

MEDIA RELEASE

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ASA and AIA enter into amalgamation discussions

The Australian Shareholders' Association (ASA) and the Australian Investors' Association (AIA) have initiated discussions, with the aim to amalgamate the leading investor Associations by 2024.

Both boards have signed an agreement and shared details of the proposed amalgamation with their respective members and shareholders.

The ASA board says: "At the core of this amalgamation proposal is the goal of establishing a powerful entity that can work for the benefit of current and future investors, and provide a rounded approach to investors covering strengths from both the ASA and AIA."

"To achieve this goal, it's essential we have a smooth transition that maintains continuity of services to both organisations members, including membership transfer, ongoing member meetings and discussion groups, an expanded board and a future branding review of the organisation."

The AIA board says: "The board's decision to move forward the discussions with the ASA recognises the dynamic shifts in the financial industry.

"This is a pragmatic, forward-thinking step, driven by the objective of harnessing the collective strengths that will elevate financial literacy nationwide and safeguard the interests of individual investors."

ASA CEO, Rachel Waterhouse says: "ASA has been protecting the rights of individual investors for over 60 years and like the AIA, we have always been dedicated to financial literacy, and investor education."

"So, we believe there is a pre-existing alignment between both organisations in terms of purpose, values and visions that will allow for a seamless amalgamation and see the entities emerge with a stronger voice on investor issues as well as offering increased benefits to both organisations' members."

The proposed amalgamation will see an expanded membership base, reduced administrative costs, and, most importantly, expand the collective expertise, ideas, and ability to make a positive impact on investment issues for members.

AIA has proposed to close their organisation, and AIA members will be offered complimentary ASA membership of the same duration as their existing AIA membership.

The ASA board concluded, "There is no doubt this is great news for not only ASA and AIA members, but the industry as a whole.

"We will be able to provide larger and greater access to individual investors looking for an independent, knowledgeable and proven source of education and advocacy."

Rachel Waterhouse, CEO, Australian Shareholders' Association

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The Australian Shareholders' Association (ASA) educates investors and gives retail shareholders a voice. It is Australia's largest, independent, not-for-profit individual investor association.

ASA is passionate about keeping the market fair for the everyday, independent investor, and has been doing just that since 1960.

ASA provides members with a community of experienced investors and shareholders. Members can further their investment knowledge through the annual conference, webinars, podcasts, magazines, monthly meetings, and discussion groups (including in regional areas), seminars, workshops and more. ASA's mission is to:

- Protect shareholders' rights
- Make individual shareholders' vote count
- Help individual investors on their investment journey
- Connect people to a community of investors

Investment and financial literacy is a significant contributor to financial security for women, and ASA's free Winvest is a valuable resource for helping to understand the fundamentals of investment.

To learn more, please visit: www.australianshareholders.com.au

The Australian Investors Association was formed in 1991, The Australian Investors Association (AIA) is a member run, not for profit organisation with a mission to assist Australians to become informed, confident and effective managers of their investments.

We are "Investors Helping Investors" who provide access to independent, quality investment information and education that incorporates a global perspective and we foster connections between like-minded investors.

We have a vision: 'to be the provider of basic financial literacy education for all Australians'. To learn more, please visit: www.investors.asn.au