

Workplace Savings NZ – Newsletter Year in Review 2016 Newsletter

As 2016 draws to a close it's worth reflecting on the year that is passing as we look forward to the year ahead. Workplace Savings has had a significant year as we have navigated continuous change in the financial services sector. However our mission remains clear and the Council is focussed on delivering outcomes for the membership.

From a personal point of view, I have been in the role for just over a month and I wanted to thank you all for your warm welcome and I look forward to working with you all through 2017 and beyond.

As you know, the mission of Workplace Savings NZ is to be "the voice of workplace savings" and in 2016 the activity remained focussed around our core pillars of engagement-

- **Advocacy**

There has been significant time and resources spent working across government agencies and the broader industry. We have made a number of submissions across all areas of policy impacting our sector and continue to meet regularly with the Minister, MBIE, FMA, IR, and the CFFC. We have also worked collaboratively across the market with organisations and associations to further our combined programs.

- **Education**

The Annual Conference in November was an absolute highlight with a very well received educational program, strong industry support and an excellent platform to grow into next year's Conference. In addition, our training programs, breakfasts, newsletters and special interest workshops were well received.

- **Networking and community**

The member meetings, Council meetings and working groups have provided a great way for the members to connect, network and develop professionally. More of this is planned through 2017 as we look to collaborate with our FSC colleagues as well as Women in Super and the TCA.

2016 Highlights- Final Quarter

November and December

These have been very busy months across all parts of the Council's work. The Workplace Savings Annual Conference was an absolute highlight and sets a strong platform as we start the planning for the 2017 program. From a personal point of view it was great to meet and spend time with many of the members and work closely with both the Council and the working groups that help formulate policy and responses to submissions.

KiwiSaver Earthquake Relief-

Working with the Minister, MBIE and the TCA, we responded quickly to ensure that the process for early access to KiwiSaver for people impacted by the Kaikoura earthquakes was in place. This took us all about 48 hours to put in place and demonstrated the close working relationship with the team at MBIE.

Meetings with Minister Goldsmith, MBIE, FMA & CFFC

We have met on a regular basis with our key stakeholders in Government and the Ministry to ensure our programs of activity are aligned. This has included providing formal submissions on areas impacting our collective business. This will continue to be a core part of our activity into 2017.

Merger with the Financial Services Council

These discussions are progressing well and we are having regular dialogue with our colleagues in the FSC. We will continue to keep members apprised of developments as we head into the New Year.

Working with the Membership

I have been impressed with the commitment and passion of the membership to participate and get involved. This has included the elected Council, the events, the Conference, the Working groups and the policy team who have crafted the submissions and policy responses.

The big themes - New PM- Bill English, President Trump, Brexit et al

Beyond our world in the Financial Services sector there has been lots going on both domestically and internationally. The change in Prime Minister and Minister, the impacts of the Kaikoura earthquakes and internationally, Brexit and the election of Donald Trump to name but a few big events that will impact our world in the coming few years.

Economic Themes for 2017

This will be a very interesting year. Hit the link for a view from Wall Street Journal.

<http://www.wsj.com/graphics/year-in-review-2016/>

Outlook for 2017

2017 is shaping up well as we focus on growing, building and advocating for the sector. We are well positioned to help the New Zealand community understand the role of our sector and the benefits we provide.

There are a number of key issues we need to help New Zealanders consider, these include –

- a. How do we provide best for our families and businesses in times of need as well as in times of plenty.
- b. How we ensure that trust and confidence grows in our sector.
- c. How do we work effectively as a sector to drive and create change.

In the year when the world lost Nancy Reagan, Zsa Zsa Gabor, David Bowie, Muhammad Ali, Prince and Leonard Cohen there is a great opportunity to Carpe Diem (seize the day) and make our industry a better one for the benefit of all New Zealanders.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays. Have a safe break.

We look forward to working with you in 2017.

David & Richard and the Workplace Savings NZ Council