

“Pay Now, Recover Later”

Australia already applies this for disasters. Why not extend it to the First Guardian Master Fund/Shield Master Fund investor crisis?



When homes are ravaged by fire or deluged by floodwaters, governments move quickly: they fund clean-ups, demolition, temporary accommodation and rebuilds so families aren't left waiting while life gets worse. Afterwards, they sort out insurance, recoveries and cost-sharing behind the scenes. For example:

- **Bushfires (2009, 2019–20):** State & Commonwealth governments fully funded debris removal and demolition so families could start rebuilding immediately, insured or not. Insurers then adjusted claims to reflect government-funded clean-ups (so costs were effectively recouped downstream)
- **Floods (2021–22 & 2024–25):** Jointly funded **Resilient Homes** programs paid for voluntary buy-backs, house raising and rebuilds; grants flowed first, cost-sharing later via the national DRFA framework. This is the principle: **get people safe and stable now; reconcile the dollars later**

Now consider this: thousands of Australians invested in First Guardian and Shield, only to discover the funds collapsed and their superannuation nest eggs evaporated. Many are older, retired or about to retire — and the uncertainty isn't just financial. It's a mental-health crisis. Anxiety, sleepless nights, feelings of helplessness and fear of not making it through retirement are very real.

We at SOS SaveOurSuper are calling for the **same “Pay Now, Recover Later”** approach to be applied here.

- **Pay Now:** Create an immediate, hardship-relief payment or compensation scheme so impacted investors (65+) can stop the bleeding now, secure their living situation, reduce stress, and avoid crisis-driven choices like selling down-market or deferring essential health care.
- **Recover Later:** Launch a full litigation and recovery strategy targeting the parties responsible (fund managers, trustees, advisers), and allow government or a designated authority to reclaim from them, but *only after* we've stabilised the victims' lives.

Governments around Australia accept the moral and practical imperative to act fast in natural disasters. Their arguments for delaying here, “we'll sort it later”, “we need to investigate first”, are hurting people now. The forced wait is causing mental anguish, not just financial damage.

Now is the time: Stand with fellow members of the SOS SaveOurSuper community. Ask your local MP, *Why is a ‘Pay-Now’ relief package possible for storms, fires and floods, but not for the destruction of people's retirement funds?*

Let's repurpose the disaster-relief model to serve this financial disaster, too.

Feel free to share this post, tag your local member, and bring this case into the public spotlight. It's not just about compensation; it's about preserving dignity, reducing trauma and giving people back their future.

It's time for the same fairness

Pay Now. Recover Later

**Prepared by Melinda Kee
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