

SMSF ASSOCIATION

Annual Report 2026

Registered Office

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SMSF ASSOCIATION

Self Managed
Super Fund
Association

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Dear Members,

The past year has once again demonstrated the strength, professionalism and commitment of our members and the important role you play in the self-managed superannuation sector.

These values sit at the heart of what we stand for as an Association. Once again, this year, you have given us plenty to be proud of. Contributions to the strength of the sector continue to extend well beyond your own practices. Throughout the year, our members have continued to be highly visible at major industry events, participating in Committees, contributing to Local Communities and building strong professional networks. This engagement bolsters not only individual practices, but the SMSF profession as a whole.

Record participation in our specialist accreditation programs was yet another demonstration of the strong commitment our members hold to maintaining both their expertise and the high professional standards that underpin confidence in the SMSF sector.

Through attending either our major events such as National Conference, Technical Summit or Audit Day, or participating in our regular webinars, the continued dedication to invest in professional development, to stay across a changing regulatory environment and to strengthen technical expertise has been commendable. They are a tangible recognition of the important relationship specialist professionals have in providing SMSF trustees the confidence to make informed decisions.

The Association's advocacy work has also been strengthened by that same member commitment across the year. We have maintained a strong focus on issues that directly affect your clients, your practices and the future of the sector, including Division 296, the Compensation Scheme of Last Resort (CSLR), financial adviser education standards and the Delivering Better Financial Outcomes reforms.

Division 296 remained a major focus, with the Association advocating against the taxation of unrealised gains and for indexation of the balance threshold. On CSLR, we continue to support effective consumer protection while advocating for a fair and sustainable funding model. We also welcomed the Government's consultation on adviser education standards and will continue to support high professional standards while ensuring there are sustainable pathways into the profession.

Through our role as co-Chair of the Joint Associations Working Group, we have also worked alongside other professional bodies to ensure the profession has a strong and united voice.

The strength of the sector provides an important backdrop to this work. SMSF assets have now surpassed $1 trillion, and increasing numbers of younger Australians are also choosing SMSFs, reflecting continued demand for greater control and engagement in retirement savings.

These trends demonstrate that SMSFs remain relevant across generations and reinforce the sector's strength, resilience and long-term future.

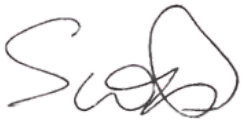
Successive years of near-record growth point to a structural shift in how Australians approach retirement savings. Increasingly, individuals want greater control over their investments and retirement decisions. That growth brings both opportunity and responsibility, and it reinforces the important role our members play.

Supporting you to meet that challenge remains a key priority for the Association. Looking ahead, we'll continue to face a changing environment. Technology will reshape professional services, regulatory expectations will evolve, and trustees will face increasing complexity across investments, taxation, pensions, succession and estate planning.

Our focus will remain firmly on helping you meet those challenges, as we continue to invest in professional development and accreditation, strengthening the opportunities for our members, providing the resources and professional networks you need, and advocating on the issues that matter to ensure your concerns are heard.

Thank you again for your ongoing commitment to the Association. Your professionalism, integrity and willingness to contribute are what give the Association its strength, its credibility and its voice.

It is a privilege to represent you, and I look forward to continuing this work together in the year ahead.



Scott Hay-Bartlem
Chair | SMSF Association



Association Members

The Association

Our strategy is centred on creating lasting value for members while strengthening the long-term sustainability of the SMSF sector. By fostering an engaged membership through high-quality events, education and professional connections, we build a strong and connected community of SMSF specialists. Through trusted advocacy and sector leadership, we work to ensure a healthy regulatory environment, raise public awareness of the benefits of SMSFs and provide the premier voice for the profession.

We are committed to growing and protecting the Specialist designation, reinforcing the expertise and professionalism that distinguish our members. Underpinning these priorities is a strong organisational foundation built on great people, sound governance, sustainable finances and collaborative relationships with key stakeholders. Together, these strategic pillars support our purpose of enabling Australians to take greater control of their financial wellbeing through a sustainable and thriving SMSF community, guided by our values of leadership, sustainability, integrity and professionalism.

Our Vision

To enable Australians to take greater control of their own financial well-being through a sustainable SMSF community.

Leadership

Sustainability

Integrity

Professionalism

Trusted Professionals

- Grow Number of SMSF Specialists
- Uphold Credibility of Specialist Designation
- Maintain Engaged Members

Informed Trustees/Investors

- Build Awareness of SMSFs to the Public
- Enable SMSF Trustees to make informed decisions

Sustainable Foundations

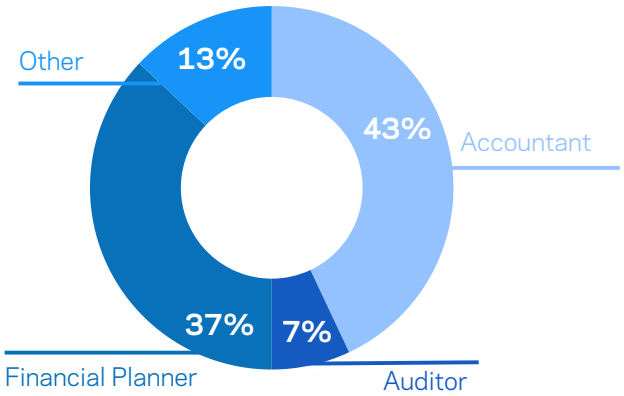
- Ensure a Healthy and Sustainable Sector
- Premier Voice Advocating for the SMSF Sector
- Great People in a Modern Workplace

Growing Membership

With strong growth comes greater responsibility for our members and the profession we represent. Our membership community continues to demonstrate a deep and enduring commitment to the SMSF sector, with a diverse mix of experience and expertise across our membership base.

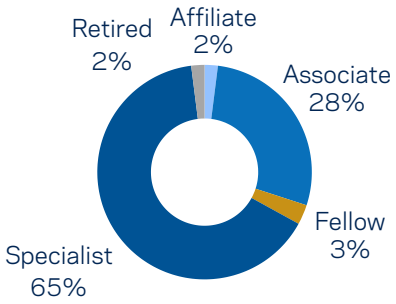
SMSF Association Membership Profile

Our membership consists of SMSF professionals at the cutting edge of their respective fields, with our members providing advice and services to over 200,000 SMSF funds.





Membership Type





16%

increase in members in 2025/26

2026 SMSF Association Chair and CEO Awards

Each year at the SMSF Association National Conference, we recognise members whose outstanding contributions have strengthened both the Association and the broader SMSF profession. We also celebrate those who have achieved the highest results in our Specialist accreditation programs, recognising their commitment to professional excellence and lifelong learning.

The Chair Award recognises a member who has made an outstanding contribution to the growth and sustainability of the SMSF sector. This year's recipient, Bryce Figot, is renowned for his exceptional technical expertise and his ability to translate complex legal concepts into clear, practical guidance for practitioners. He is widely respected for his integrity, precision and unwavering commitment to advancing best practice across the SMSF profession.

The CEO Award recognises a member who has made a significant contribution to fostering the SMSF community while exemplifying the Association's values. This year's recipient, David Saul, has demonstrated outstanding leadership as Chair of the Association's Professional Standards Committee and is a highly respected and active contributor to the NSW member community.



Bryce Figot FSSA

Chair Award



David Saul FSSA

CEO Award

2026 SMSF Specialist Programs Top Achievers

We also congratulate the members recognised for achieving the highest results in our Specialist Accreditation programs.

Ben Harrison SSA
Top SSA Achiever

Miriam Kewley SSAud
Top SSAud Achiever

Celebrating Member Milestones

We congratulate our newest Fellow members. Fellow membership recognises Specialist Members who have demonstrated a significant and sustained commitment to the Association and made an outstanding contribution to the growth, professionalism and advancement of the SMSF sector.



Congratulations to our newest Fellow Members

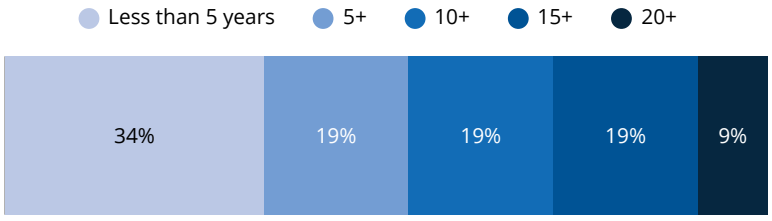
Fellow Member status recognises Specialist Members for their significant commitment and contribution to both the Association and the SMSF sector.

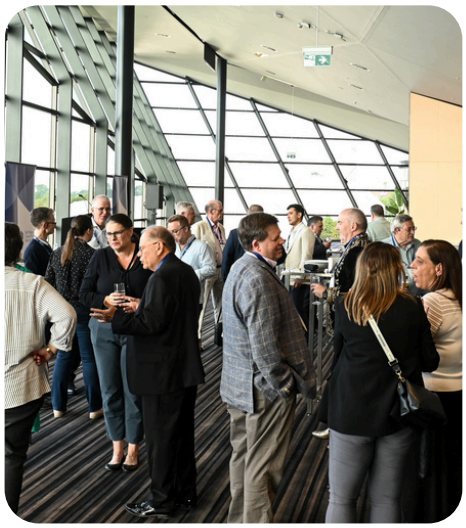
Bryce Figot FSSA
Clinton Jackson FSSA
Debbie Thomas FSSA
Gabriela Rusu FSSA
Greg Bentley FSSA, FSSAud
Michael Houlihan FSSA
Noelia Pinto FSSA
Shane Ellis FSSA
Tony Negline FSSA
Toby Winten FSSA

SMSF FELLOW | Fellow SMSF Association Specialist

Member Tenure

While new members continue to join the Association, reflecting the ongoing growth and evolution of the SMSF profession, we are also proud of the strong retention and loyalty demonstrated by long-standing members.





15 Year Membership Milestones

Congratulations to the following SMSF Association members who celebrated their 15 year membership milestone during 2025. We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to these members for their ongoing commitment, loyalty and unwavering support of the SMSF Association and the broader SMSF sector over many years.

Alice Kase
Amanda Horne SSA
Amy Glanvill SSA, SSAud
Andrea Carrick SSA
Andrew Dick
Andrew Rottigni
Anthony D'Alessandro SSA
Anthony McPhee SSA
Anuj Shangle SSA
Archie Figueira SSA
Arman Namdarian SSA
Benjamin Miller SSA
Bernadette Carter
Bradley Smith SSA
Brendan Porter SSA
Brenton Burke SSA
Brett Griffiths FSSA
Caesar Leung SSA
Cameron Jeans SSA
Cameron Stevens SSA
Carlo Borrelli SSA
Chris Belleville SSA
Chris Humphrey SSA
Christian Jarrad
Christoph Schnelle SSA
Christopher Hill SSA
Clinton Jackson FSSA
Craig Gorman SSA
Craig Pashen
Craig Stevens SSA
Damian Cherry SSA
Damian Liddell SSA
Damien Jackson
Daniel Smith SSAud
David Evers SSA
David Nelson SSA
Dean Newman
Debbie Thomas FSSA
Dennis Ballestrin
Dennis Eagles
Dominic Alafaci SSA
Emily Hewitt SSA
Emma Walker SSA
Erin Lynes SSA
Eyyup Bevan SSA
Geoffrey Taylor SSA
Grant Alleyn SSA
Grant Plozza SSAud
Harold Braakhuis
Hau Lam SSA
Hayley Groch
Ivan Poh SSA
James Carroll
James Tickle SSA
Jeremy Yuen
John Alam SSA
John Dellavedova
John Van De Pol SSA
Jonathan Wilkes SSA
Joseph Hoe SSA
Joseph Karam SSA
Joshua Haque SSA
Jozef Farkas SSA
Julian Nowland SSA
Julie Tilley SSA
Kai Hansen SSA
Katrina Nicholls SSAud
Kerry Olive SSA
Kylie Symonds SSA
Kylie Wilson SSA
Laura Davidson SSA
Leticia Leggett SSA
Linda Bulwa
Lorelei Minter SSA
Louise Nasmark SSA
Louise Stark
Luke Atkins SSA
Manish Sundarjee SSA
Mark Hill
Mark Lisina
Martin Jandera SSA
Mary Alam SSA
Matthew Rosenberg SSA
Matthew Vagg SSA
Max Moodley SSA
Michael Arthur SSA
Michael Davie SSA
Michael Fogarty SSA
Michelle Civitarese
Michelle Prasad
Natalie Carver SSA
Naz Randeria SSAud
Neil Mclennan SSA
Nicholas Hunt SSA
Nicholas Rose SSA
Noel Anderson SSAud
Paul Broeren SSA
Paul Trinick SSA
Paul Zobonos
Peter Karlson SSA
Peter Mastrogiannis SSAud
Peter McIntyre SSA
Peter Pennicott SSA
Peter Quinn
Philip Layton SSA
Po Shing Chu SSA
Rachael Bye SSA
Rachel Clegg SSA
Richard Dahl SSA
Rick Berchtenbreiter
Rocco Fazari SSA
Ruth Slade SSA
Sandy Karuthasami SSA
Scott Marcellos
Scott Montefiore SSA
Shane Lynch SSA
Sherie Howard
Shiv Parihar FSSAud
Siva Peddareddy SSA
Stephen Blackhall
Steven Hendry SSA
Steven Rowley
Stuart Glover SSA
Teddy Kosasih SSA
Terri Scott SSAud
Theresa Griffin SSA
Thi Vu SSA
Tim Bate SSA
Tom Dawe SSA
Tony Brosnan SSA
Tony Salvatore
Travis Allen SSA
Trent Alexander SSA
Vaughan Woods SSA
Vincenzo Novelli SSA
Wilson Tjoa

Growing Member Expertise



Specialist Accreditation

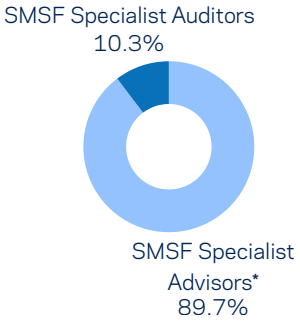
SMSF Association Specialist Members are recognised for their SMSF expertise and knowledge and are considered to be at the peak of their profession in the SMSF sector.

Their commitment to advancing their expertise and upholding the highest professional standards reflects the excellence that defines the SMSF Association and reinforces the trusted reputation of the SMSF profession.

7%
increase in Specialist members in 2025/26

292
Newly Accredited SMSF Specialists in 2025/26

Newly Accredited SMSF Specialists



**including 53 graduates of Kaplan Professional's FPE020 elective*

Annual Course Enrolments

221
Enrolled in the SMSF Specialist Advisor course in 2025/26

38
Enrolled in the SMSF Specialist Auditor course in 2025/26

Launch of SMSF Specialist Advisor Study Periods

The SMSF Association introduced a new structured SMSF Specialist Advisor (SSA) study-period model, designed to provide practitioners with a more guided and supportive pathway to Specialist accreditation.

The revamped course runs over 12 weeks, with six study intakes each year, and combines nine learning modules, an individual assignment, an optional technical drop-in session and a final online examination.

Launch of Recognition Pathways

The SMSF Association's Recognition Pathways initiative is an exciting step forward in recognising the skills, knowledge and experience of professionals working across the SMSF sector. The pathways are designed to provide clearer opportunities for practitioners to build on their existing qualifications and experience, while progressing towards recognised specialist education and professional designations.

The initiative reflects the Association's focus on creating more flexible and accessible professional development pathways, helping practitioners identify where their existing knowledge sits and what further study or experience they need to reach their career goals. Ultimately, the Recognition Pathway is about making professional recognition more accessible while maintaining the high standards expected of SMSF Specialists.

Newly Accredited Members

Congratulations to all members who achieved their Specialist Accreditation during the 2025/26 financial year.

Accredited SMSF Specialist Advisors (SSA)

Aakash Shah
Aaron Eldridge
Aaron Elkhishin
Achinna Ratnasabapathy
Adam Blanchard
Adam Smith
Aggie Erdosi
Aidan Schmitt
Aishwarya Joshi
Alana Mathews
Alisha Carroll
Alison Costelloe
Alison Hartfield
Alison Thomas
Allan Rozario
Amit Aggarwal
Amy Tan
Andrew Alston
Andrew Percival
Andrew Scott
Andrew Ward
Angelo Veschetti
Ann Truong
Anthony Lim
Arpit Bhatt
Arvind Chandrawat
Aurora Walker
Barclay Judge
Ben Duthie
Bimal Sekhon
Bishal Chhetri
Boban Petreski
Bradley Waldon
Bruce Nguyen
Bryce Terry
Callum Tabor
Cameron Holdsworth
Carissa Greene
Casey Huxtable
Cassie Stretton
Charles Farr
Charles King
Cheryl Cox
Cheyne Whitford
Chit Ho
Christie-Lee Palmer
Christine Fenech
Craig Shirley
Daina Tarring
Daniel Bontempelli
Daniel Fawcett
Daniel Mackenzie
Daniel Secatore
Daniel Stratton
David Murphy
David Gatt
David Pasquelin
Davinder Singh
Davone Saycocie
Dayue Huang
Dean Southern
Deborah Batson
Deborah Ianchello
Deep Sheth
Delta Smith
Derryn Orlando
Dong Nguyen
Duy Thanh Bui
Eden Smith
Eldho Paul
Eldose Thelapilly Jacob
Elisabeth Phillips
Elizabeth Whalley
Ellen Soh
Emma McKenzie
Florim Alievski
Francesco Rositano
Gavan Parrish
Gavin Martin
Gemma Kovaloff
Geoff Aitken
Geoff McQueen
Georges Hung
Gianni Perre
Girish Loya
Graeme Brown
Graham Frank
Greg Russo
Haihong Dong
Harrison Stephens
Heather Sharp
Helen McPhee
Henry Ng
Huy Hoang Nguyen
Huy Tran
Jahanne Nagle
James Scalzo
Jamie Pezzaniti
Jefferson Rossetti
Jennifer Bachir
Jennifer Laing
Jennifer Nicholls
Jenny Feng
Jia (Hillary) Yu
Jingda Chen
Jingyi (Ivy) Li
Jodie-Ann Sevil
Joel Luca
Joel Turnbull
Jonathon Naef
Jordan Finch
Joshua Chapman
Julie Lawton
Julie Schofield
Justin Watts
Karlyn Read
Kerrie O'Leary
Kevin Mottau
Keziah Sta Ana
Kiarna Rosandic
Kimberley Harrison
Konstantine Zahar
Konstantinos Karykis
Lachlan Archibald
Larry Chi
Lauren Feuerstein
Lauren Poole
Lauren Taylor
Le Hieu Hanh Pham
Leonita Kosasih
Leschen Smaller
Lewis Mitchell
Liam Haren
Liam Webb
Lin Thai
Linh Loi Nguyen
Linlin Wang
Lisa Smith
Lit Moon Lye
Livia Medina de Faria da Silva
Louie (Yi) Liu
Lucas Breen
Luke Morrisby
Lynda Ellis
Mackenzie Harmer
Mandy Zhang
Maria Keszler
Mark Magri
Marshall Sambell
Martin Spiewak
Maryna Kovalenko
Matthew Hutchings
Matthew Mina
Matthew Ross
Meg Granger
Melinda Furness
Melissa Lewis
Meredith Lindsay
Meredith Wellard
Michael Beaver
Michael Hall
Michael Manken
Michael Peart
Michael Phan

Michal Lancemore
Michelle Cianci
Michelle Jolliffe
Michelle Stainer
Mikhael Pivnik
Milan Maskey
Millinda Cobban
Minjun Zhao
Monica Busine
My Le
Narayan Raj
Natalia Sleziak
Natalie Eden
Nathaniel Earl
Neena Davis
Niah Chalmers
Nicholas Brinkley
Nicholas Heffernan
Nick Martin
Nyssa Gower
Oliver Pereira
Orrin Shaw
Oscar Smith
Pasquale Franzese
Patrick McStay
Patrick Morton
Paul Dawson
Paul Formica
Paul Rae
Penelope Smith
Peter Dugan
Peter Hasrouny
Peter Yang
Radha Gomathinayagam
Rajesh Chidara
Rebecca Hoskin
Rehan Ahmed
Remo Venditti
Renee Tang
Renita Waring
Rhiannon Karey
Richard Grimshaw
Richard Spilsbury
Rick Leighton
Ricky Truong
Robert Gilmour
Rohan Butterworth
Rosalina Johnson
Roshan Roy Philip
Rowena Whittle
Ryan Schirmer
Sakshi Aggarwal
Sally Teschendorff
Sam Naidu
Samantha Etherington
Samantha Morris
Samuel Besley
Sanita Mustafa
Sarah Keily
Saw Low
Scott Abraham
Sean Howells
Sharnee Carroll
Shaun Davis
Shikha Arora
Shishpal Rana
Shreya Chindarkar
Shuai Wang
Shunqi Wang
Simone Murad
Sohail Sohail
Stacia Jenkins
Stephen Lau
Stephenie Hallett
Stewart Lane
Stuart Harris
Suyana Shrestha
Syed Arif Hashmi
Syed Jafri
Tanmay Avasthi
Tarun Lalwani
Theresa Allery
Thi Min Hao Vu
Tianyi Chen
Tiffani North
Triona Thompson
Troy Gudgeon
Troy Thornton
Valerie Longmire
Vincent Di Berardino
Virginia Meneghetti
Warren Nguyen
Wei Jiang
Wei Wei
Wen Cai
William Wainwright
Xiao (Sarah) Wang
Yan Zhang
Yanni Mavrikis
Zhaoyu Vincy Huang
Zoe Redman
Zoran Milenkovski

Accredited SMSF Specialist Auditors (SSAud)

Andrea Ling
Annika Lockwood
Antra Maria Selvaraj
Bhavin Fozdar
Brendan Frawley
Chen (Cherie) Zhang
Dean Doctor
Florence Bruyere
Grace Down
Jeremy Baker
Jie Bi
Kavya Jonnada
Kellie Edwards
Kim Hee Lim
Kristine Anodon
Liyan Hu
Miloslava Bradley
Miriam Kewley
Mohammad Patwary
Philip Keegan
Sara Baynes
Shankar Gokul
Sharat Sharma
Subash Mahat
Victoria Hand
Vince Tran

Commitment to Continued Professional Development

The SMSF Association remains committed to strengthening professional standards across the SMSF sector, recognising the critical role education and ongoing professional development play in quality SMSF advice. As a condition of ongoing membership, all Associate and Specialist members are required to meet minimum Continuing Professional Development (CPD) requirements in areas relevant to SMSF advice.

55+
Association live and virtual events held

125.5
Total CPD hours made available

31.5
Free CPD hours provided to members, 20.5 hours available to all members

47,000+
Total CPD hours issued



Technical Support for Members

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.

Best Practice Guide Launched

The SMSF Association launched its Best Practice Guide, providing members with practical guidance to navigate their legal and professional obligations, manage key risks and strengthen their practices. The Guide reinforces the Association's commitment to supporting high standards of professionalism and compliance.

Newsletters and Industry Updates to Keep Members Informed

The Association delivered quarterly SMSF Industry Updates and Technical Newsletters throughout the year, keeping members informed of key legislative, regulatory and policy developments, emerging industry trends and technical issues affecting SMSF professionals.

340+

Technical Research Service questions answered

10

NEW Technical Resources made available



Accredited CPD

SMSF members continued to demonstrate their commitment to professional excellence, completing over 47,000 CPD hours during the 2025/26 financial year. This ongoing investment in education and professional development supports members to maintain current technical knowledge and deliver high-quality SMSF advice.

300+

External CPD hours accredited by the SMSF Association, largely available via our nominated Accredited Educators



Accredited Educators

The SMSF Association continues to strengthen access to quality professional education through its Accredited Educator partners, with six Accredited Educators providing members with high-quality, independently accredited CPD opportunities. This supports members to maintain and enhance their technical knowledge while meeting their ongoing professional development requirements.

SMSF EDUCATOR | SMSF Association Accredited Educator

ACCURIUM · Advisers Digest · DBA Network · Heffron · smarter smsf · Super Concepts

Building Member Connections

Pulse: Powering Momentum

The 2026 SMSF Association National Conference held in Adelaide once again cemented its position as the premier event for the SMSF and superannuation sector, bringing together more than 1,600 financial services professionals from across financial advice, accounting, audit and legal professions.

1,600+

Delegates attended, in-person and virtually

93%

Delegate satisfaction rating





45

Industry experts presented

22.2k

CPD hours issued

70+

Product and service provider partners exhibited

Events

Throughout the 2025/26 financial year, the Association continued to deliver a diverse program of high-quality events, providing accessible opportunities for members across the sector to connect, engage, share knowledge and strengthen professional networks.

55+

In-Person Events & Online Webinars Hosted

Technical Summit 2025

Held over two days in Sydney and online, the Technical Summit 2025 brought together SMSF professionals for a comprehensive program of technical sessions, practical workshops and industry insights. The Summit provided high-quality learning and valuable opportunities for professional connection and industry engagement.

10,100

SMSF Association Event Registrations

Virtual Events

Virtual events again underpinned our calendar of in-person events, providing accessibility and choice for our members. In recognition of the diverse needs of our membership, these offerings play an important role in facilitating member learning. SMSF Audit Day as well as our SMSF Legal Intensive formed the cornerstone of our virtual-only events.



Webinar Series

Our webinar program continued to provide members with valuable opportunities to learn, connect and stay informed. This included the monthly In Practice series, sharing practical insights from advisers for advisers, and the Auditor Discussion Group, providing a dedicated forum for SMSF Specialist Auditor members. Quarterly SMSF Industry Updates kept members abreast of key legislative, regulatory and industry developments, complemented by timely ad hoc webinars addressing emerging issues and topics relevant to the SMSF sector.

Strengthening community

Our Local Communities continued to go from strength to strength all around the country throughout the year.

These events are designed to give members a chance to meet up with peers, for valuable networking opportunities and to connect with leading industry experts in a more relaxed environment.

Local Community Chairs

Dean Ireland (QLD)
Marjon Muizer (NSW)
Wayne Bolin (ACT)
Liz Westover (VIC)
Melanie Dunn (TAS)
Kerry Bosnich (SA)
Con Gotsis (WA)





24

Local Community Events held across the country

Partnering with the Industry

The Association has continued to demonstrate its influence and connectivity to the sector through its array of important and strategic partnerships.

Our events yet again attracted key organisations within the industry to partner with us, and our valued Association Partners again joined throughout the 2025/26 year, further reinforcing our offering to members.

8
Association Partners

100+
Event Partners



asf audits · Centuria · CLASS · COINSTASH · dexus · future2 · S&P Dow Jones Indices (A Division of S&P Global) · VADO


MQVM

Advancing the Sector

Representing Member Interests

The 2025/26 financial year was another significant year for the SMSF Association's advocacy and policy program. The Association continued to actively engage with Government, Opposition, Regulators, policymakers and key sector stakeholders to represent members and promote a strong, sustainable and professionally focused SMSF sector. Throughout the year, the Association contributed to numerous Government and Treasury consultations and made joint submissions with other professional bodies on issues including Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing reforms, managed investment scheme governance, professional indemnity insurance and payday super. This work ensured the voice of SMSF professionals remained represented in the development of policy and regulation affecting the sector.

Compensation Scheme of Last Resort (CSLR)

The SMSF Association continued to advocate strongly for reform of the Compensation Scheme of Last Resort (CSLR). The Association supported the scheme's objective of compensating consumers but challenged the fairness and sustainability of its funding model. The Association also advocated against shifting CSLR costs onto superannuation savings and continued to push for reforms that would protect compliant financial advisers and SMSF members from bearing disproportionate costs arising from misconduct elsewhere in the financial system.

Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing (AML/CFT) reforms

The SMSF Association actively advocated on the implementation of Australia's expanded AML/CTF regime, engaging with AUSTRAC and Government to ensure the new requirements were practical, proportionate and appropriate for SMSF professionals. The Association made submissions on the new AML/CTF Rules and transitional arrangements, highlighting the need for clarity and reduced regulatory burden, while supporting effective measures to combat financial crime. The Association also supported members through education and practical guidance ahead of the 1 July 2026 Tranche 2 commencement, helping impacted businesses understand their new obligations and prepare for compliance.

Division 296

The SMSF Association continued its strong advocacy on Division 296 throughout 2025/26, engaging with Government, Treasury and Parliament to promote a fair, simple and workable regime. The Association's advocacy contributed to a number of technical improvements while continuing to address concerns around unrealised gains, legacy assets, member attribution and post-death outcomes.

Financial Adviser Education Standards

Since the 2019 reform of financial adviser education standards, they have remained an important issue in our ongoing advocacy. It was pleasing to see Treasury commence consultations on proposed changes to the education pathway for new advisers, which recognises that many new advisers enter financial advice as career changers rather than as school leavers.

The right balance must be struck between upholding standards, ensuring a fit-for-purpose education framework, and recognising financial planning as a profession.

Our Submissions

Throughout 2025/26, the SMSF Association continued to represent members' views to Government and key policymakers, advocating in the public interest to strengthen the professionalism, integrity and sustainability of the SMSF sector.

Feedback from our members plays an important role in shaping and informing the 25 public submissions made by the SMSF Association in the past year. We always encourage our members to share their feedback with us.

A number of joint submissions were made with industry bodies. These included those submitted in conjunction with The Australian Bookkeepers Association, Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, CPA Australia, the Financial Advice Association Australia (FAAA), the Institute of Certified Bookkeepers, the Institute of Public Accountants and The Tax Institute.

25
Public Submissions



Our Commitment to ESG

The SMSF Association is committed to integrating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles into all of our strategic decision-making, ways of working, and in all dealings with members, partners, and industry stakeholders.

We promote sustainability, social responsibility, and economic resilience across our activities, and keep the best interests of the sector central to all of our operations.

While we do not provide financial advice, we support our members through education, thought leadership, and advocacy—encouraging responsible practices across the SMSF sector and contributing to a more sustainable future.

Association Governance

SMSF Association Board

In February 2026, the SMSF Association was pleased to announce the reappointment of Scott Hay-Bartlem as Chair of the Board, alongside the appointment of Meg Heffron as Vice-Chair. This marks Mr Hay-Bartlem's third term as Chair, while Ms Heffron, who joined the Board in January 2025, brings more than a year of Board experience to her new role.

The Association thanks all Board members for their valuable contributions, leadership and commitment throughout the year. The Association looks forward to continuing its strong advocacy for the sector and commitment to member development, professional standards and the long-term sustainability of the SMSF sector.



Scott Hay-Bartlem
Commenced 1 July 2019

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 Fellow SMSF Specialist Advisor.

Scott is a lawyer, specialising for more than 30 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.

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



Meg Heffron
Commenced 1 January 2025

Bachelor of Economics, Fellow of Actuaries Institute, SMSF Association Fellow SMSF Specialist Advisor.

Meg Heffron has been a member of the Association for over 20 years, advising trustees, members and practitioners in all areas of superannuation, including corporate superannuation funds, industry funds, small APRA funds and now SMSFs.
Meg is a founder and the Managing Director of Heffron Consulting – a firm that has specialised exclusively in SMSFs since 1998.

Her passion is education, and she is a regular speaker at the Association's National Conference and other professional development events for accountants, financial advisers and other SMSF practitioners.
Meg is a past recipient of both the Association's Chair Award (2010) and the CEO Award (2020) recognising her long contribution and commitment to the industry.

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



Geoff Rooney
Commenced 1 January 2022

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

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.

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



Christine Franks AM
Commenced 1 January 2024

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, Results Australia Life Membership, Master of Management (Community), Bachelor of Arts (Statistics, Sociology), Registered Nurse.

Chris is a highly experienced non-executive director and executive in the financial service, Not-For-Profit and Commercial 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.

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



Brett Griffiths
Commenced 1 November 2024

Bachelor of Business, Registered Tax Agent, SMSF Association SMSF Specialist Advisor, Fellow Certified Practising Accountant, Member of CAANZ

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 and conducted education sessions for other accountants and lawyers.

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



Lachlan Sue
Commenced 1 January 2025

Bachelor of Business Administration with Bachelor of Laws, Graduate Diploma of Financial Planning, Graduate Diploma of Applied Tax, Registered Tax Agent, Chartered Tax Advisor, SMSF Association SMSF Specialist Auditor, Admission to Supreme Court of NSW as Lawyer, Certified Practitioner of Herrmann Brain Dominance Instrument (HBDI)

Lachlan is a Partner of Matrix Norwest, a Sydney-based integrated financial services business with financial planning and taxation & accounting branches.
Currently serving as both a hands-on Strategic Financial Adviser and the General Manager of Matrix Norwest, Lachlan brings a breadth of knowledge and experience to the SMSF Association Board. He also sits on the Matrix Norwest Investment Committee and is a Responsible Manager & Chairperson of Matrix Integrated Professional Advice Pty Ltd, an Australian Financial Services Licensee.

Lachlan is passionate about the right for Australians to manage their own superannuation and has a strong technical knowledge of the SMSF industry, whilst also bringing a commercial and pragmatic business-minded approach to the advancement of the industry. Self-managed superannuation has been central to his professional career, with experience in administration, audit and advisory aspects of the field.

- Director
- Chair of the Membership Committee
- Member of the Public Policy Committee



Ben Taylor
Commenced 1 January 2026

Masters of Business Administration, Bachelor of Business (Marketing), SMSF Association SMSF Specialist Advisor, Certificates in Mortgages, Financial Services Credit Risk & Credit Management, Member of Mortgage Brokers Association Australia, Member of Finance Brokers Association Australia

Ben Taylor is the managing director of financial services organisation, Oxygen Capital Group, a non-bank lender with a focus on SMSFs. Ben has 25+ years in financial services, including leading roles in innovation, digital transformation and marketing.
An entrepreneur at heart, Ben has been heavily involved in two successful ASX floats in his career in financial services. He is also a keen supporter and investor in many fintech organisations in Australia.

Ben has a deep background in technology-enabled finance products and services, holding roles such as Head of Innovation & Product, Chief Marketing Officer, and Head of Loyalty over his career. He is currently rolling out AI within his organisation to help increase back office efficiencies and increase customer service levels.
He is and has been a responsible manager for credit licences and financial service licences over the last 15 years.

- Director
- Member of the Public Policy Committee
- Member of the Local Community Committee



Michael Houlihan
Retired 19 November 2025

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.

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.

- Vice Chair (Previous)
- Chair of the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee (Previous)
- Member of the Finance, Risk and Audit Committee (Current)



Hon Bernard Ripoll
Retired 19 November 2025

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

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.

- Director (Previous)
- Member of the Public Policy Committee (Current)

Board Committees

Education Committee
Meredith Lawley – Chair
Liz Ward
Scott Hay-Bartlem
Peter Burgess
Keddie Waller

Finance, Risk and Audit Committee
Geoff Rooney – Chair
Brett Griffiths
Michael Houlihan
Peter Burgess
Joshua Geers
Cassandra De Conno

Governance, Nomination and Remuneration Committee
Christine Franks AM – Chair
Scott Hay-Bartlem
Meg Heffron
Peter Burgess
Lyn Gelligen

Membership Committee
Lachlan Sue – Chair
Sheldon Marlowe
Calvin McLeod
Angela Chen
Richard Smith
Toby Dodd
Jacklyn Li
Christie-Lee Palmer
Peter Burgess
Joshua Geers
Caitlin Maxted

Public Policy Committee
Meg Heffron – Chair
Lachlan Sue
Ben Taylor
Hon. Bernie Ripoll
Bryan Ashenden
Robin Bowerman
Peter Burgess
Tracey Scotchbrook

Association and Advisory Committees

Professional Standards Committee
David Saul – Chair
Fiona Hinrichsen
Lisa Papachristoforos
Rebecca Edwards
Keddie Waller

Local Community Committee
Liam Shorte – Chair
Ben Taylor
Liz Westover
Dean Ireland
Con Gotsis
Melanie Dunn
Kerry Bosnich
Wayne Bolin
Marjon Muizer

National Conference Program Committee
Mary Simmons – Chair
Scott Hay-Bartlem
Mark Ellem
Dan Butler
Shirley Schaeffer
Peter Crump
Louise Biti
Fabian Bussoletti
Tarun Malhotra

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 four 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.

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 Association's 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 Board Committees 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.

The Board is responsible for overseeing the integration of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) considerations into strategic decision-making, ensuring compliance with evolving regulatory requirements and best practices in sustainability reporting. As part of its oversight responsibilities, the Board will monitor climate and environmental risks that could impact the Association's operations, industry reputation, or regulatory obligations

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 Association maintains a Whistleblower Policy that ensures protections for individuals who report ethical concerns, misconduct, or governance violations in good faith.

The Association maintains a structured grievance resolution process with clear escalation pathways, ensuring that complaints relating to governance, workplace issues, or professional conduct are handled transparently and fairly.

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