

## **EDUCATION POST – First Guardian & Shield Master Funds Were Managed Investment Schemes (Mis)**

**It's not just the funds that failed It's the system that signed them off.**

What does the average mum, dad or retiree really know about Managed Investment Schemes (MIS)? Pretty much nothing.

For most Australians, superannuation isn't seen as an investment gamble; it's a compulsory, government-enforced savings system for retirement. People assume it's protected by government rules and safely managed for their future.

In simple terms, Australians believe:

“If the government forces me to put my money in superannuation, then it must be safe.”

### **How easy is it to set up an MIS in Australia?**

Both First Guardian and Shield Master Fund were registered MISs. These weren't rogue backyard operations; they were approved and registered by ASIC.

Yet now ASIC wants Australians to believe that we were unwise and careless for trusting a scheme they registered and approved to operate within Superannuation and SMSFs.

### **Here's what every Australian needs to understand:**

- You can set up an MIS with basic paperwork, a “responsible entity,” and a compliance plan.
- ASIC registers and signs off on it, sometimes within two weeks.
- But when things go wrong, ASIC takes zero responsibility.

Instead, they turn the tables, telling victims they should have known better, while launching new marketing campaigns using taxpayer dollars.

### **The Truth:**

When ASIC approves something, there's no genuine oversight, no accountability, and no consequences for them.

### **Why does the government allow MIS for superannuation?**

MIS products were allowed into super because they let people pool funds into larger, professionally managed projects, things individuals couldn't buy alone, like property developments or private loans. But that flexibility came without any real safeguards.

### **What did the government or ASIC do to protect or educate people?**

Nothing meaningful.

There has never been a public campaign explaining that ASIC-registered MIS products are not government-approved or guaranteed.

- ASIC's website buries a disclaimer saying “registration does not mean endorsement.”
- No education campaigns through MoneySmart, ATO, or MyGov.
- No clear warnings that many MISs are high-risk and unsuitable for retirement savings.

As a result, thousands of Australians believed:

“If it's on a super platform and registered with ASIC, it must be safe.”

Millions then flowed from super accounts into high-risk loans and related-party deals, all under ASIC's watch. Even after being alerted for 2-3 years, **the time they finally acted, it was too late.**

So now ASIC says it's OK for them to be slow, but not OK for us to be trusting.

We trusted that a "Managed Investment Scheme" registered by ASIC met a standard worthy of Australians' retirement savings.

Instead, thousands were left devastated, not from greed, but from misplaced trust in a system that failed them.

### 30 Years of Warnings - 30 Years of Inaction

Concerns about MISs have been raised for over three decades, yet nothing has changed.

- **Early 2000s:** Timbercorp and Great Southern collapsed, billions lost.
- **2012:** Government's own advisory body (CAMAC) called for tougher regulation, ignored.
- **2017:** The Sterling Income Trust collapsed, and retirees again lost everything while ASIC watched.
- **2023:** The Government launched *another* review, 30 years after the first warning, and still no reform. It's almost 2026!

And so, Australians keep losing their super in "registered" funds that ASIC signs off on but never truly checks.

### It's Time for Accountability

We don't need another review. It's clear, it's obvious, MISs are not suitable for people's retirement funds! We need real action and protection for consumers, now.

The truth is, nobody's really watching. Platforms don't even know what's inside these Managed Investment Schemes, and trustees simply follow instructions with little care for their customers' money, often with no idea what the underlying investments actually are. This whole mess happened because **everyone turned a blind eye.**

If the government forces Australians to put money into super, it should be smaller but safer, not a tax shelter for the wealthy or a playground for risky MIS products.

Australia's regulators should protect retirement savings, not approve and walk away when the damage is done.

I have reached out to David Anderson & Paul Chiodo for a statement on how easy it was for them to set up an MIS with ASIC. I will update this post when and if I receive a reply.

### Pay Now, Recover Later.

It's time for accountability. It's time to fix the system.

#sossaveoursuper

#saveoursuperfgmfcollapse

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First Guardian Master Fund Victim



ASIC



APPROVED

**FIRST GUARDIAN & SHIELD MASTER FUNDS WERE MANAGED INVESTMENT SCHEMES (MIS)**

**MIS IN 14 DAYS**  
for your superannuation and retirement savings