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MEDIA RELEASE: Superannuation is not a housing affordability fix

The FSC is deeply concerned by reports that the Government has not ruled out allowing first home buyers to access their superannuation to purchase a house.

The objective of superannuation is to ensure Australians can support themselves in retirement and reduce pressure on the public purse.

FSC CEO Sally Loane said: “The strength of the superannuation system is that relatively modest amounts saved early in your working life compound over time and help support a comfortable retirement.

“Withdrawing superannuation savings to buy a house – especially when house prices appear to be at the high end of the cycle in the major states – will not help first home buyers into the market. It will only further fuel the increase in house prices.

“We do not support diluting people’s retirement nest eggs to solve a housing affordability problem.

“We all know that governments tinkering with superannuation affects confidence in the system. Australians need certainty when planning for retirement and any significant changes to superannuation policy must be subject to appropriate and adequate consultation with all stakeholders.”

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For further information please contact FSC Media Manager Mark Smith on 0434 566 764 or msmith@fsc.org.au.

About the Financial Services Council

The Financial Services Council (FSC) has over 100 members representing Australia's retail and wholesale funds management businesses, superannuation funds, life insurers, financial advisory networks and licensed trustee companies. The industry is responsible for investing more than \$2.7 trillion on behalf of 13 million Australians. The pool of funds under management is larger than Australia’s GDP and the capitalisation of the Australian Securities Exchange and is the fourth largest pool of managed funds in the world. The FSC promotes best practice for the financial services industry by setting mandatory Standards for its members and providing Guidance Notes to assist in operational efficiency.