement lifestyle we all desire.

Do you want to find out more about SMSFs?

SMSFs offer many advantages to help all kinds of people at all different stages of life to build their nest egg and are worth serious consideration for anyone who believes their current super is not delivering the results they want. To find out more please call any of our offices and ask for our Super Specialists.

Best Wishes

The Forsyths Team

Source: NJWilliamson

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