



## **Media Release - 30 September 2008**

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### **Darren Wickham Named Actuary of the Year**

The Institute of Actuaries of Australia last night honoured Darren Wickham with the award of Actuary of the Year 2008. The announcement was made by the President of the Institute, Greg Martin, at a Conference bringing together actuarial educators from around Australia to mark 40 years of actuarial education at Macquarie University.

Mr Martin said the award was made to Mr Wickham in recognition of his dedication to the profession, his contribution to the development of debate and ideas in the fields of superannuation and retirement incomes, and his commitment to excellence,

“Darren exemplifies qualities most highly regarded by the actuarial profession. In particular, his strong social conscience, his ability to identify and address important social equity issues and his ongoing commitment to developing ideas and solutions in the area of age pensions and retirement savings.”

“Darren has been a consistent contributor to the profession over many years. He has written a number of thoughtful and provocative papers, challenging the way that we think about retirement savings and pension reform”, Mr Martin said.

“Darren’s paper “It’s time to abolish retirement.... “, has generated significant debate and discussion, across a range of media, about the future of retirement. Barry Dunstan of the Australian Financial Review, for example, described Darren as “an actuary with a revolutionary idea.” Darren won the Institute’s Melville Biennial Convention Prize at our 2007 Convention for that paper”

“As a member of the Institute’s Tax Reform Task Force, Darren Wickham made a very significant contribution to our many submissions on superannuation tax reform during 2006 and, as Convenor of the Institute’s Benefit Projections Working Group, he has led the Institute’s work in the area of universal retirement income forecasts and benefit calculators for superannuation fund members. Darren’s work in this area has been very influential, encouraging the Minister for Superannuation and Corporate Law, Senator the Hon Nick Sherry, to announce his intention to introduce a requirement for all funds to provide such forecasts.”

“Darren is a great ambassador for the profession, helping it to demonstrate its relevance in an ever changing business and social environment, challenging conventional thinking with original and well thought through ideas and communicating effectively with the wider community to deliver his message.”

Actuary of the Year is awarded by the Institute Council to a member who has brought significant credit to the actuarial profession and who has made a key contribution to business or the community.

#### **Ends**

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## **Committees & Institute Service**

Benefit Projections Working Group  
Super Tax Reform Taskforce  
Editor of Actuary Australia

## **Recent Papers & Submissions**

### ***The best laid plans....will financial objectives be achieved in retirement?***

David Knox, Darren Wickham and Richard Starkey  
4<sup>th</sup> Financial Services Forum, 19 & 20 May 2008

### ***Outstanding Issues for Benefit Projections and Online Calculators***

Benefit Projections Working Group  
Discussion Paper, April 2008

### ***It's time to abolish Retirement (and here's how to do it)***

Darren Wickham  
Institute of Actuaries Australia Biennial Convention, September 2007  
*Winner of the Melville Biennial Convention Paper Prize*

### ***A Plan to Simplify and Streamline Superannuation***

GA Dunsford & Darren Wickham  
Submission to Treasury, August 2006

### ***Hot Topics in Super***

Brad Jeffrey, John Ward and Darren Wickham  
Third Financial Services Forum, May 2006

### ***Benefit Projections***

John Burnett and Darren Wickham  
Workshop Presentation, Financial Services Forum, 2004

### ***Super for Struggle Street – Superannuation for Welfare Recipients, Job Snobs and Dinkum Aussie Battlers***

Darren Wickham      2003

### ***Protection of Employee Entitlements in the Event of Employer Insolvency***

Glenn Langton, Chris Latham, Janet Linklater, Colin Westman, Darren Wickham  
2003