Media Release

RETIREES WARN CAPITAL GAINS TAX CHANGES WILL IMPACT SELF-FUNDED RETIREES AS WELL AS YOUNG AUSTRALIANS SAVING FOR A HOME

Australian Independent Retirees (AIR) is concerned over the Federal Government's changes to Capital Gains Tax (CGT), warning that it will undermine retirement confidence and increase tax burdens on older Australians who have planned responsibly for their retirement and disadvantage young Australians saving for a home.

"The removal of the long-standing 50 per cent CGT discount and changes to investment taxation rules will disproportionately affect retirees who rely on modest investment income to maintain financial independence," said AIR Chief Advocate Wayne Strandquist.

"Self-funded retirees are not speculators - they are Australians who have worked, saved and invested prudently over decades in order to fund their own retirement. The Government should be encouraging self-reliance and long-term saving, not penalising those who have done exactly what successive governments have encouraged them to do," Mr Strandquist explained.

Many retirees with lower superannuation balances depend on investments in shares, fixed interest, property and managed funds to supplement superannuation income.

"Changing the rules late in life creates uncertainty, undermines confidence and penalises people who no longer have the ability to top up their savings through employment," warned Mr Strandquist.

"Retirees with lower taxable income generated by capital gains will now pay a minimum of 30% tax rather than be taxed at the applicable tax threshold," Mr Strandquist noted.

"Governments should not encourage Australians to save for their own retirement and then change the taxation rules after they have retired," cautioned Mr Strandquist.

Young Australians need more homes to be built, not more taxes that reduce investment and undermine confidence.

"As they save for a deposit on a home, they invest in growth assets but will now pay more tax when they sell their investments to buy their first home," Mr Strandquist foreshadowed.

"Older Australians deserve fairness, certainty and respect for the financial decisions they have made in good faith under existing laws," Mr Strandquist concluded.

For further information or Media Comments, please contact:

Chief Advocate Australian Independent Retirees
Wayne Strandquist - 0412 434 467 Email wmstrand@bigpond.net.au
or
Media Coordinator - Australian Independent Retirees
Terrence O'Callaghan AM - 0408 143 392 Email: ocallaghanterry@gmail.com

AIR website: www.independentretirees.com.au

01/07/2026