



Ref No IER2 - website

5 May 2010

Letter to Trustees  
APRA Regulated Superannuation Fund(s)

Dear Trustee

**FRAUD ALERT:  
SMSF IDENTITY FRAUD AND THEFT OF SUPERANNUATION BENEFITS**

APRA has been advised by the ATO that in a number of cases fraudulent ATO correspondence is being used as evidentiary documentation to support rollover applications submitted to APRA regulated funds. The falsified documentation is the Australian Business Register (ABR) letter issued to self managed superannuation fund upon registration.

The known falsified ABR documentation typically provides details of an operating SMSF which is not associated with the requesting member. The SMSFs which are targeted generally tend to have a similar name to that of the requesting member. Essentially this is misusing the identity of an unrelated complying SMSF. The targeted SMSF is listed on the [Super Fund Look Up](#) (SFLU), and therefore appears 'complying' generally allowing rollover request applications to be processed.

When these rollover requests are approved by an APRA regulated fund, the rollover cheque is forwarded to a postal address nominated on the rollover request which is different to the address listed for the SMSF on SFLU. The addresses nominated on these fraudulent rollover requests are the postal box addresses leased by the perpetrator(s). It is believed that these rollover amounts are never returned to the members.

**What to look out for**

The false ABR documentation used has the following features:

- No official ATO letterhead.
- Incorrect font (i.e. font is bolded).
- Postal addresses listed on the documentation does not reflect the fund address on SFLU (one of the checks recommended in APRA's [5 February 2010](#) letter).
- Alignment of fields are skewed.
- Two trustee names are listed in the one document (only one name should appear, and additional trustees on a separate page).

**What should you do**

In cases where you detect a fraudulent ABR document which supports a rollover application, we strongly recommend that you do not proceed with the rollover, and provide a copy of the fraudulent document when contacting the ATO at [Super-IER@ato.gov.au](mailto:Super-IER@ato.gov.au) .

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S.G. Venkatramani', with a horizontal line underneath it.

S.G. Venkatramani  
General Manager  
Specialised Institutions Division  
APRA