In memory of Mavis Robertson

ASFA would like to pay tribute to Hon. FASFA and ASFA Life Member, Mavis Robertson (AM), who recently passed away, aged 84.

Robertson was one of the leading pioneers of Australia’s compulsory super system and was a leading member of Women in Super, the International Corporate Governance Network and the Mothers’ Day Classic, which has raised more than $24 million for breast cancer research. She was also the first chief executive officer of Cbus.

She was a vocal advocate of issues to do with women and retirement, helping drive legislative changes that improved retirement outcomes for all Australian women, particularly those on low incomes. Along with being a major contributor to advancing the interests of women, Robertson was also active in the peace and union movements. Robertson was awarded membership of the Order of Australia for her services to the superannuation industry. ASFA would like to extend its deepest condolences to her family.

Frances Hamilton, a retired ASFA education officer and industry fund pioneer, said: “Mavis was formidable, with a brilliant, incisive, creative mind, sharp wit and direct, erudite speech. She also had a kindness and generosity of spirit, and unswerving loyalty to those people to whom she had committed herself.

“Mavis was dedicated to a number of causes, which I believe stemmed from her total commitment to the right of all men and women to have decent, fulfilling lives. This was not merely a view of the need to improve society, it was also an active belief in the personal growth of each individual, and in the individual's duty to improve society. She both challenged and encouraged those around her to do better, to be better. I was one of those lucky people who came within her powerful sphere of influence.”

Robertson is survived by her son Peter, her daughter in law, Marjorie, and grandchildren Alec and Molly.