

6 June 2003

ISSUES PAPER ON SAVINGS RELEASED

The first draft of an issues paper on savings was released today in the lead up to a Savings Forum to be held in late July.

The paper has been prepared by economist Peter Harris to provide background material for the Forum, which is being co-ordinated by the Investment Savings and Insurance Association.

"The paper identifies the key features of New Zealand's savings environment and discusses the issues around savings from a variety of perspectives - including employers, unions, government and those on low incomes. It also raises the core elements that need to be covered in a comprehensive savings policy framework," says ISI chairman Simon Swanson.

"We're now looking for comment and input to the paper. It will be revised and recirculated, possibly more than once, before the Forum on 23 July."

The Saving New Zealand project is based on a partnership between politicians, employers, unions, the financial services industry and the community.

The objective is the development of a savings framework for New Zealand. Such a framework would give people certainty around savings policy and regulation, and a clear idea of what they need to save to provide for themselves in addition to what the state provides.

"The ISI has initiated this project to get a constructive discussion going on this important issue. No-one has all the answers, but by working together we should reach an agreement we can all feel comfortable with. We need to get away from the kind of adversarial politics that have dominated debate on savings, and superannuation in particular, for so long," said Mr Swanson.

Ends

Simon Swanson, Chairman, ISI
Ross Kent, Deputy Chairman ISI
Vance Arkinstall, Chief Executive, ISI