

Home / Profiles / Anne Fuchs on being an authentic leader in super

Anne Fuchs on being an authentic leader in super

14 OCTOBER 2024 | By michelle.parag... | PROFILES



As Executive General Manager - Advice, Guidance and Education at Australian Retirement Trust, Anne Fuchs brings extensive experience and insight to the superannuation industry. She recently sat down with Super Review to talk about her perspectives on super and authentic leadership.

How did you start down this career path?

As a teenager growing up in the 80s and 90s, I had an unusual interest in the political reforms of that time, but my interest in superannuation really took hold at university where I studied politics and history. My super career subsequently kicked off with a graduate role at Bankers Trust in Sydney.

What inspires you in your role/industry? Why?

I'm inspired by the purpose of super, to create financial security for ordinary people. Looking at my own family as an example, I am the first generation on either side to have a decent nest egg for retirement. All bar one of my 16 aunts and uncles (and also their spouses) had to finish school in year 10 to earn money for the family. It was only my father and my uncles who worked in the Queensland public service who had any super at retirement – thank goodness those days have changed!

I think there is beauty in democratising wealth so that everyday Australians can build out investments and have choices later in life and reduce the tax burden on younger generations. When people have super to live off, taxes can fund other things like health, education and infrastructure rather than a growing Age Pension bill. I love seeing all the good that comes from having that kind of financial freedom across communities, in families, and in small business.

I'm also inspired to work alongside talented, driven people in our investments team. They could work anywhere in the world, but they choose to work at Australian Retirement Trust because they are motivated by the purpose of superannuation.

How do you innovate and stay ahead of industry trends?

I would say it's networks, and reading a lot of news, and thought leadership pieces that are related to societal, macro-economic and political trends. I find having an extensive group of people that are from much broader places than financial services, from not-for-profit organisations and so on, helps me keep my finger on the pulse regarding how superannuation fits into the broader community. It gives me perspective on how we are performing and if we are delivering on the purpose of super, and where there is the opportunity for us to do better. Super is one of the key pillars of our economy so I'm always thinking about how we can deliver financial security for more Australians.

What's your approach to customer service that separates you from the rest?

When I was younger, I would give frank and fearless advice to my bosses, and now I am a passionate advocate of the power of guidance and advice and the benefits for all Australians to engage with super. For Australian Retirement Trust to be able to deliver excellent member service we've got to be prepared to have the uncomfortable conversations around what is and isn't working in the system and where we can advocate for better retirement outcomes for our members.

What is the toughest challenge you've faced in your career? How did you overcome it?

The toughest challenge I've found in my career is being a high conviction, outspoken younger woman with progressive values. Thankfully, I have had great sponsors that have believed in me, coached me, and given me a hand up. In more recent years, as diversity has become more commonplace at executive leadership levels, I have been inspired by the courageous, intelligent and wise women I have met, many of whom I have turned to when faced with a challenging problem to solve. I'm also fortunate in the sense the culture at Australian Retirement Trust focuses on celebrating the strengths in our differences, and I think that helps us to be a better Fund for members.

What are some of your goals for the next 5 years?

I would love to think Australian Retirement Trust is nailing an experience of super that is truly engaging and relevant for members. Currently there are a lot of regulatory hoops to jump through, so I'd like to think I've been successful in advocating to government to reduce some of that red tape for people. Changes to advice under the Delivering Better Financial Outcomes (DBFO) legislation can help with making super better for everyone, but it is a work in progress. There is a lot more we can do to make super simpler, more personalised, and of benefit to Australians. I see a big part of my role is supporting advocacy for our members so Australian Retirement Trust has the freedom to innovate for good.

Read more about:

Profiles

AUTHOR

View articles by >

's social profiles:

RECOMMENDED FOR YOU

Profiles 18 October 2024

Super Fund of the Year Awards 2024 - Bill Watson, CEO First Super

First Super delivers great personal service and solid investment returns to its 70,000+ members. The metrics agree with us.



SUPER|REVIEW

Never miss the latest developments in Super Review! Anytime, Anywhere!

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

Latest CommentsMost Read

Grant Banner

From my perspective, 40- 50% of people are likely going to be deeply unhappy about how long they actually live. ...

Aussies call for redefining retirement for a longer lifespan

10 months 1 week ago

Kevin Gorman

Super director remuneration ...

The super funds paying millions in trustee remuneration

10 months 1 week ago

Anthony Asher

No doubt true, but most of it is still because over 45's have been upgrading their houses with 30 year mortgages. Money ...

Rising retiree debt threatens retirement security

10 months 1 week ago

TOP PERFORMING FUNDS

ACS FIXED INT - AUSTRALIA/GLOBAL BOND		
Fund name	3y[%]pa	
1 Spire Oaktree Opportunities XI Second Close	61.07	
2 Spire Oaktree Opportunities XI First Close USD	59.21	
3 DomaCom Lot 21 Chellaston Road Munno Para West SA 5115 Australia	31.71	
4 Fidante Credit Suisse Global Private Equity	29.27	
5 DomaCom 4/27 Crombie Avenue Bundall QLD 4217 Australia	27.22	

SUPER|REVIEW

NewsSuperannuation GuideFeatures & AnalysisInvestment CentreEvents

MOMENTUM MEDIA

Be better informed

OUR PLATFORMS AND BRANDS

Accountants Daily
Accounting Times
Adviser Innovation
Australian Aviation
Broker Daily
Cyber Daily
Defence Connect
Fintech Business
HR Leader
Independent Financial Adviser
Investment Centre
Investor Daily
Lawyers Weekly
Money Management
Nestegg
Property Buzz
Real Estate Business
Smart Property Investment
SMSF Adviser
Space Connect
Super Review
The Adviser
Wellness Daily
World of Aviation

EVENTS AND SUMMITS

Accountants Daily 30 Under 30 Awards
Adviser Innovation Summit
Australian Accounting Awards
Australian Aviation Awards
Australian Broking Awards
Australian Defence Industry Awards
Australian Law Awards
Australian Space Awards
Australian Space Summit
Better Business Summit & Awards
Broker Daily Business Awards
Corporate Counsel Summit & Awards
Cyber Security Summit & Awards
Defence Connect Budget Lunch
Defence Connect DSR Summit
Fund Manager of the Year Awards
ifa Excellence Awards
ifa Future Forum
Investor Daily ESG Summit
Lawyers Weekly 30 Under 30 Awards
Lawyers Weekly Women in Law Forum
New Broker Academy
Partner of the Year Awards
REB Awards

Reinnovate

SME Broker Bootcamp
SMSF Adviser Technical Day
Super Fund of the Year Awards
Women in Finance Awards
Women in Law Awards

PODCASTS

Accountants Daily Podcast Network
Australian Aviation Podcast Network
Broker Daily Podcast Network
Defence Connect Podcast Network
HR Leader Podcast Network
REB Podcast Network
Relative Return
Space Connect Podcast
The Adviser Podcast Network
The ifa Show
The Lawyers Weekly Show
The Smart Property Investment Show

LEARNING AND EDUCATION

Momentum Professional

MOMENTUM MARKETS NETWORK

Momentum Markets
Momentum Media
Captivate Events & Communications
Agile Market Intelligence

STAY CONNECTED

SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTER

fXinfb

USEFUL LINKS

About Us
Advertise
Contact
Sitemap
Events
Subscribe