



Self Managed
Super Fund
Association

Annual Report 2024



SMSF
ASSOCIATION



Contents

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Auditor

William Buck
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Chair Report	3
Looking Ahead	5
Advocacy	7
Growing Expertise	9
Association Events	11
Our Partnerships	13
Membership	15
Recognising our Members	17
Newly Accredited Members	19
Our Board, Association & Advisory Committees	21
Corporate Governance Statement	22
Our Directors	25



Self Managed
Super Fund
Association

Dear Members

It has been an extremely rewarding year for your Association. In our 21st year, we have enjoyed growing our membership, experienced strong growth in the number of practitioners enrolling in our Specialist Advisor (SSA®) program, launched successful new events, and had strong attendance numbers at the National Conference and Technical Summit. These achievements show, yet again, why we are the pre-eminent organisation in our superannuation sector.

Laudable as those accomplishments are, to my mind it's another issue that highlights why it's our voice that carries weight across the industry and in Canberra on all matters germane to SMSFs.

That issue, of course, is the Federal Government's decision to impose a higher tax rate on superannuation earnings on balances exceeding \$3 million (Div 296). As stated in last year's Annual Report, we firmly believed this is bad policy with the proposal, in particular, to tax unrealised capital gains, being both iniquitous and flawed.

At the time of writing, opposition to this proposal is growing. No less a person than the former Labor Prime Minister Paul Keating (and a principal architect of compulsory superannuation) has gone public with his fervent opposition to this tax in its current form. What looked inevitable a year ago is now far less so.

If this measure fails to become law, then I believe the concerted efforts of your Association will be a major reason why. The executive team, capably lead by CEO Peter Burgess, have been diligent in explaining why this is bad legislation – especially to the Senate crossbench and other interested parties such as small business groups and farmers.



While Div 296 has been demanding our attention, it has not been at the expense of other policy developments. The Quality of Advice Review got our qualified support while lamenting how accountants remain largely excluded from the advice equation – a major oversight. Our criticism of the high cost to our industry of the various ASIC levies and the Compensation Scheme of Last Resort (CSLR) levy have been well documented.

Your Association continues to forge strong industry partnerships, whether it be on policy or education. For the first time, an APRA-regulated fund was a panellist at the National Conference, and we continue to co-chair the Joint Associations Working Group (JAWG). The JAWG comprises representatives from 12 key financial services industry and financial advice professional associations, and has played a leading role in finding solutions to bridging the affordable advice gap and enhancing the accessibility of quality advice.

On the education front, our SMSF Specialist education courses, the SSA is enjoying strong enrolments. We have always insisted that a thriving SMSF community can only be achieved by continually improving the professional standards of those advising SMSFs and our SSA and SSAud designations have enormous credibility in the industry.

This commitment to member professionalism is also reflected by your Association awarding scholarships and making CPD hours more accessible with the launching of three new events – SMSF Audit Day, the Estate Planning Exchange and our monthly virtual SMSF in-practice sessions. We also relaunched our member roadshows, while our National Conference in Brisbane in February and Technical Summit in Sydney in July drew high praise from sponsors and attendees alike.

Underpinning your Association is a vibrant SMSF sector. Net funds under management are on track to reach \$1 trillion, the number of SMSFs being established continues to grow, and fresh research shows our sector more than holding its own against the APRA-regulated funds in terms of costs and investment returns.

The Association, too, is enjoying a growth spurt with June 2024 seeing a record number of new members joining and a record number entering our Specialist programs. This puts the SMSF Association in a strong place and we are confident there will be a repeat performance heading into 2025.



Scott Hay-Bartlem
Chair | SMSF Association

Looking Ahead

Our Strategic Plan



New Initiatives

We have been excited to introduce several new initiatives designed to enhance member engagement and professional development.

Among our new initiatives saw the launch of the *In Practice* Webinar Series.

This monthly session offers a unique opportunity for peer-to-peer learning, where advisers share their insights and experiences directly with fellow advisers. This initiative underscores our commitment to fostering a collaborative and supportive community, ensuring our members stay at the forefront of industry developments.



Monthly Virtual Webinar



60 minute session



Held on the third Tuesday of each month

1 Day Virtual Events



On 20 September 2023, we held our inaugural SMSF Audit Day. The one-day virtual program was designed with the SMSF Auditor's perspective in mind, focusing on the importance of SMSF trustees and auditors collecting and retaining appropriate evidence.



On 5 June we delivered a half-day virtual event in conjunction with STEP Australia, to enhance the SMSF expertise of estate planning lawyers in Australia.



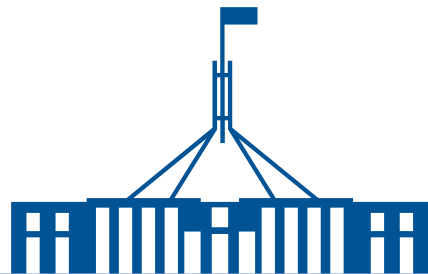
Our 1 day virtual events included on-demand access for a month post event dates.

Advocacy

The SMSF Association is actively involved in discussions with key members of Government and Opposition, sector stakeholders, regulators and policy makers. For the benefit of our members, the SMSF Association continues to actively advocate for the SMSF sector. We send quarterly communications to our members to inform them of the work we are doing in the Advocacy space. The 2024/25 financial year saw an extremely busy period for the Association's advocacy team.

Our Key Policy Positions

- Uphold the importance of consumer choice and support inclusive policies that balance the needs of all, across the diverse range of superannuation sector participants.
- Support more Australians to access affordable, high quality SMSF advice from their choice of professional adviser.
- The reduction of red tape and regulatory burden for SMSFs and SMSF professional advisers.
- Support sector neutrality and an equitable an efficient compliance and taxation framework.
- Support professional standards that apply proportionately across sector participants, recognising that many professional services firms are small businesses.



1 Treasury address on Delivering Better Financial Outcomes package



2 Senate Economics Legislation Committee - Public Hearings



8 meetings with the ATO



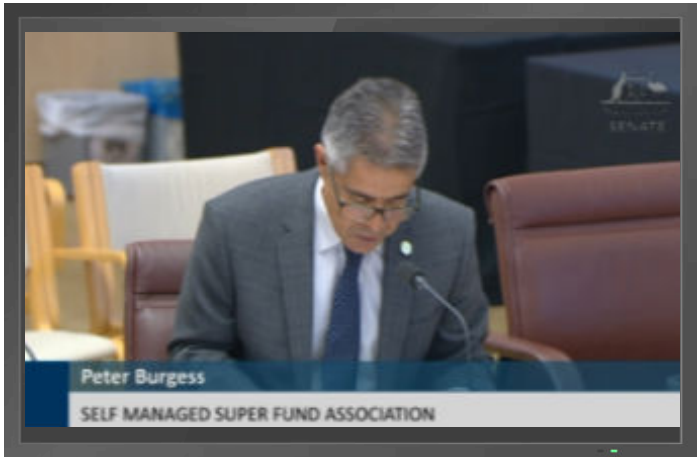
8 trips to Canberra



12 Joint Associations Working Group (JAWG) Meetings

Advancing the Sector

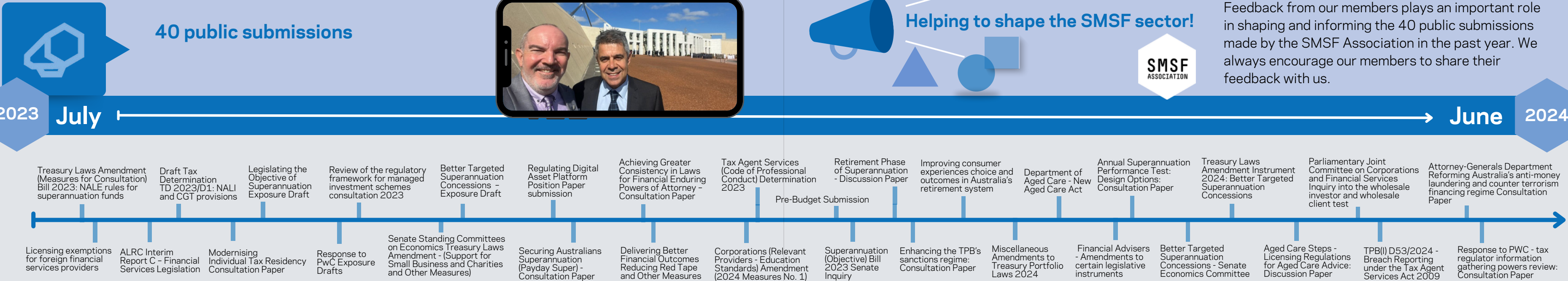
In November 2023, SMSF Association CEO, Peter Burgess, appeared before the Senate Economics Legislation Committee Inquiry into Treasury Laws Amendment (Support for Small Business and Charities and Other Measures) Bill 2023, to give evidence on proposed changes to the non-arm's length income rules for superannuation fund entities.



In April 2024, Peter Burgess and SMSF Association Head of Policy and Advocacy, Tracey Scotchbrook, appeared before the Senate Economics Legislation Committee Inquiry into the Treasury Laws Amendment (Better Targeted Superannuation Concessions and Other Measures) Bill 2023.



The Association has since put forward a supplementary submission and responses to questions on notice and has continued to meet regularly with members of Parliament on matters pertaining to this Bill.



Growing Expertise

Our commitment to education

We are committed to continually improving the professional standards of those advising SMSFs, and the critical role education plays in this. All Associate and Specialist members are required, as a condition of ongoing SMSF Association membership, to achieve minimum levels of CPD hours in areas relevant to the provision of advice on SMSFs.

SMSF Specialist Programs

The SMSF Association offers accreditation programs for professionals to become SMSF Specialists, providing independent recognition of their expertise. Achieving this designation sets individuals apart as industry leaders, enhancing their profile and skills.



The programs include the SMSF Specialist Advisor (SSA[®]) for accountants and financial planners, and the SMSF Specialist Auditor (SSAud[®]) for auditors.

220+

Completed the Specialist Accreditation Program

100+

CPD Hours made available to our members

370+

Annual Technical Research Service Enquiries



Resource Library

The SMSF Association Resource Library gives access to quality Technical Resources to keep SMSF professionals up to date to provide the best information and advice to their clients.

88

NEW Technical Resources provided

9 Technically Speaking Bulletins

4 White Label Documents

2 pieces of NEW Research released

35 Technical Resources

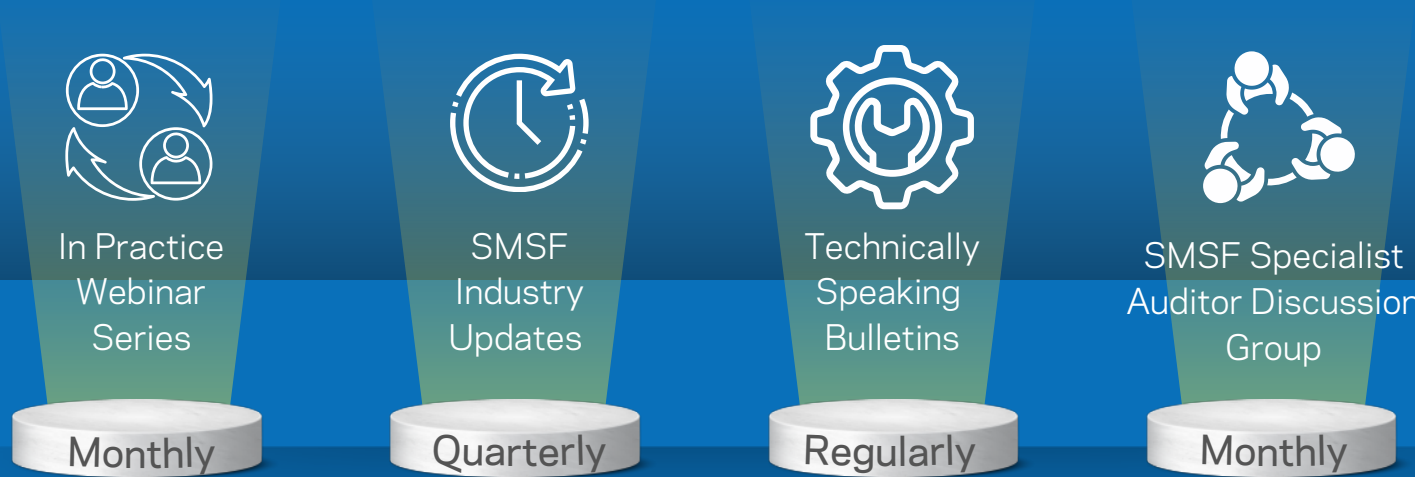
38 videos



Technical & CPD

Complimentary Member CPD

The SMSF Association is committed to fostering and enhancing integrity and professionalism in the SMSF sector as well as encouraging SMSF professionals to achieve excellence in their education, knowledge and skills. The SMSF Association recognises professional development as an integral part of this process.



Association Events



60+

Events delivered

6000+

Attended SMSF Association events

35+

Local Community Events Australia-wide



Technical Summit 2024

- 280+ attendees
- 20 CPD hours
- 17 Speakers

Local Community Events

- 800+ attendees
- 43+ CPD hours delivered
- SA Local Community most active in the community

Webinars

- 20+ webinars
- 1800+ attendees
- 18+ CPD hours

SMSF Association Roadshow

Newcastle, Paramatta, Albury Roadshows. More coming soon.



National Conference 2024



SMSF ASSOCIATION NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2024

2.5

Days in Brisbane

1,400+

attended in-person and virtually

CPD HOURS

2,000+

CPD hours watched on-demand

1M+

Total Combined Media Reach

90%+

Delegate Satisfaction

Up to

47

CPD Hours

QUEENSLAND
BRISBANE CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE
21-23 FEBRUARY



Our Partnerships

The SMSF Association delivers a range of exciting partnership opportunities to organisations wishing to raise their profile, demonstrate their commitment to, and engage further with the SMSF sector.

The following partners have supported the SMSF Association throughout the 2023/24 Financial Year:



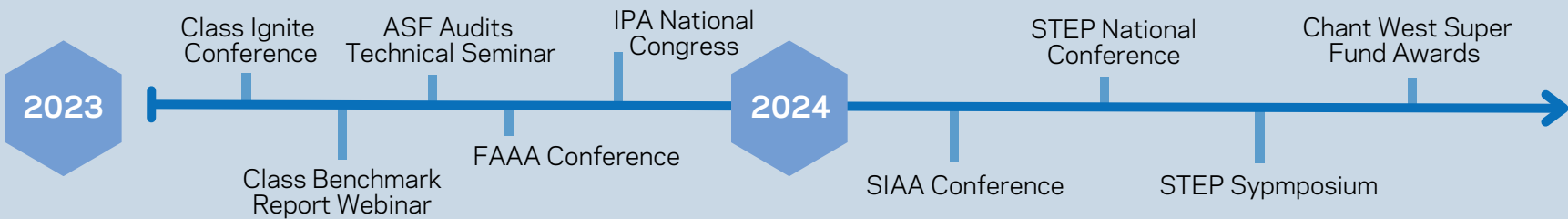
We are dedicated to fostering strong partnerships and supporting businesses within our vibrant SMSF sector. By working together, and attending industry events, we strive to drive growth and ensure a prosperous future for all our partners and our sector at large.

7

Webinars, podcasts, & Roundtable presentations

9

Conferences attended



Accredited Education



The SMSF Association is dedicated to lifting the standards of professional SMSF advice and services through quality SMSF education. We have a CPD accredited education program to validate SMSF education for practitioners within the sector.

We have a register on our website that lists a range of SMSF events and education that are SMSF Association CPD accredited. Listed providers have all been assessed against the Association’s education standards that set the benchmark in the SMSF sector.

Accredited Educators

The SMSF Association Accredited Educator logo sets these educators apart from other providers as a pillar of SMSF education in the sector. We encourage our members to look for the SMSF Association Accredited Educator brand mark to ensure they are undertaking accredited, quality SMSF education and continually enhancing their SMSF knowledge.



Accredited Education hours available on the SMSF Association website.



Membership



SMSF Association Specialist Members are recognised for their SMSF expertise and knowledge and considered to be at the peak of their profession in the SMSF sector. Our members receive a range of different benefits, depending on their membership type.

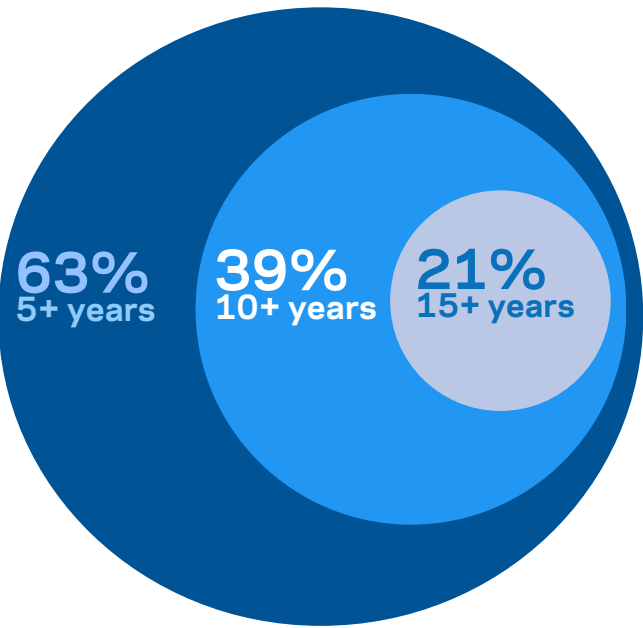
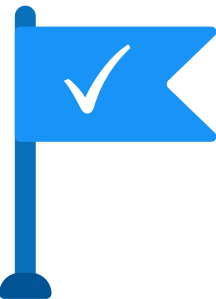
Increase in membership



Increase in SMSF Specialists



Celebrating Member Milestones



SMSF Specialist Scholarship Program

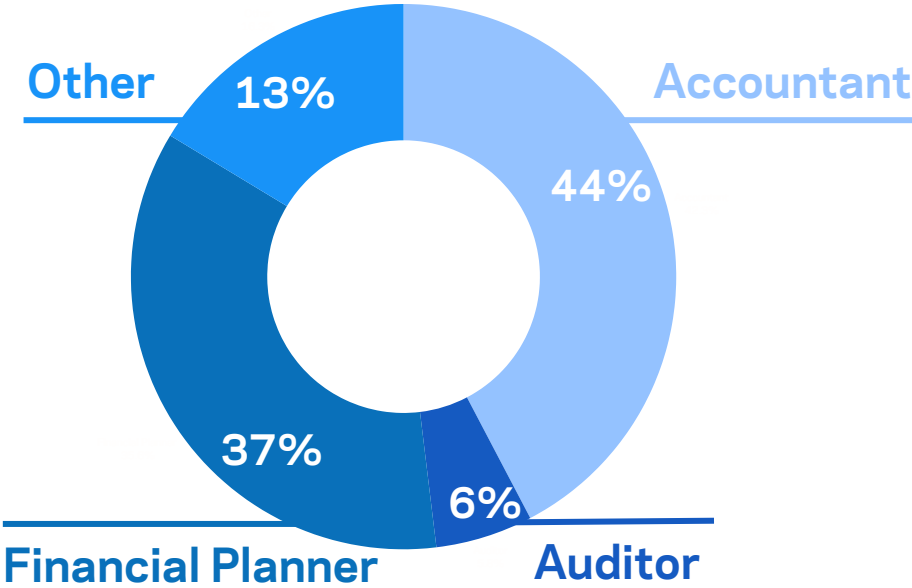
Congratulations to the successful 2024 Scholarship recipients

For 2 years now, we have run the SMSF Specialist Scholarship Program, which has provided successful applicants with the tools and support required to become a leading industry professional in a like-minded community of SMSF practitioners.

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Shannon Ashton | Theresa Atlee | Aime Berg |
| Jemma Smith | Skye Sommerville | Deanne Firth |
| Riley Jan | Alison Thomas | Tracey Corbett |
| Taryn Hayne | Tamsyn Lindsay | Caroline Kaitoni |
| Charlotta Blomqvist | Emma Brock | Cristina Breje |
| Sinead Matthes | Aayush Sharma | Julie Lindrea |
| Muhammad Kahn | Emma Russoniello | Lidija Mihoc |



Member Primary Occupation



Recognising our Members

Each year, at the annual SMSF Association National Conference, we celebrate our members who have made a significant contribution to the Association in recent times and our members who have achieved the top score in our accreditation programs.

Chair Award

Aaron Dunn FSSA



Joint CEO Award

Marjon Muizer SSAud, Naomi Kewley SSA, SSAud



Special Achiever Awards

We congratulate these members for their high achievements in completing our Specialist programs.

Top SSAud[®] Achiever

Yuanlin Yang SSAud

Joint Top SSA[®] Achievers

Grant Sloggett SSA

Jason Hurst SSA



Congratulations

To our newest Fellow Members



Fellow
SMSF Association
Specialist

- Anthony Borg FSSA

Ben Willington FSSA, FSSAud

Craig Meldrum FSSA

Dean Hutchins FSSA

Julie Dolan FSSA

Liam Shorte FSSA

Lisa Papachristoforos FSSA
- Neal Dallas FSSA

Paul Rafton FSSA

Robert Marzol FSSA

Rowan Fielke FSSA

Scott Hay-Bartlem FSSA

Shelley Banton FSSA, FSSAud

15 Year Member Milestones



Congratulations to the following SMSF Association members who are celebrating their 15 year membership milestone during 2024.

We thank these members in particular for their ongoing and unwavering support of the SMSF Association and our great SMSF sector over many years.

- Alan Spicer SSA

Alexander Morris SSA

Andrew French SSA

Andrew Hewison SSA

Andrew Unterweger

Andrew Yee

Andy O'Meagher

Anna Agati SSA

Anna McIntosh

Anne Marie Wilson

Brenda Hutchinson

Brent Fairhead SSA

Brett Cribb

Brian Wibberley SSA

Bryan Ashenden SSA

Chris Morcom SSA

Christine Hornery SSA

Christopher Arnold SSA

Christopher Carra SSA, SSAud

Clem Piscitelli SSA

Clifford Lake SSA

Craig Benham SSA

Craig Medlow SSA

Damien Clancy

Debbie Martin SSA

Dennis Maddern SSA

Dianne Hanna SSA, SSAud

Elizabeth Christodoulou SSAud
- Elsa Howarth SSA

Felicity Melican SSAud

Frank Kleinig SSAud

Garvin Jones SSA

Glen Klein SSAud

Glenn Fairbairn SSA

Glenn Hampton SSA

Gordon Mackenzie

Greg Bentley SSA, SSAud

Greig Lawrie SSA

Jacqui Chellew SSA

James Harrison

James McGregor

James Williamson SSA

James Willis SSA

Jane Gun SSA

Janet Gill

Janine Tempone SSA

Jason Kirk SSA

Jenni Attard SSAud

Jimmy Son

Joanne Edwards SSA

Joe Cox SSA

John Randall SSA

Jonathan Dixon SSA

Juanita Sharp SSA

Kathy Evans

Katie Timms SSA
- Kevin Zhang SSA

Kieran Hoare SSA

Lara Taylor SSA

Leanne McGinty SSA

Leith Thomas SSA

Liam Shorte FSSA

Lisa Cahill SSA, SSAud

Louie Papadakos SSA

Luke Morris

Marcello Blasi

Mark Berry SSA

Mark Caldwell SSA

Mark Schultz SSA

Mathew Boyes SSA

Matthew Hansen SSAud

Matthew Stevenson SSA, SSAud

May Tang SSA

Megan Kelly SSA

Megan Ryan SSA, SSAud

Michael Beddoes SSA

Michael Houlihan SSA

Michael Oates

Nathan Lear SSA

Nathan Pech SSA

Neal Dallas FSSA

Neal Dunne SSA

Nicholas Driver SSAud

Paul Chalmers SSA
- Paul Money

Pauline Howatson SSA, SSAud

Peter Alvarez SSA

Peter Burke SSA

Peter Nicol SSA

Phillip Hey SSA

Phillip Scandizzo

Phillip Whiteley SSA

Richard Asquith-Charlton SSA

Richard Collins SSAud

Richard Shaw SSA

Rob McEwen

Roger Cumming

Ron Lesh

Salvatore Pietropaolo

Sarah Parsons

Shane Harding SSA

Shane Nicholas SSA

Shari Neagle SSA

Shaun La Motte SSA

Simon Curtain SSA

Stuart Fitzpatrick SSA

Thomas Thuijs SSAud

Tim Davidson SSAud

Toby Winten SSA

Tony Capicchiano SSA

Tony Grantham

Tracey Milne SSA



Newly Accredited Members



Accredited
SMSF Association
Specialist

Congratulations to all SMSF Association members who have completed their Specialist accreditation in the 2023/24 Financial Year.

SMSF Specialist Advisor (SSA®)

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Aaron Skow | Chathuri Nanayakkara Kuruppuge |
| Adam Vo | Chenyi Zhang |
| Aira Elaine Ballesteros | Cherie Bascomb |
| Aleksander Stojanovski | Chris Ly |
| Alia Ashe | Christian Plant |
| Allina Jeanes | Christopher Angel |
| Amir Rodnia | Christopher Colman |
| Anastasia Saric | Christopher Payne |
| Andrew Mabarrack | Christopher Wright |
| Andrew Onishe | Christopher Youssef |
| Andrew Saikal-Skea | Chung Hok Har |
| Anique Vo | Claire Turton |
| Antonio Fallaschi | Connor Clarke |
| Ben Taylor | Courtney Leach |
| Benjamin Ralston | Cynthia Sercombe |
| Berivan Dubier | Damien Crommie |
| Bertrand Bouchez | Daniel Fogden |
| Bhanu Lokubalasuriya | Daniel Kirk |
| Bilson Feng | David Maddock |
| Bobby Ho | David Nelson |
| Boy Yolandi | David Schultz |
| Brendan Dilworth | Dean Pratt |
| Brendan Lum | Deepak Sachdev |
| Brent Kelly | Diana Fernandes |
| Brigadier Ncube | Dilip Dutt |
| Brooke Riewoldt | Dylan Verney |
| Callan Townsend | Earl Inglis |
| Carla Cosgrove | Elene Worthington |
| Carlos Ortega | Elizabeth White |
| Carol Halton | Ella Duggan |
| Caryn Cerantonio | Elliott Gillard |
| Cassandra Hardwick | Emma McCracken |

- Fan Yang
Fletcher Kibble
Florence Bruyere
Garima Subba
Gary Morcombe
Gayle Mckew
Gemma Heaney
Georgia Baldock
Gilles van Leeuwen
Giuliano Possamai
Glyn Cooper
Hannah Murray
Harry Dowd
Heath Banfield
Henry Vo
Hoai Hoang My Vu
Huy Luu
Ian Smiley
Jack Manoni
Jack Walsh
James Hicks
James Parame
James Thomson
Jared Schrank
Jayden Mitchell
Jayden Post
Jeffrey Chien
Jeffrey Ho
Jer Win Pui
Jeremy Bogovac
Jessy Lee Ai Chng
Jill Stiles
Jodie Oughtred
John Mihail

- Johnathan Hicks
Johnathan Ravetali
Jonathan Mattock
Junyi Lin
Justin Hooper
Kaan Doluner
Kamal Changrani
Karen-Anne Herald
Katharine Fasal
Kaye Taing
Kearsten James
Kelly Lisle
Kerry Said
Kiera Kubacki
Kim Stenning
Kirandeep Kaur
Kylie Sergeant
Laura Bosman
Lauren Isles
Leanne Brown
Leif Ringshaug
Liang Sun
Louis Shing
Luo Zhou
Majid Hassani
Manela Gunawardena
Margaret Brown
Maria Redgwell
Maria Snegovaya
Marisa Worling
Mark Stopps
Matthew Baum
Matthew Richter
Matthew Eccles

- Michael Bruce
Michael Ha
Michael Hart
Michael Lorimer
Michael Powell
Michelle Chesworth
Michelle Secomb
Michelle Yuan
Miranda Jensen
Natalie Scott
Nathan Matthew
Nathan Thomas
Nicholas Stamou
Nick Fennessy
Nick Fraietta
Oliver Watson
Patrice Jacquin
Paul Witchard

- Paul Donaldson
Peggy Leung
Pietra Pizzino
Qi En Feng
Raj Dhillon
Rajvir Singh
Ralph Morgan
Reginald Tabangay
Renee Tregoning
Richard Elmes
Robert Laurie
Robert Reid
Robert Tawil
Rodney DeGabrielle
Ross Little
Ross Napoli
Ryan Louie
Sally Paice

- Sarah Pressler
Saroj Adhikari
Scott Thornton
Sean Dwyer
Shane Harris
Sheldon Marlowe
Shuai Chang
Sohel Rana
Sok Lay
Steven Putt
Steven Genoff
Surendra Gauchan
Susan Manns
Susmita Bhattacharjee
Suzannah Gilardi
Talha Ghani
Tammy Harris
Tania Mawbey
Tao Hsu
Teaghan Spackman
Thanh Nguyen

- Thomas Robb
Timothy Barresi
Timothy Meggitt
Tin Lok Lo
Toan Nguyen
Tracy Braak
Tyson Ayris
Vanessa Scott
Wen Xie
William Huynh
Xiaodi Pan
Yang Sheng
Yingqi Qin
Yvonne Toleafoa
Zarna Tanna
Zheng Chen
Zhiyu Wang

SMSF Specialist Auditor (SSAud®)

- Alisten (Ravindran) Joseph
Andre Christian
Anju Gupta
Belinda Taylor
Hua Min (Michael) Wang
Jia Yin

- Michelle Spender
Nicholas Court
Ravichandran
Jeyaraman
Ryan Axon
Sarah Scales

- Sharif Eldebs
Thao Le
Tina Nedelkovski
Toby Dodd
Tom Grossman
Tony Boys

- Tran Nguyen
Utpal Dhar
William Kwan
Xianmi Chen
Yuanlin Yang
Zhihao Ding



Board Committees

Finance, Risk and Audit Committee

Michael Houlihan – Chair
Geoff Rooney
Peter Burgess
Joshua Geers
Cassandra De Conno

Governance, Nomination and Remuneration Committee

Christine Franks – Chair
Scott Hay-Bartlem
Dr Deborah Ralston
Bryan Ashenden
Peter Burgess

Public Policy Committee

Dr Deborah Ralston – Chair
Hon. Bernie Ripoll
Bryan Ashenden
Robin Bowerman
Jeremy Cooper
Peter Burgess
Tracey Scotchbrook

Association and Advisory Committees

National Membership Committee

Liam Shorte – Chair
Stephen Blake
Dean Ireland
Con Gotsis
Melanie Dunn
Rod Jones
Wayne Bolin
Marjon Muizer

National Conference Program Committee

Mary Simmons – Chair
Scott Hay-Bartlem
Mark Ellem
Dan Butler
Shirley Schaefer
Peter Crump
Louise Biti
Fabian Bussoletti
Tarun Malhotra

Professional Standards Committee

David Saul – Chair
Tracey Scotchbrook
Fiona Hinrichsen
Nathan Baker
Lisa Papachristoforos
Rebecca Edwards



The SMSF Association Ltd follows the AICD Not-For-Profit Governance Principles promoting good governance for Not-for-Profit Organisations.

1. Purpose, Vision and Strategy

The Board approves the purpose and strategy of the Association which is monitored on a regular basis. The Association’s Vision, Mission and Strategic Plans are reviewed at least annually by the Board and executive team. As part of the Board’s decision-making process consideration is given to the impact and alignment with the Association’s strategy. The Association’s vision and mission are made available via the Association’s website.

2. Roles and Responsibilities

The Board of Directors is the principal body responsible for the corporate governance of the Association and has primary oversight of its performance and the development and approval of long-term strategy. The Board Charter sets out the roles, responsibilities and authorities of how the Board functions.

The Board has a management framework, risk management process and system of controls and established ethical standards. The Board is responsible for:

- Determining and reviewing the Association’s short & long-term strategies
- Approval of budgets
- Appointment and evaluation of the CEO
- Risk oversight
- Integrity in financial reporting
- Monitoring of the activities and reputation of the Association

In accordance with the Association’s delegation authorities, the Board has delegated to the CEO responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Association. The detailed delegations are reviewed regularly and approved by the Board.

3. Board Composition and Effectiveness

The Board is comprised of up to nine non-executive Directors who are appointed to three-year terms. Directors may seek re-election for a maximum of two additional terms. The CEO is invited to attend Board meetings as an observer and has speaking rights. This ensures that the decisions of the Board and the background to decisions are clearly communicated to the Executive team.

The Governance, Nomination and Remuneration Committee (GNRC) meets regularly to review the Board’s composition and uses a skills matrix to review the needs and skills of the Board and any potential nominations for new Directors.

The Board is committed to an inclusive, diverse culture in the belief that this approach will enhance an egalitarian culture and improve overall governance. As part of the consideration of potential directors the committee looks for continuity of expertise, broad experience, representation across regions and different sectors, demographic, cognitive, and skills diversity within the Board.

The Association adopts two approaches to fill vacant director positions; an Expression of Interest process is conducted within the membership to ensure that members with appropriate skill sets are represented at a Board level; direct appointment using a fit-for-purpose approach is also adopted to ensure the selection of the most appropriate skillsets within the Association’s resource constraints where a specific skill requirement exists.

The GNRC must include at least two Board nominated independent non-executive Directors, and the Board may appoint one or more external non-Board members provided they have suitable qualifications and experience.

Board members are confirmed by resolution at the Annual General Meeting following their appointment.

The Board meets a minimum of five times each calendar year and undertakes annual Board performance reviews. The Board also reviews its effectiveness at the conclusion of each Board meeting and follows up recommendations for improvement. Where required, circular resolutions may be used to ensure decisions are made in an effective and timely manner.

All new Directors receive a comprehensive induction program including information outlining their duties and responsibilities as directors. The Board is committed to the continual learning and development of Directors so they can contribute to the highest standards of governance and leadership of the Association. The GNRC is charged with ensuring ongoing Board development through various briefings, internal and external presentations and strategic presentations with the senior executive.

To maximise Board effectiveness, some of the detailed work of the Board is considered by a number of Board committees. Each committee has clear terms of reference and major issues, and action items are tabled at each Board meeting.

Minutes and action items are taken by the minute secretary and approved as an accurate record of the meeting at the subsequent meeting.

Corporate Governance Statement

4. Risk Management

The Board has an established risk management framework to recognise and manage risk including risk culture. The Board is responsible for the setting of the Association’s risk appetite, risk monitoring and oversight of risk. This is reviewed regularly by the Board as part of the monitoring of the Association’s strategy.

Risk management is shared across all levels of the Association. The executive team identifies, assesses, monitors and manages current and emerging risks using the risk framework. This is reviewed regularly by the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee (FRAC) and at Board meetings.

5. Performance and Accountability

Organisational performance is assessed against several financial and non-financial performance indicators that are determined as part of the strategic planning process. To ensure a balanced approach to performance management these are categorised against the Focus areas within the strategic plan.

The Board approves an annual budget for the Association which the FRAC regularly reviews against actual performance and provides reports to the Board.

Remuneration for the CEO which may include a performance-based component, is recommended by the GNRC which assists the Board in its duties relating to remuneration, CEO performance review and remuneration policy and strategy.

Remuneration of the CEO is regularly reviewed to ensure it is in line with relevant market rates, expectations of members and based on the independent advice received by the GNRC.

The Board monitors the performance of the CEO through a range of agreed performance measures and targets reflecting the Association’s strategic objectives.

All the key documents outlining the governance of the Association and its expectations of members are available on the Associations website or via Membership Services. The Board regularly communicates to the membership on any relevant outcomes of Board meetings and regularly consults with the Membership Committee on decisions or issues impacting on the Membership.

As part of our governance processes, the Board aims to use a variety of different channels to ensure regular and transparent communication with members and stakeholders.

Remuneration for the Board is recommended by the GNRC. Any changes to Board remuneration are subject to approval at the AGM in accordance with the Constitution.

The FRAC is responsible for assisting the Board in ensuring integrity in the Association’s financial reporting. Committee members must include two independent non-executive Directors who have an appropriate level of financial literacy. The Board may appoint additional non-Board members provided they have suitable qualifications and experience.

All financial reports that are provided to the Board are reviewed by the FRAC for integrity and completeness.

The Association engages an external Auditor whose performance is reviewed on an annual basis.

6. Stakeholders

As part of the strategic planning process, the Association identifies its key stakeholders, including government, regulators, industry bodies, corporate groups, members and staff, taking a long-term view of where the Association’s interests lie, while seeking to maintain as respectful and transparent a relationship as possible with stakeholder groups. Active engagement plans are developed for each category to maximise communication and build relationships.

The Board has established formal governance structures, such as the National Membership Committee and other discussion groups, and regularly conducts member forums and policy roundtables to ensure that its decision-making is informed by stakeholder voices.

Given the diverse and occasionally conflicting interests of our stakeholders, engagement ensures that all perspectives are considered within the framework of the Association’s purpose, strategic objectives and activities.

Board appointments may include directors with specific stakeholder connections or lived experience to ensure decision-making reflects diverse perspectives while upholding the organisation’s best interests and common director duties.

7. Sustainability

Sustainability is regularly assessed in a manner that is consistent and in line with the Association’s Vision and Strategic Plan.

The Association is a forward-thinking organisation, committed to advancing practices that not only meet the current needs of our members but also have a positive impact for future generations. This involves embracing environmentally friendly initiatives, promoting social responsibility and inclusion, and fostering economic resilience across our activities.

By integrating sustainability into our governance frameworks, the Board aims to lead by example, encouraging our members to adopt similar practices in their own operations. Furthermore, our sustainability efforts are designed to strengthen community ties, enhance member engagement, and ensure the long-term viability of our association.

8. Organisational Culture

It is recognised that the Board and its Directors play a critical role in shaping culture which significantly influences the Association’s ability to achieve its purpose.

The Board through the strategic planning process has developed and oversees a set of clear values that align with the strategy and the culture of the Association. The Board is committed to modelling these values and behaviours.

The Association conducts frequent surveys of staff to monitor culture as well as a regular performance management cycle. Board and Association culture forms part of the annual Board performance review.

The Board receives regular reports on organisational culture and actively engages with staff, volunteers and members throughout the year.

The Association has documented policies relating to the conduct of the Directors, employees, volunteers and members which sets clear expectations for behaviour.

The Board acknowledges its obligation to meet legal standards and promotes a culture of compliance within the organisation. Additionally, it understands the importance of a balanced approach to emotional intelligence and recognises that culture encompasses more than just legal compliance.

Board policy requires that if there is, or could be, a conflict of interest for Directors the relevant Directors do not participate in those discussions or vote on that issue and also absent themselves from the meeting room when those discussions are held. The policy provides for a register of interests and Directors are required to notify of any changes to conflicts of interest as a standing item at each Board meeting.

The Board delegates authority to the Professional Standards Committee to manage the process and investigate any complaints of misconduct or other compliance issues involving the Association’s members. Complaints relating to the Association’s corporate governance, operational procedures and accountability or services offered are dealt with by the CEO and/or the GNRC.



Self Managed
Super Fund
Association

Our Directors



Scott Hay-Bartlem



Qualifications

Bachelor of Laws (Hons), Bachelor of Business (Accy) Diploma of Superannuation Management, Foundation Diploma of Financial Planning, Chartered Tax Adviser, Trust and Estate Practitioner, SMSF Association SMSF Specialist Advisor.

Experience

Scott is a lawyer, specialising for more than 25 years in assisting clients and their other advisers including accountants and financial planners with tax and superannuation (particularly SMSFs) advice; estate planning, administration and disputes; family businesses, business structuring; business succession arrangements; asset protection and restructuring. Scott has a particular interest in how these areas intersect with self-managed superannuation funds and the impact of and on these structures.

Special Responsibilities

- Chair
- Member of the Governance, Nomination and Remuneration Committee
- Member of the National Conference Committee

Michael Houlihan



Qualifications

Diploma of Superannuation Management, Graduate Certificate of Business Administration, Member of Australian Institute of Company Directors, SMSF Association SMSF Specialist Advisor, Justice of the Peace.

Experience

Michael's professional experience includes more than 30 years of senior leadership in superannuation and financial services, holding roles including Head of Product and Technical Services at both JBWere Investment Management and Vanguard Investments Australia, Senior Consultant and Administration Manager at Buck Consultants and Senior Administrator at Australian Eagle Insurance. Up to December 2018, Michael was the CEO of Mainstream Group subsidiary Mainstream Superannuation Services since 2010, incorporating the role of CEO of Combined Super, an industry fund for independent schools. Michael is currently Joint Managing Director of Strategic Wealth Services.

Special Responsibilities

- Vice Chair
- Chair of the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee
- Member of the National Membership Committee (Former)

William Shorte (Liam)



Qualifications

Bachelor of Business in Accounting & Economics, Advanced Diploma Financial Services (Financial Planning), ASX Accredited Listed Products Adviser (ALPA); SMSF Association Fellow SMSF Specialist Advisor.

Experience

Liam is Managing Director of Sonas Wealth and has been providing strategic advice on superannuation, trusts, retirement, insurance, estate planning, investment, and tax strategies for the past 30 years with experience and knowledge gained from working in banking, insurance, accounting and financial planning firms. Liam was awarded SMSF Adviser of the Year 2021 in the IFA Excellence Awards.

Special Responsibilities

- Director
- Chair of the National Membership Committee

Dr Deborah Ralston



Qualifications

Master of Economics, Doctor of Philosophy in financial regulation, Fellow of CPA Australia, Fellow of Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Experience

Dr Deborah Ralston has more than 25 years of board-level experience across commercial and public sectors. She is currently a member of the Future Fund Board of Guardians and the Reserve Bank of Australia Payments System Board. She also chairs the Household Capital Advisory Board and is a member of the Conexus Advisory Board. Deborah is a Professorial Fellow at Monash University and is a member of the Steering Committee for the Mercer CPA Global Pension Index. In 2019 Deborah was appointed by the Treasurer Josh Frydenberg to the 3-member panel for the Retirement Income Review.

Special Responsibilities

- Director
- Chair of the Public Policy Committee
- Member of the Governance, Nomination and Remuneration Committee

Hon Bernard Ripoll



Qualifications

Bachelor of Business (Mkt), Electrical fitter and mechanic by trade

Experience

Bernie was a member of the Federal Parliament from 1998 to 2016, in government serving as the Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer with responsibility for Financial Services and Corporations, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, the Australian Bureau of Statistics, and other agencies in the Treasury portfolio. Shadow Minister for Financial Services and Superannuation, and Small Business and Sport. Represented the Commonwealth Government in an international capacity as the alternate delegate to the Asian Development Bank and lead on a number of official parliamentary and government delegations. Chaired the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services leading the delivery of many reforms and in particular work that led to the Future of Financial Advice legislation (FoFA). A non-executive and executive Director on a number of private and public sector boards.

Special Responsibilities

- Director
- Member of the Public Policy Committee

Bryan Ashenden



Qualifications

Bachelor of Law, Bachelor of Commerce, Graduate Diploma Financial Planning, SMSF Association SMSF Specialist Advisor

Experience

Bryan Ashenden leads the BT Tech Services team at BT – a group of professionals committed to supporting the adviser community with technical, regulatory, and policy support. Bryan has many years' experience in leading and delivery comprehensive technical solutions to advisers and their clients, the last 23 spent with BT and Asgard. Prior to that, he spent six years with KPMG in their taxation consulting division. Bryan is a frequent presenter and facilitator at many industry events, lectures in financial planning subjects and regularly contributes to trade and consumer publications.

Special Responsibilities

- Director
- Member of the Governance, Nomination and Remuneration Committee
- Member of the Public Policy Committee

Our Directors

Geoff Rooney



Qualifications

Bachelor of Commerce, Degree qualified RG146 compliant financial planner, ASIC registered SMSF Auditor, Registered Company Auditor and chartered treasurer.

Experience

Geoff Rooney is a Sydney based Partner within the Financial Services Audit practice. Geoff provides audit and assurance services to the financial services industry, including wealth management, funds management, superannuation, retail and investment banking, leasing and insurance clients. Prior to BDO, Geoff was a Director in a global accounting firm's Financial Services advisory and audit practice.

Special Responsibilities

- Director
- Member of the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee

Christine Franks AM



Commenced 1 January 2024

Qualifications

Member (AM) in the General Division of the Order of Australia for “significant service to the community through social welfare initiatives”, Fellow of Australian Institute of Company Directors, Habitat for Humanity Australia Life Membership, Master of Management (Community), Bachelor of Arts (Statistics, Sociology), Registered Nurse.

Experience

Christine is a highly experienced non-executive director and executive in the financial service, Not-For-Profit and Government sectors. Extensive knowledge and experience in governance, finance, strategy development, organisational change, risk management, marketing, mergers, and acquisitions and evaluation. Successful track record in business development, research, sales & marketing, standard setting, fundraising, and communications.

Special Responsibilities

- Director
- Chair of the Governance, Nomination and Remuneration Committee

Brett Griffiths



Commencing 1 November 2024

Qualifications

Bachelor of Business, Registered Tax Agent, Member of CPA Australia, RG146 compliant, SMSF Association SMSF Specialist Advisor.

Experience

Brett commenced his career in the SMSF space in 1998 with a regional accounting firm and specialised in the industry from 2000 when he moved to an administration and financial planning firm. In 2011, Brett was appointed Director of Superannuation at Vincents. Over this time, he has lead the SMSF team at Vincents, developed systems and processes, mentored numerous staff, conducted numerous client presentations, conducted education sessions for other accountants and lawyers, and grown the client base by in excess of 160%.

Special Responsibilities

- Director
- Member of the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee

Robyn FitzRoy



Retired 22 November 2023

Qualifications

Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts, Master Coach, International Coaching Federation (USA); Diploma Information Technology Business Application (Harvard University USA); Diploma Marketing Management. Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

Experience

Robyn has over twenty years' experience in the financial services industry and is a former Executive Director of Macquarie Bank. She is also a non-executive director of Gateway Bank. Robyn is a management consultant specialising in governance and has held non-executive director positions on the boards of CUSCAL, Diversa Trustees, MLC School Burwood, Habitat for Humanity Australia, Football Australia and WealthPortal Pty Ltd.

Special Responsibilities

- Director (Former)
- Chair of the Governance, Nomination and Remuneration Committee (Former)





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