

A long-term engagement

Is the fund performing well compared to the industry median? Are its fees and charges value for money? Does it provide high quality member service and support?

The ASIC report reminds us that to make the most of super requires ongoing engagement and activity. If your super fund is not providing the levels of individual and/or business support outlined in this column, it may be time to 'break off the engagement' and find someone better matched to your needs.

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- 1 See <http://asic.gov.au/regulatory-resources/find-a-document/reports/rep-529-member-experience-of-superannuation/>
- 2 See <http://www.csi.edu.au/financialresilience/>
- 3 See <http://www.psychology.org.au/psychologyweek/survey/>
- 4 See <https://www.moneysmart.gov.au/superannuation-and-retirement/how-super-works/super-investment-options>



DCLS International Tenants Day

The Tenants' Advice Service of Darwin Community Legal Service (DCLS) celebrated International Tenants' Day on Monday 2 October 2017 at Darwin's Smith Street Mall.

This event was to raise awareness of the legal rights of renters across the NT and the need for law reform for fairer and safer tenancies.

DCLS is lobbying the NT Attorney-General the Hon Natasha Fyles to reform the Residential Tenancies Act. DCLS seeks particular urgency for specific regulation of residential tenancy databases, establishment of a centralised bond board and stronger protections for tenants affected by domestic and family violence.

The NT is unique in that more than 50% of the population pay rent to live in their home. This is significantly higher than in any other Australian jurisdiction. NT also has the highest homelessness rate in the country with long public housing waiting lists lasting several years. With emergency shelters often full, renters are mostly at the mercy of the private rental market. Despite this, NT has some of the weakest tenancy laws in the country.

The NT is the only jurisdiction in Australia without specific and effective regulation of residential tenancy databases. These databases are operated by private companies that

collate and sell data about tenants to real estate agents and landlords. This includes 'blacklists' of tenants that have allegedly defaulted on their tenancy obligations. Once a tenant has their name on a blacklist, they are effectively banned from the private rental market.

DCLS was pleased to see support at this event by representatives from many organisations including the Law Society NT, NT Shelter, YWCA, Somerville, CAAPS, APONT, Salvation Army as well as members of the public.

In the coming weeks and months, DCLS will continue to work with and lobby members of Parliament and engage community organisations to achieve its law reform goals.

