

# SPAA a deep pool of talent



One of the unique features of the Self-Managed Super Fund Professionals' Association of Australia (SPAA) is the high technical expertise of our members, comprising SPAA Specialist Advisers (SSAs) and SPAA Specialist Auditors (SSAud).

To date, SPAA has had more than 1000 members commit to voluntary specialisation to enhance their professionalism. So it's not surprising that many of our SSAs or SSAuds - such as Peter Crump, Louise Biti, Jo Heighway, Peter Hogan and Graeme Colley - feature prominently in this year's lineup of technical speakers at the SPAA National Conference, taking place at the Brisbane Convention Centre. These are people at the top of their profession; and SMSF trustees should feel confident in employing these specialists for strategic advice about their SMSF.

The objectives of this year's SPAA National Conference are:

- to deliver a fresh and exciting program with a blend of new and "popular" SMSF speakers; to challenge delegates with technically stimulating and informative sessions;
- to empower delegates with the most cutting-edge SMSF solutions and strategies;
- to update delegates on the latest legislative changes and developments; and
- to provide a networking forum for peers to connect.

Of course, the challenge for SPAA is to ensure the program continually engages delegates; and on this, the feedback from members reflects a consistent hunger for more technical sessions.

So, we have continued with our

three technical streams which include: Compliance, Administration, Audit and Legal; SMSF Strategies and Estate Planning; Financial Markets, Investment Strategies and SMSF trends.

Looking at the program, there is a wide range of technical issues up for discussion and I will highlight just a few of these. Peter Crump, SPAA board member, will be leading a session called, "Troublesome pensions - what are your options?". This session will take a look at the history of pension changes over the past 10 years. In particular, Peter will highlight what can be done with market-linked pensions or allocated pensions that are stuck under old rules. He will also be looking at defined benefit pensions and discussing whether they should be retained at all costs.

Louise Biti, a leading technical strategist with Strategy Steps, will discuss superannuation anti-detriment laws and will outline a fresh approach on how to use them in SMSFs. She will cover how practitioners should structure their advice, when to use an anti-detriment or a re-contribution strategy, and the best ways to fund and implement this strategy.

Peter Burgess, SPAA's own national technical director, will present a one-hour plenary session on SMSF legislative and technical issues. Graeme Colley, national technical services manager at OnePath, will lead a session titled: "Limited Recourse Borrowing and what you need to do to comply". This is a timely session, given some of the issues that have arisen in that space this year.


High-profile financial planning industry lawyer Peter Bobbin will look

at the good, the bad and the ugly side of the excess contributions tax (ECT). Peter's catch cry is that ECT is a "tax on mistakes" as no-one would make super contributions knowing they would be taxed at up to 93 per cent.

There are also technical sessions covering estate planning, in-house assets, pre-'99 trusts, asset segregation and art and collectables.

For a bigger picture focus on legislative and regulatory issues affecting the SMSF sector, look no further than our exciting lineup of plenary speakers, including the Assistant Treasurer and Minister for Financial Services and Superannuation, the Hon Bill Shorten MP, who will open the conference with a legislative update. Sir Anthony Mason AC, KBE, ex Chief Justice of the High Court and SPAA patron, will speak on professional negligence and challenge professionals on their moral and ethical behaviour. The conference will close with a FoFA-focused panel session with Bernie Ripoll MP, FPA CEO Mark Rantall, and Count Financial CEO Andrew Gale, who will discuss what those reforms may mean for the industry.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the 2011 SPAA National Conference. ■

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