

Call to End MPs' 'Obscene' Perk

ANTHONY KEANE

POLITICIANS are being urged to cut back some of their own superannuation tax breaks before hitting the retirement savings of millions of ordinary Australians.

As MPs argue about restricting how much money people can put into super, a new analysis by financial strategists Marinis Financial Group estimates that more than \$1.5 billion a year could be saved if they remove an "obscene" tax break for retired politicians and other public servants.

Hundreds of thousands of public servants with defined benefit superannuation schemes, which were closed to new members by the mid-2000s, were granted a 10 per cent tax offset on their retirement pension income a decade ago even though members paid no tax on their super contributions or fund earnings during their working years.

"The pensions they are getting have never, ever been taxed, anywhere, but politicians want to start clobbering people who have been taxed the whole way," Marinis Financial Group managing director Theo Marinis said.

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