



Steven D'Elia

Self-employed

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AT 31, Steven D'Elia's philosophy on superannuation is simple — pay the minimum and channel income into the property market.

By paying off his house in Pascoe Vale and renting out an investment unit in Coburg, D'Elia has some medium-term investment strategies in place that will bring in returns long before retirement.

Being a small-business owner means draining overheads and long days, but D'Elia's Campbellfield-based sign writing company, Sign Efx, has been running successfully for eight years.

He has a Mercantile Mutual super fund listed under the company name, with a separate fund for staff. The business employs three full-time and one part-time staff, so superannuation is a necessary addition to the long paperwork trail.

Small staff numbers means the accounting is not too complex, giving

staff the choice of contributing to the company's fund managed by National Mutual, or to an outside fund.

D'Elia and his accountant have discussed the option of running his own company superannuation trust fund, but he still holds reservations about such a venture. He says he is unlikely to delve into self-managed super because he believes Mercantile Mutual suits his needs.

D'Elia moved to Mercantile Mutual when Sign Efx became a company in 1986. While the fund differed very little from his previous fund, D'Elia says he was attracted to lodging money with a big company that deals in good investment areas.

While D'Elia has enlisted the help of a financial adviser in the past, he believes most superannuation funds barrage clients with unnecessary information. "They send brochures and pamphlets out all the time," he says, "they are too detailed and hard to understand."