

Response from Rebecca Wilson,

My work has always focused on helping Australians better understand pre-retirement and retirement and make informed decisions about their future.

As part of that work, I am engaged by organisations across the retirement and superannuation sector to deliver specific education programs, educational content and speaking engagements for their members and industry. These are defined commercial engagements, not endorsements of the organisations or their financial products. I regularly discuss this work publicly through my newsletters and other communications.

My editorial commentary is independent of these engagements. References to individual super funds are made on editorial merit, using relevant facts, research and data. Commercial relationships do not determine which organisations I discuss or what I say about them.

The articles you've identified refer to organisations in the context of relevant research, data, reports or specific and timely industry developments at the time. These are factual editorial references made to explain issues of interest to readers, not recommendations or endorsements of the organisations mentioned. My columns regularly reference a wide range of organisations, including many with which I have no commercial relationship. The inclusion of an organisation in a column should not be confused with promotion of that organisation or its financial products.

The Epic Retirement Tick is a separate initiative designed to help consumers understand and compare the retirement services offered by super funds. Assessments are undertaken independently by Chant West against published criteria. Funds cannot pay to be assessed or to qualify for the Tick. Qualifying funds can subsequently license its use for promotional purposes, generating revenue for the Epic Retirement Institute and Chant West. These licensing arrangements do not determine assessment outcomes.

I recognise that readers should have clear information about relevant commercial interests. I've discussed this with my editor, and we've agreed to strengthen the disclosure accompanying my columns. We have also added dedicated disclosure to my website. We already disclose actively in newsletters and on the podcast.