

THE SUPERANNUANT

Newsletter of The Association of Public Sector Superannuants Inc.
Formerly SA Superannuants Established 1927
<https://www.pssuperannuants.org.au>

Membership Applications/Renewals

The Membership Officer, A.P.S. Superannuants, PO Box 8202, Ferntree Gully, Victoria 3156
E-mail: apssuper1927@gmail.com

General Correspondence

The Secretary, A.P.S. Superannuants, GPO Box 2036, Adelaide S.A. 5001
Tel: 0438528938 E: apssuper1927@gmail.com

From the President

2023 IN REVIEW

Your committee had another interesting year dealing with a range of matters on behalf of members. As well as corresponding with and meeting various politicians and others during the year, a lot of effort went into just keeping the association operating. In addition to being informed with articles published in our newsletter *The Superannuant*, our website summarises our activities and now includes videos from general meetings, including some guest speaker presentations. If you haven't already had a look at our website, I recommend that you log in and see what's on offer.

MEMBERSHIP Don Campbell has worked tirelessly to maintain our membership records and ensure that information including postal and email addresses is current. We reached to all members of the Super SA Scheme thanks to the continuing generosity of Super SA who again included our promotional letter in their annual mail out. We picked up a few new members from that process but not enough to replace members lost during the year. Around 50% of our members are over 80 years of age. That's not to say that we can't get things done as we age, but it emphasises the importance of recruiting new members as we look further down the road. You can help by promoting



membership of PS Superannuants to your ex-work colleagues and bringing them along to meetings.

THE SUPERANNUANT *The Superannuant* is recognised as a quality production designed to keep you informed with items of interest on superannuation and related matters. Peter Frick has continued to carry the load required for editing, production and distribution of our newsletter as well as ensuring that the information on our Web Site is current and relevant. Many members still have their copy of the newsletter delivered through the mail, and that's fine, but an increasing number has switched to receiving it via email to read it online, saving the association postage and printing costs.

FINANCE While we recognise that we need to address some income versus expenditure issues in the future, we are in a reasonable position from a financial viewpoint at present. Membership fees will remain unchanged next year. However, our hard-working Treasurer Mike Evans has recommended - and the committee agreed, that we opt for a voluntary levy of \$15 to add a buffer to our financial position.

GUEST SPEAKERS Thanks to Ian Beckingham, with help from Peter Fleming and others, during 2023 we were entertained and informed by a range of guest speakers who gave freely of their time and expertise at our general meetings. If you haven't been along to one of our general meetings, I can assure you it is worth the effort to hear the guest speakers and catch up with retired colleagues.

VICTORIAN SUB-COMMITTEE Chaired by John Barrett, our Victorian sub-committee continues to operate efficiently and effectively, and representatives participate in business

attending Adelaide meetings via Zoom. Guest speaker at the November general meeting at South Melbourne was David Zakharoff from the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation.

SUPERANNUATION ADVISORY GROUP

Although we didn't manage to get the Advisory Group up and running in 2023, there is still a level of interest in the future of the group, and we remain hopeful of recruiting a chairperson to bring the interested parties back to the discussion table. If you would like to participate, please contact the Secretary.

THE 2023 COMMITTEE Thanks to everyone on the committee the association operated efficiently over the last 12 months. Some of the 2023 committee and one new person have so far nominated for the committee for 2024. I congratulate them all for taking on the challenge. Leaving the committee in 2024 are Charles Tucker, Roger Donnelly, and Dianne Baron. I thank them all for their participation. I must recognise and give an extra thankyou to Dianne Baron for her professional efficiency and caring approach to the role of Secretary.

COMMONWEALTH SUPERANNUATION CORPORATION AND SUPER S.A. In recent months we have established firm lines of communication with Adam Nettheim, Chief Customer Officer at the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation. In 2024 we will be looking to hold a planning meeting with Adam to work with the CSC team about collaboration opportunities. In addition to maintaining contact with David Zakharoff, the Victorian sub-committee will continue to add value to our dealings with CSC. We will also work with Super SA to strengthen our cooperation with the view to maximising mutually beneficial issues such as recruitment and information exchange.

TAXATION Acknowledging that tax reform to please everyone is probably in the virtually impossible category, hopefully during 2024 the association will be in a position to pursue the case that income from Age Pension be tax free for all those Australians receiving it.

2024-25 PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION Thanks to Ray Hickman, in January 2024 we submitted our case to the government for consideration in relation to taxation of Age Pensions, and also to rules applied in circumstances where after-tax personal contributions by themselves are sufficient to create a tax-free component greater than 10% of a defined benefit pension's gross value.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE Our strategic planning day in May 2023 identified 3 priority actions to address the risk and threats to the association. These were aimed at **Recruiting Office Bearers, Association Finances, and Increasing Stakeholder Engagement**. While we have recruited two new people, only one of them has nominated for the committee. **Unfortunately, there have been no nominations for the roles of Secretary or President at the time of writing this report.** Treasurer Mike Evans will address the financial matters in his report, although as I noted earlier in this report, we are doing ok financially so far but there are some issues to address, particularly if we are to maintain our "war-chest" to meet any future unforeseen challenge. The voluntary \$15 levy will help in that regard.

PS Superannuants is owned by its members and run by volunteers. Members of the association are Key Stakeholders. PLEASE GET INVOLVED.

I am not nominating for the 2024 committee, so this will be my last report.

Take care.

James Vandenberg

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Disclaimer: Readers should not act, or refrain from acting, solely on the basis of information in this newsletter, but should consult the relevant authorities and advisers

Membership Officer Report

Happy New Year 2024!

Why this greeting when the year is one twelfth of the way finished? Well, it's because some of you are still living in 2023 and have not updated your new Membership Officer of any changes you may have made. The Membership Registry may be slumbering with old information about you. Since May 2023, when I started this role, I have noticed that if I have a current email address and a phone number then it is more likely that our record of your postal address is also more likely to be current. PS Superannuants' Executive has agreed to a small procedural change, to keep our Membership Register current. Over time, changes to Member's contact details have occurred, but have not been advised to the PS Superannuants' Membership Officer. Examples are email addresses, landline phone replaced by mobile phone, changes to personal relationships, including new or deceased spouses, etc.

We are now asking All members to please complete an annual Renewal Form This will ensure that your current contact and member details are matched with your Lifetime or annual payments, and you continue to receive all PS Superannuant communications at your preferred address. Whether you are a "Lifer" or an "Annuallyer", please reconfirm your current communication information to keep our records up to date by following the membership records updating procedure below.

Five options for Annual Membership renewal and Lifers keeping your records up to date are:

1. Go to our Website and complete our Renewal/Update Form;
<https://www.pssuperannuants.org.au/how-to-join/>
2. If you can't access our web page, please complete the membership renewal page in this edition of "The Superannuant",
3. Write a personal letter and send your contact information details to PS Superannuant's mailing address.
4. Click on the QR Link on our brochure if you received this during one of our mailouts.
5. Email your List of requested information.

Payment by Direct Bank Transfer: If you pay your subscription or donation using Direct Bank Transfer to the PS Superannuants account, please use both the "details" lines:

First line - name first, phone number second, if possible, post code.

Second line - Purpose of payment (e.g.) "Annual Membership" or "Donation"

Most banks offer the service of enabling you to authorise an email to us at apssuper1927@gmail.com so we get a heads-up that the payment is on its way and we can match this with the online or paper Form you are sending to us.

Partner Membership - Life or Annual? Our existing constitution allows for the Spouse to become a Lifer upon the passing of a Life member – so long as we are notified of the circumstances.

Interesting Membership Facts: 29% Annual; 71% Life – there MUST be a reason!

If you have any Membership issues, please contact me.

Don Campbell Membership Officer

Communications Manager's Report

The biggest innovation we have made since your last Superannuant is to video record our General Meetings and make them available to you through the Member's Portal on our web site. We have done this in view of the fact that we now have a national profile and also because we realise that physically attending meetings sometimes offers challenges. Why not log into the member's Portal and check them out? There is however a difficulty if we have not got an e-mail address from you as the password for the portal is provided by e-mail. If you have got an e-mail address and you have not given it to us, please reconsider as you are missing out on a lot of your membership privileges. Providing your e-mail address does not relinquish your option to receive the Superannuant by post if that is your preference.

I have been dealing with the challenge of spam filters on some member's e-mail accounts which prevent the delivery of our e-mails. Please check your spam folders as some ISPs see our e-mails (being bulk sent) as a risk which of course they are not. From our end we no longer include images in our e-mails as sometimes this is a danger flag to spam filters.

All our executive meetings have the option to attend via Zoom and this may encourage some of you to become more involved when actual physical attendance at the meeting is not possible.

Peter Frick Communication Manager

Vale Geoff Henkel ACPSRO

We have recently learned of the death of Geoff Henkel the secretary of ACPSRO (the peak body, of which our association is a member). Several of us on our committee knew Geoff personally and found him to be a most amiable and likeable man, he was a hardworking and enthusiastic member of the ACPSRO committee, and he will be sorely missed. We send our condolences to his family.

Submission to the 2024 Budget Process

The association has delivered its submission to the 2024 budget process with two main proposals:

Proposal 1: Age pension income to be declared non-taxable income.

Proposal 2: Where after-tax, personal contributions by themselves are sufficient to create a tax-free component greater than 10% of a defined benefit pension's gross value the 10% cap currently being applied to the amount of the pension that is not counted in the age pension income test should not apply.

The complete submission may be read in the Member's Portal on the web site.

Victorian Branch Report

The Victorian Branch held its November Meeting with presenter David Zacharoff Manager of Member Education who spoke on the topic of The Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC). 23 Members and guests attended the pre meeting "Christmas Luncheon", a 50% increase on average attendances over previous meetings. The pre meeting luncheon was subsidised by a \$300 contribution from PS Superannuants, with attending members contributing an additional \$10 (single member) and \$15 (Member and partner/friend) and \$7.50 per person for three and above, to cover the balance of the meal costs. These concessions to bring others were a successful incentive to encourage more members or guests to attend. Wine was donated by members to add a Christmas atmosphere and cheer for this end of year meeting.

The formal meeting commenced and a further 14 members plus spouses joined via Zoom conferencing for the guest speaker's presentation. David Zacharoff had previously received a list of questions and issues which members had submitted prior to the meeting, via response to our

member questionnaire, or by email to our Victorian Meetings Committee. David proceeded to give his answers to questions raised and the recording of these are available in the Member's Portal. David also agreed to follow up some suggestions about how the CSC could expand its service to members and assist in advancing "non-core" individual requests, such as "reunion" of former work colleagues. If you are interested in David's responses to these questions, members can watch a recording of David Zacharoff's presentation, including the questions and his answers. The recording is available on the PS Superannuant web site in the Member's Portal.

Next Meeting:

The first Victorian Member's meeting in 2024 will be held on 27 March at the usual venue where John Barrett will speak on the topic of "Travel Planning and Cruising to the Antarctic. (John has travelled by cruise ship twice to Antarctica!)

Reminders:

Victorian meetings in 2024 will be held on:

27 March 2024, 26 June 2024, 25 September 2024, and 27 November 2024. (The last Wednesday of those Months.) Members from all states are welcome to attend meetings if visiting Melbourne at the time (starting at 12:30pm) or join the meeting via Zoom (at 1:30pm AEST). You are welcome to invite current public sector employees, former colleagues, friends, or partners to our Meetings and to join our Association at our meetings or in between (contact us below for details).

The Victorian Branch maintains an open communication online questionnaire for you to ask questions and suggest meeting topics by [clicking here](#) or going to

<https://forms.gle/sNwC5tTG3jyJu4o39> In the one month before each meeting we also ask you to use this link to register attendance (physical or Zoom or Apology) for upcoming meetings.

Alternatively, you may email us at

APSSuper1927.Vic@gmail.com.

John Barrett, Convenor Victorian Branch

Treasurer's Report

In the previous newsletter I wrote of the need to increase our income and set out our proposed plan to introduce an annual fee of \$15 on existing life members, and to stop offering new life memberships I invited comments from our members. We received several replies, and the

following objections to the proposed plan were raised:

1. It reflects poorly on the honesty and integrity of the committee,
2. It might be illegal,
3. It appears to discriminate against life members.

The committee discussed these objections and as a result decided to scrap the proposed plan and to replace it with a voluntary levy of \$15 on both life and annual members and \$5 on partner members, and to continue to offer life memberships. This, we believe, addresses all the objections. It also removes the need for a change to our constitution, which the original plan would have entailed.

None of the comments from members questioned the need to increase our income; this has also been true when I have spoken to members at general meetings.

By making the levy voluntary we hope to benefit from members widespread expressions of support for increasing our income.

I thank those members who sent comments about the original proposal, your input is much appreciated.

Over the last couple of years members have responded generously to our appeal for donations, we have had several donations of \$100 or more, and one of \$1,000. This is far beyond our most optimistic expectations; the committee and I extend our sincere thanks to you for your generosity.

Our 2023 financial documents have been sent to our accountant for auditing, the audited reports will be presented at the AGM, and also posted on our website. Until then unaudited versions of the Income and Expenditure report and the Investments report have been posted on the website.

Mike Evans Treasurer

2022 Triennial Actuarial Review

There is a **Section 21-Reports** of the South Australian Superannuation Act, 1988 requiring the State Treasurer to obtain, every three years, an actuarial report on the South Australian Superannuation Scheme. Such triennial reports are common practice for defined benefit schemes. The Act specifies two particular matters to be addressed in the report. These are:

- the cost of the Scheme to the Government at the time of the report and in the foreseeable future

- the proportion of future benefits that can be met from the Fund.

The Treasurer must table copies of the report in parliament within 6 sitting days of receiving it. The 30 June 2022 report was submitted on 23 June 2023 and tabled in Parliament on 29 August 2023.

As well as the two matters above, the report contains information about changes in membership numbers that have occurred since the last report was made. The table below contains membership information that is relevant to what follows.

Table 1

Member Category	Membership Numbers	
	2019	2022
Contributor	303	125
Preserved	240	138
Retired	10,987	10,228
Spouses	2,981	2,933

Cost to Government: until 1994 The State Government met its commitment to funding of pensions by paying the major part of each pension once it had commenced, and on a year-to-year basis thereafter, without having paid anything beforehand. This situation was described by saying that the pensions were ‘unfunded’ or were being funded on an ‘emerging costs’ basis. This created a past service liability for superannuation which the 2022 report says the Government is committed to financing by June 30, 2034.

The numbers in Table 1 suggest that, between now and 30 June 2034, every pension scheme member who is entitled to start a pension will have done so. The predicted amounts for outlays for the employer share of benefits of the Scheme over the next 20 years are provided in the report. Table 2 contains the outlay values for 2034 and the following four years. The outlays are expressed in nominal (today’s) dollars meaning that the amounts have not been adjusted (downwards) for expected inflation changes.

Table 2

Year	Projected Government outlays (\$ millions)
2034	535.7
2035	524.6
2036	511.5
2037	496.5
2038	479.7

The numbers in Tables 1 and 2 lead to the question – **if all members who are eligible to start pensions have done so by 2034, and the State Government has financed its share of benefit liabilities by that date, how is it that there are substantial government outlays required well beyond 2034?** A request for an answer to this question has been put to the Treasurer.

Proportion of benefits to be met from the Fund: the 'Fund' referred to in the second requirement listed above is an amount made up of member contributions and earnings. The Fund has paid a fraction of benefits throughout the life of the pension scheme. This fraction has varied over the years as price and wage inflation rates have varied. At 30 June 2022 the amount of the fund derived from pension scheme member contributions and earnings was \$1.61 Billion. The proportion of benefits paid during the 2019-2022 period was 15%. The actuary estimated that \$1.61 billion could be capable of paying 19% of pension benefits but recommended that any increase not exceed 16%.

Lump sum scheme anomaly: there are two defined benefit schemes covered by the Superannuation Act 1988. There is the Pension Scheme (Old Scheme) and the Lump Sum Scheme (New Scheme). The employer component of the Lump Sum Scheme is paid as a Lump Sum calculated without regard to investment returns but determined entirely from service parameters. This makes the New Scheme a defined benefit scheme. Lump Sum Scheme member contributions form a separate part of the same fund as the contributions of pension scheme members. These New Scheme member assets are assigned to accounts in the names of members as is the case with accumulation schemes. The sum of the account balances is expected to always be very close to the value of New Scheme assets held in the fund. However, a 3% difference has developed with the Fund having 3% less than what is needed to cover the balances showing in member accounts.

The actuary has recommended an investigation to determine how this has occurred and how it should be remedied. The Association will be interested to see what develops here and be supportive of Lump Sum Scheme members where it can.

Ray Hickman

SA General Meeting Speaker

February 2024 (AGM)

Chris Schacht.
Former South
Australian Senator,
Commonwealth
Parliament of
Australia.
Business
Consultant (mainly
China)

Topic: "China - the
Communist Party,
trade, foreign affairs and the relevance of
AUKUS".



Ian Beckingham Guest Speaker Coordinator
Assistant: Peter Fleming

Keep The Date

The 2024 South Australian General Meetings will be held on the last Monday of each month except January and December.

Venue: Mead Hall, Flinders Street Baptist Church, 65 Flinders Street Adelaide.

Time: 1.00pm

Notice of Annual General Meeting – Monday 26 February 2024

Please join us for the AGM in Adelaide on Monday 26 February 2024 at Mead Hall, Flinders Street Baptist Church, 65 Flinders Street Adelaide.

Agenda Items will include, but may not be limited to:

1. Confirmation of Minutes of AGM 27 February 2023.
2. Reports including – The Presidents Report, The Treasurers Report, Audited Financial Statement and Notification of Sub-committee activities.
3. Motion to introduce: Voluntary Membership Levy
4. Election of Officers and Committee.

In relation to the Motion to introduce a Voluntary Membership Levy, this item is as per the:

**CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF
PUBLIC SECTOR SUPERANNUANTS
INCORPORATED.**

7 SUBSCRIPTIONS AND LEVIES:

7.5 If, in the opinion of the Committee, it is at any time necessary to augment the funds of the Association, or to provide funds to meet any extraordinary expenditure lawfully incurred, or for any special purpose consistent with the objects of the Association, the Committee shall have power to impose a levy or levies upon all or any of the members of the Association, provided that in any one financial year, the levy or levies imposed on each member shall not exceed in amount one year's subscription.

Election of Officers and Committee

As per: **CONSTITUTION OF THE ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SECTOR SUPERANNUANTS INCORPORATED.**

6 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

6.3. All officers and ordinary Committee members shall be elected at the annual general meeting of the Association in each year, shall hold office until the annual general meeting next after the date of his/her election, and are eligible for re-election.

12. NOTICE OF PROPOSED ELECTIONS TO THE COMMITTEE

Notice of all persons seeking election to the Committee at the annual general meeting shall be given to the Secretary by 5 p.m., Central Standard Time, on or before 21 January in every year.

12.1. The notice of the annual general meeting shall contain the names of all persons seeking election to the Committee, which notice shall be given to all members at least two weeks in advance of the meeting.

CPI Change

The Adelaide CPI change for the period 1 July-31 December 2023 was an increase of 2.39% and this change to Super SA pensions will occur in April 2024. CSS and PSS pensions increased by 2.0% in January.

Joining and Renewing

Fees and How to Pay

ANNUAL:

\$30

LIFE:

Under 60 yoa **\$400**

60 to 65 yoa **\$350**

66 to 70 yoa **\$300**

Over 70 yoa **\$250**

Voluntary levy (to bolster dwindling reserves)
\$15.

Partner FEES

ANNUAL: LIFE:

\$10 \$100

Receipts will be sent on request. Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope for postal receipts.

a) Joining & renewing online

Complete the appropriate forms at:

<https://www.psssuperannuants.org.au/how-to-join/>

b) Bank transfers

Please make sure that the payment is accompanied by your name and suburb with sufficient details to identify you as the payer. Please also send a completed renewal or application form by post or e-mail

Bank SA: BSB 105-900

Account number: 950313840

Account Name: SA Superannuants

c) Paying by cheque or money order

Please send your postal payment with the renewal or application form to:

Membership Officer

Public Sector Superannuants

PO Box 8202, Ferntree Gully, Victoria 3156

E-mail: apssuper1927@gmail.com

d) New and Renewing members

When not renewing or joining online, please send a membership application form to the Membership Officer so that your necessary details can be recorded.

On the next page a form is provided for this purpose if you do not use the online option. It can also be used to convert to a life membership, notify a change of address or phone number.

Member's Details and Payments

Existing Members

Our records show your details as:

New and Renewing Members:

Title..... Gender.....

First Name

Last Name.....

Postal Address

.....
.....

Year of Birth.....

Home phone.....

Mobile phone.....

E-mail

(Providing this will not affect how your Superannuant is delivered)

Department from which you retired or are currently working with

.....

Payment amount \$.....

Purpose of payment (tick relevant box)

- ☐ Renew annual membership.
- ☐ New Annual Membership
- ☐ New Life membership
- ☐ Change annual to life.
- ☐ Partner Annual Membership
- ☐ Partner Life Membership
- ☐ Voluntary levy

Newsletter

- ☐ by post ☐ email

Signature

Date

Names of All People Seeking Election to the 2024 Committee

Name	Position Nominating For
	President
Michael Evans	Vice President
	Secretary
Michael Evans	Treasurer
Barry Gear	Assistant Secretary
Don Campbell	Membership Officer
Ian Beckingham	Speaker Coordinator
Peter Frick	Communications Manager/Committee Member
Lindsay Oxlad	Committee Member
Peter Fleming	Committee Member
Keren Wicks	Committee Member
Jim Rhodes	Committee Member
Eileen Pritchard	Observer

The absence of nominations for the positions of President and Secretary quite obviously puts the future of the association in jeopardy.

Please be assured that these roles have the absolute full support of the whole committee, and if you are concerned about your technology or your computer skills, your ability to Email or Zoom, the Committee will provide you with every assistance and the means to get you up and running. The principal role of President is to chair meetings and be spokesperson when necessary while that of Secretary is to deal with correspondence, with both roles supported by an Assistant Secretary who manages agendas and minutes. These roles are reflective of local sporting clubs and friend's groups to which many of you will have belonged and managed, there is no expectation that you are a superannuation subject expert – the Committee accesses expert advice when required so, take a leap of faith, and help us to keep the Association ticking over and have some fun along the way.