

MEDIA RELEASE

Stockbrokers and Financial Advisers Association disappointed that financial advisers' livelihoods put at risk

12 June 2020

Stockbrokers and investment advisers face the prospect of not being able to practise by the end of the year says the Stockbrokers and Financial Advisers Association (SAFAA), given that the bill to extend the FASEA exam and education requirements has been returned to the House of Representatives after an unrelated amendment was supported by crossbench senators, Labor and the Greens.

"It is very disappointing to see that politicians are playing with the livelihoods of financial advisers," said Judith Fox, CEO of SAFAA. "Any threat to the extension being achieved this year makes the timeline now available to stockbrokers to book a test, study a for a test and find a place in limited FASEA exam sittings extremely challenging."

Fox points out that if stockbrokers cannot sit and pass the exam by the end of the year, they can no longer give advice and are out of a job, yet the huge increase in workload for retail brokers and advisers dealing with client enquiries during the current market turmoil makes study and exam sitting particularly difficult.

"At a time of market volatility, when retail clients most need advice, politicians have used the bill to try to force change on an unrelated matter, that of transparency in financial reporting," says Fox. "Stockbrokers support greater transparency into financial reporting, but it should not be at the expense of losing experienced investment advisers and affecting the quality of advice for many Australian retail clients."

Fox notes that the amendment can be attached to any Treasury bill. "We pointed out that delaying this bill by sending it back to the House of Representatives threatens the livelihood of stockbrokers," notes Fox. "In a time of economic uncertainty and rising unemployment, it is inconceivable that politicians would put livelihoods at risk, when other options were open to them to seek the change to financial reporting."

Contact:

Judith Fox
CEO
0408 667 246

Note to editor

In the case of a bill which the Senate amends, the Senate equally with the House of Representatives is responsible for the detail. It incorporates its amendments in the bill, passes the bill as amended, and returns it to the House of Representatives. If that House does not agree to the amendments, the Senate can 'insist on its amendments,' and thus force the House of Representatives to take the responsibility of accepting the amendments or of sacrificing the bill; while the House of Representatives cannot force the Senate to take a direct vote on the bill in its original form.