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Govt urged to press ahead with measure to make super assets visible in family court proceedings

The Australian Institute of Superannuation Trustees (AIST) has called on the Government to prioritise their promised family law super scheme in the wake of last night's welcome announcement that a second controversial measure - to allow family violence victims to access their super - has been abandoned.

While AIST welcomes the Government's decision to abandon the measure to allow domestic violence victims fleeing their abusers to access up to \$10,000 from their superannuation accounts we are now seeking assurance that a much-needed super data sharing scheme that will assist women has not been abandoned or put back on the back burner. The Government last week announced that both superannuation measures would be introduced on the same piece of draft legislation.

The data sharing scheme was announced more than two years ago by the Government in its 2018 Women's Economic Statement but remains unimplemented. This follows the [Women's Legal Service Victoria report](#) which identified that the lack of visibility of super assets during family law proceedings was exacerbating the financial hardship experienced by many women.

The data sharing scheme will make superannuation assets more visible when they are going through the family law courts by allowing the sharing of superannuation data between the courts and the ATO.

AIST CEO Eva Scheerlinck said the superannuation industry and women's advocates have been calling on the Government to urgently implement the data-sharing scheme to improve the financial wellbeing of victims of financial abuse as superannuation was often their biggest – or only – asset in these relationships.

"Family violence victims and financially disadvantaged women have struggled for far too long to gain access to their partner's super balance details during separation or divorce proceedings," Ms Scheerlinck said. "We urge the Government to push ahead and prioritise the data sharing scheme now it has made the decision to abandon the other measure."

"Allowing the courts to access ATO data is a simple measure that will make the process far more efficient, fair and cost-effective both for the individuals concerned and the super industry, and will help close the gender super gap for the most vulnerable women," Ms Scheerlinck said.

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AIST is the peak body for the \$1.5 trillion profit-to-member superannuation sector which includes industry, corporate and public sector funds



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