



CLOSER TO JUSTICE

Captain Dragan's finally charged with war crimes {NEWS P3}

PUMPED UP & PRIMED

Kyrgios and Stosur launch their Open campaigns {SPORT P28}



'Do I start trouble? Never'

When the movie star met the drugs tsar {WORLD P6}



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Terror on the doorstep: Asian militants unite under IS banner



Mindanao militants brandishing the Islamic State flag

EXCLUSIVE

DEBORAH CASSRELS
JAKARTA

Australia is facing fresh terror threats on its doorstep after Islamic State warned it had created a caliphate in Mindanao in the southern Philippines.

In exclusive video footage obtained by *The Australian*, the merger of four militant battalions and their machine gun-toting leaders are seen pledging allegiance to the self-proclaimed

caliph, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, indicating Islamic State ambitions.

The video, showing militants carrying Islamic State flags, was posted on the internet on Friday but immediately removed.

It was filmed at a training camp in Basilan, Mindanao, an autonomous Muslim region bordering Malaysia.

Counter-terror expert and head of the Singapore-based International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, Rohan Gunaratna, yesterday warned the new *wilayat*, or province, posed major security con-

INSIDE

When religion, draped in Kalashnikovs and suicide vests, shoots its way into the public square, trying to wish it away is as irresponsible as it is counter-productive

HENRY ERGAS P10

cerns for Australia and Southeast Asia. "The recruits who cannot go to Syria because of travel restrictions will train in The Philippines and attack Australia and coalition interests on their return," Dr Gun-



aratna said, adding the merger would present an unprecedented challenge to the government in Manila. "As the 'soldiers of the caliphate' in The Philippines, they will mount operations that will

increasingly mirror IS's core in Syria and Iraq."

Islamic State has chosen the chief of the Abu Sayyaf Group in Basilan, Isnlon Hapilon, as The Philippines leader.

Referring to him as Sheikh Mujahid Abu Abdullah Al-Filipini, Islamic State's official newsletter, *Al-Naba*, reported on the amalgamation of the battalions of "mujahideen".

The video, led by Hapilon, shows 41 mostly armed Filipinos and Malaysians, mainly from the Abu Sayyaf Group, which

Continued on Page 4

Giant of yachting and wine dies at 87



Bob Oatley at the helm of Wild Oats XI

LEO SHANAHAN
GINA RUSHTON

Robert "Bob" Oatley, the businessman who made his fortune on wine and happily spent millions on his record-breaking yacht Wild Oats XI, has died at the age of 87.

A shrewd innovator with the Midas touch that ran across business and boats, he died yesterday morning after an illness.

Mr Oatley founded Rosemount Estate wines in 1969 and it was the sale for the bulk of the assets to Southcorp in 2001 for a reported \$1.5 billion that made him a legend.

The sale was his Kerry Packer moment and propelled him and his family into the stratosphere of Australian business. *BRW* last year estimated his worth at \$1 billion, ranking him Australia's 49th richest person. Although a significant philanthropist — supporting causes including Australian Olympic teams, medical research and the arts — he was also a man who enjoyed, and made his money from, some of the finer things in life.

In 2003, Mr Oatley bought Queensland's Hamilton Island resorts, with his son Sandy overseeing a redevelopment that brought it back to life and added to the family fortune. In later life he was able to indulge in a private jet and a cliff-top villa in Sardinia.

Mr Oatley included his close family in the management of his business — which also includes retirement homes, the boutique Robert Oatley Vineyards wine producer and a patch of cattle-grazing land near Mudgee in central-western NSW — with Sandy taking over day-to-day management in recent years.

Known as "Popeye" to his family and friends, Mr Oatley was born in the Sydney suburb of Mosman as an only child whose mother died before he was one. He was raised by an aunt and started his working life at just 15 as an office boy in Sydney with no qualifications.

His first real business success was in Papua New Guinea as a coffee and cocoa exporter in the 1950s and 60s. It was the money earned from this early venture that allowed him to pursue his love of sailing. Returning to Australia, he bought the first 33-footer and christened it after one his nicknames, "Wild Oats".

According to veteran journalist DD McNicol, who covered Mr Oatley's ascent in business and yachting, his decision to get into the wine business was sparked by a simple eye for good business ventures that characterised his thinking.

"He made a lot of money from the coffee business and thought, 'Well people like drinking coffee they also like drinking wine,'" McNicol said. "He surrounded himself with good people and was a smart bloke."

Despite having expensive

Continued on Page 4

COALITION TARGETS UNION DEALS

Choice of super back on agenda

EXCLUSIVE

DAVID CROWE
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

A new clash is looming over rules that can ban millions of workers from choosing their own retirement fund as the government tries to increase choice in the \$2 trillion superannuation industry.

Despite fears it will be accused of running an "ideological" campaign against funds that are backed by unions, the Coalition will move to scrap a key part of the industrial relations regime that gives unions and employers the right to limit fund choice for up to 4.7 million workers.

The push sets up a new fight in the Senate after parliament resumes within weeks, but armed with a warning from trade union royal commissioner Dyson Heydon against the "tyranny of the majority" being allowed to dictate where workers put their retirement savings, the government will insist that the choice of fund cannot remain a bargaining chip in workplace deals.

Assistant Treasurer Kelly O'Dwyer will make the issue one of four major changes to the superannuation sector this year in a reform plan that appears certain to deepen the divisions in the fund industry while sparking renewed objections from Labor.

Ms O'Dwyer told *The Australian* a government analysis indicated that 26 per cent of enterprise bargaining agreements gave workers no choice of super fund and another 5 per cent allowed only limited choice. "We think that everyone should have a choice about where their money goes — after all, it's their superannuation, it's their retirement," she said. "That money should be provided to a fund of their choice."

At stake is control of tens of billions of dollars that flow into super funds every year from employee pay packets under terms negotiated by unions and employers in more than 20,000 enterprise agreements that cover 40 per cent of the nation's workforce.

The move opens a new front in attempts to overhaul the wider super system after Ms O'Dwyer last month failed to persuade crossbench senators to legislate governance changes that would require all funds to appoint independent directors.

Labor and the unions have claimed the Coalition is seeking to undermine the not-for-profit industry funds set up by employer

INSIDE

Robert Menzies' legacy is indeed instructive for Malcolm Turnbull and Tony Abbott, in and out of government, especially in this election year with the divisions between them still barely concealed.

TROY BRAMSTON P10

groups and unions decades ago, and which often have the advantage of being named in EBAs or as the "default" option in industrial awards.

"There is no ideological agenda to this," Ms O'Dwyer told *The Australian*. "It is simply not correct to say this is aimed at any particular part of the industry — this is about getting choice for individuals so they can maximise their retirement income."

The royal commission into trade union corruption has heard complaints from workers banned from choosing their own fund because their employers had signed away this right in EBAs with the Transport Workers Union, the National Union of Workers and others.

Retail super funds like those owned by the major banks, which manage about \$540 billion, want the rules abolished out of concern they give an advantage to industry funds, which manage about \$440bn and are written into EBAs as a result of their links to unions and employer groups.

While the issue has become toxic for the super industry, some question the scale of the problem. Figures provided to *The Australian* were based on a Department of Employment study in 2014 of a sample of 208 enterprise agreements, suggesting that 26 per cent of the deals provided no choice of fund, but this is yet to be tested by independent analysis.

Some doubt that workers would bother to change funds even if they were given the right. A study by Roy Morgan Research last week found only 3.2 per cent of superannuation products were "switched" annually between funds.

The restriction on choice was written into the industrial laws by

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MORE REPORTS P2

Harvest of hurt as ravaged towns count the cost



Bernie Worthington, with his grandchildren Monty, 3, and Vera Rafferty, 5, at his Drakesbrook Wines vineyard, Waroona, 100km south of Perth



Some of the 143 properties in Yarloop that were razed

ANDREW BURRELL

As the smoke began to clear from one of the nation's most devastating bushfires, the weary residents of Yarloop and Waroona in Western Australia's tinder-dry south-west began to count the human and economic cost of the blaze.

Police were yesterday working to formally identify two bodies, believed to be men in their 70s, found in separate houses on Saturday in Yarloop, two days after 143 properties were razed as the fire swept through the historic timber town and almost wiped it off the map.

A relative of one of the men

feared dead, 73-year-old Malcolm Taylor, said yesterday she knew he would have contacted her by now if he were alive.

Mr Taylor's routine was to turn off his hearing aid and go to bed at 7.30pm, which meant he would have been asleep for three hours when the fireball rolled down the Darling Scarp and into Yarloop on Thursday. The other man feared dead was 77.

Last night, the fire had burned through 73,000ha and has a perimeter of more than 226km.

Although conditions eased yesterday, several towns were still facing a bushfire emergency last night. Yarloop residents were yesterday prevented from returning

to the town for the third day, as Department of Fire and Emergency Services deputy incident controller Ricky Curtis told a meeting of evacuated residents: "It's a war zone in there."

In Waroona, about 10km from Yarloop, *The Australian* was the first media organisation yesterday to gain access to properties damaged by the fire, which has left a landscape resembling a moonscape in some areas.

The co-owner of local wine producer Drakesbrook Wines, Bernie Worthington, estimated

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EDITORIAL P11

Consul medics 'underqualified'

EXCLUSIVE

PAOLA TOTARO

Australia's ambassador and Foreign Affairs staff in one of the most perilous diplomatic missions in the world — Baghdad — are in the hands of an understaffed and underqualified medical unit that fails to meet standards set out under a \$51 million contract.

As Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said she had sought a full briefing on security at the embassy, *The Australian* can reveal that over the past 12 months, not one of the nine medics working on the embassy's personal protection detail have had the necessary qualifications, accreditation or current clinical hours to provide frontline medical care as paramedics in Australia, Britain or other Commonwealth nations.

The medical unit forms part of

the security contract provided under a new, five-year agreement with the private, Dubai-based company Unity Resources Group. The company charged double, \$10m, for the same services for the five years to the end of last year.

URG has been warned repeatedly by a succession of its own medical officers — verbally and in writing — that it has not only failed to vet and check the medical qualifications of specialist security staff but has been unable to provide adequate medical supervision, forcing registered nurses to prescribe drugs illegally.

The Australian has detailed over the past fortnight how URG has been unable to comply with its new contract with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade after failing to recruit enough staff to fill the elite protection detail guarding the Baghdad compound.

Nearly 40 Australian personal

protection specialists refused to sign new contracts, accusing the company of cutting pay by half and risking lives by scrimping on arms and protective equipment, bypassing detailed security checks and providing inferior medical support and insurance cover.

Ms Bishop told *The Australian* DFAT has "provided assurances that the safety and security of Australian officials remain the highest priority through its tender processes".

"I have requested a detailed briefing on the issues raised, which will be provided in due course," she said. "My priority is to ensure that the safety and security of Australian personnel has not been compromised."

At least nine sources have alleged independently and separately that at any one time over the

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EDITORIAL P11

New fears over Chinese growth rattle markets

SCOTT MURDOCH
CHINA CORRESPONDENT

China's economic and financial market management credentials are drawing international criticism after a weak inflation result raised the prospect Beijing will be forced to slash interest rates to boost growth.

With concern about the Chinese economy growing, futures markets were last night pointing to another sharp fall on Australian shares when trading resumes this morning.

The predicted 80-point, or 1.6 per cent fall, would take losses on the local market to more than 7 per cent since the start of the year, or more than \$110 billion.

Beijing reported at the weekend that China's consumer price index rose by just 1.4 per cent over the year compared to the

3 per cent objective the government had put in place for the economy in order for it to achieve its annual growth target.

With the figure well below the 2 per cent registered in 2014, economists believe the chance of deflation emerging as a major risk to China's economy is intensifying.

The result is likely to cast a negative shadow over regional markets already unsettled by the 6.2 per cent fall on Wall Street over the past week — its worst start to a new year in history.

In Australia, the S&P/ASX200 is predicted to open down 80 points today, while the futures markets show the battered Shanghai exchange could open down 21 points and the

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YOUR NEWSPAPER
EDITOR'S PICKS

**SHADOW OF MENZIES
LENGTHENS OVER LIBERALS**
Fifty years after Robert Menzies resigned as PM, he looms large over the party he founded {COMMENTARY P10}

CAUGHT IN THE NET OF CLASSIC TRAGEDY

The socially and politically provocative ideas in Georg Buchner's unfinished 1836 play *Woyzeck* have inspired many transformations {ARTS P13}



RAFA'S CALL

Rafael Nadal arrives in Australia with his tail between his legs and a call to make {SPORT P28}



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YOUR NATION

Body of overboard yachtsman found

The body of a yachtsman washed overboard in recent wild weather off the NSW mid-north coast has been found. Mal Lennon was swept off the deck of 36ft racing yacht *Amante* about midday on Wednesday, as strong winds and massive swells caused by a low pressure system buffeted the region. The 62-year-old's body was found floating in the water off Port Stephens Head on Sunday morning by a recreational vessel. It's believed Mr Lennon was not wearing a life jacket. Mr Lennon was an experienced sailor who worked at project management consultancy firm Cadence Australia. A report will be prepared for the coroner.

Man dies when ute rolls down bank

A man is dead after the ute he was driving rolled down an embankment in regional Victoria, throwing him out of the car. Police say the 45-year-old was driving in the Nariel Valley yesterday morning when the car rolled. He died at the scene. The death occurred only hours after a woman was killed and another seriously injured in a three-car crash in Melbourne's west.

View to a krill: science expedition goes south

A team of Australian marine scientists will today set off from Hobart on a mission to investigate how much the food source for whales and penguins in the Southern Ocean will decline as water temperatures rise. Chief investigator Andrew Constable will lead an international fleet from Australia, China, Britain, France and Japan to study krill populations in the Kerguelen Axis, southwest of Australia. As global temperatures rise, Dr Constable expects the cool-

water critter's habitat to contract towards the Antarctic, meaning less food for wildlife such as seals, whales and penguins. "This research is vital to Australia because we depend on this area for conservation and fisheries," he said. The last time the area was studied in detail was in the early 1900s.

Witnesses sought for fatal minibus crash

South Australian police yesterday called for witnesses to a minibus crash near McLaren Vale that killed three people and seriously injured another five. On Saturday about midday a Ford sedan travelling south on Main South Road collided with a minibus travelling north, police said. The 61-year-old female driver and a 90-year-old passenger, both from McLaren Vale died at the scene. Four other women from the minibus, aged between 40 and 87, were taken to the Flinders Medical Centre with serious injuries. The driver of the Ford sedan, a 33-year-old man from Aldinga Beach, was rushed to the Flinders Medical Centre but died of his injuries. The state's road toll stands at four compared with two at the same time last year.

Teenage pedestrians hit crossing busy road

Two teenage girls were injured, one seriously, after being hit by a car while crossing a busy road on Queensland's Gold Coast at the weekend. A police spokesman said the girls were hit when they were walking along Ashmore Road at Benowa, about 3km west of Surfers Paradise, about 7.45pm on Saturday. A 17-year-old suffered serious head injuries and was last night being treated in the Gold Coast University Hospital. Another girl, aged 16, was taken to hospital in a stable condition. The 49-year-old driver suffered minor cuts and was treated at the scene.

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CROSSBENCHERS RESIST OVERTURES

Senate cool on bill to hit unions

DAVID CROWE
JOE KELLY

The federal Coalition has been dealt another blow in its bid to legislate tougher sanctions against union bosses who misuse their members' funds, cooling hopes of a breakthrough in the Senate over a bill that could trigger an early election.

Key senators including Victorian independent John Madigan and Tasmanian independent Jacqui Lambie are pushing back against government overtures to

win support for reforms that were lost by a single vote in the upper house in August.

Malcolm Turnbull and Employment Minister Michaelia Cash are preparing for another round of meetings with Senate crossbenchers when parliament resumes in the first week of next month, hoping that the findings of the royal commission into union corruption will build support for the bill.

Senator Madigan said he was concerned about union corruption but wanted the government to create a federal independent

commission against corruption to focus on all forms of wrongdoing rather than singling out the industrial relations system.

"I want to see a body that deals with corruption when it is in the banks, in investment schemes — that's corruption as well," he said. "I support getting tough on crime but I want to get tough on all crime."

While the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Amendment Bill is already a double-dissolution trigger because it has been rejected twice in the upper house, the Prime Minister has told col-

leagues that his priority is to get the reform legislated rather than rush to the polls.

Senator Madigan abstained on the bill when it was put to a vote last August and the government lost the vote by 34 votes to 33. Those who voted against included Senator Lambie, Queensland independent Glenn Lazarus, the Australian Motoring Enthusiast Party's Ricky Muir and Labor and the Greens.

The changes to the Registered Organisations Act would set up a new commission to oversee employer groups as well as unions

and impose criminal penalties on those who abuse their power.

"All they've got to do is call it a federal ICAC, give it the powers Dyson Heydon says are needed and apply it to everybody," Senator Madigan said.

"Everybody would support that — it's fair, it's reasonable, you can't argue with it."

A separate bill seeks to re-establish the Australian Building and Construction Commission to help employers in the building industry, but this was also lost by 34 to 33 votes last August.

Senator Lambie has not yet de-

termined a final position on the legislation, but she is threatening the government's entire legislative agenda, saying she is prepared to vote against all Liberal and Nationals bills to stop costs increasing for Australian women seeking access to cancer health checks.

Family First senator Bob Day, who backs both bills, said the government had come very close to getting its way last August and had a better chance now that the royal commission had shown the need for stronger laws.

"I would be very surprised if it went down again," he said.

Mediocre NBN wrecks innovation nation

EXCLUSIVE

EAN HIGGINS

Paul Lavings is exactly the sort of man of innovation for whom Malcolm Turnbull says the National Broadband Network and its high-speed internet is designed.

He's a website designer who runs his business from home on the NSW central coast, telecommuting rather than clogging up the roads and the atmosphere by driving to an office.

But because NBN Co is running hopelessly late in delivering on a promise to connect him and about 1000 other residents in Kooloewong and neighbouring suburbs near Woy Woy, he's stuck with mediocre broadband, which is undermining his business.

Because he is midway between two exchanges, ADSL would be too slow, so Mr Lavings gets his broadband via a wireless point-to-point service broadcast from kilometres away.

He says the service has improved in the past month, but because of the distance to the ground station the internet connection is slow and can drop out.

The situation is also making doing homework very difficult for Mr Lavings's 14-year-old daughter Sophie, who now has all her textbooks online. "I have to download and print out stuff at school ... it's annoying," she said.

Mr Turnbull doesn't seem to have much clout on the matter: the local federal MP, Liberal Lucy Wicks, took the problem to the then communications minister last year, and the Lavings are still waiting.

Before Mr Lavings moved with his family to Kooloewong in September 2012, he did his due diligence on internet availability.

"We understood then that NBN was meant to be coming sometime towards the end of 2012," Mr Lavings said yesterday, an impression supported by the vice president of a local residents' association, Jon Fearon.

Since then, it's been repeatedly promised but not delivered.



Paul Lavings and daughter Sophie are caught in the NBN slow lane and it's hurting his business and her education

A December 2014 letter from NBN Co to another Kooloewong resident says "our construction partner intends to connect your property between 8 January 2015 and 2 April 2015".

Mr Lavings, who trades as Studio Blue Design, said a lot of web design now was done online, on secure domains; if the internet drops out when he's on a job, he loses work. "A job which would normally take three or four hours would take eight or nine, but I can't bill my clients for eight or nine hours," he said.

In a letter to residents, Ms Wicks wrote that "the minister's (Mr Turnbull's) office has advised that delays occurred due to the need for design certification from the local Power Authority", state-owned Ausgrid. Ausgrid rejected any suggestion its role could explain a delay of years.

NBN Co spokesman Jane Armstrong said:

"While we apologise for the inconvenience, agreements have been reached and we anticipate construction will be complete in the next few months."



NBN Co's letter to the Lavings household from December 2014 and again in November 2015

Tireless foe of death penalty

In the early hours of April 29 last year, convicted Bali drug-smugglers Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran sang *Amazing Grace* as they waited to be shot by a 12-member Indonesian firing squad.

It was human rights barrister and fierce death penalty opponent Julian McMahon who had worked tirelessly, desperately and without payment to try to prevent the execution of the pair, who had undergone transformative rehabilitation during their decade in prison.

But their executions went ahead after their pleas for clemency were rejected by Indonesian President Joko Widodo.

Admitted to the Victorian Bar in 1998, Mr McMahon has donated his time for more than 13 years to advocate for Australians facing the death penalty.

Other clients have included Australian citizens Van Tuong Nguyen, who faced the death penalty in Singapore in 2005, and businessman George Forbes, who eventually had trumped-up charges against him, including one of murder, annulled by a South Sudanese court in 2007.

In the months leading up to the trial of the Bali pair, Mr McMahon was forced to exclude all other work and devote himself entirely to the cases.

He and Lex Lasry, with whom he also worked on the Nguyen and Forbes cases, briefed Indonesian lawyer Todung Mulya Lubis, persuading him that the

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human rights implications of the death penalty should take precedence over his personal antipathy to prisoners facing drug charges.

Mr McMahon is on the board of Jesuit Social Services and the president of Reprieve Australia. In October, he was nominated as

the Victorian Australian of the Year.

Readers can nominate individuals such as Mr McMahon for *The Australian's* 2015 Australian of the Year. The winner will be judged by a panel of senior editors and announced in *The Weekend Australian* on January 23.

Consul medics 'underqualified'

Continued from Page 1

past five years, more than half the medics employed by URG either lacked qualifications accredited by Australian authorities or their accreditation had lapsed.

In one case last year, first aid and paramedic qualifications provided by a staff member employed by URG were later shown to have been acquired online from a widely discredited website.

In another, URG employed a nurse from Texas who was banned from practice in her home state after disciplinary hearings for self-administration of drugs. She was removed immediately this was discovered in August last year but had been working for some months because of the lack of professional checks.

URG says the details provided to *The Australian* are incorrect.

According to the sources, the problems began with the original contract signed with URG in 2010, which contained a serious error: the medical qualifications stipulated — Emergency Medical Technicians Basic, Intermediate and Advanced — are redundant American specifications that have never existed in Australia.

The error was acknowledged unofficially by DFAT officials but never rectified in writing, *The Australian* has been told.

Sources also claim that URG has been urged — but has failed — to accept the need for staff to undergo accredited Australian or British courses, ensuring that all

new recruits be qualified in Health Care (Ambulance) and Emergency Medical Response as a minimum. Other embassies such as the US require state-accredited paramedic degrees as minimum recruitment standard.

URG has repeatedly declined to respond to detailed questions from *The Australian*, citing "operational security reasons" and warnings that lives could be put at risk. "The information you appear to be relying upon ... is for the most part grossly inaccurate," a spokesman said last night.

A spokeswoman for DFAT said it "does not comment in detail on security arrangements at our overseas missions ... as this would compromise their effectiveness and present increased risks for our personnel".

"DFAT continues to have confidence in URG's ability to deliver security services for the embassy. The staffing requirements of the contract are being met, including through the replacement of any personnel who depart," she said.

It is understood the current specialist nurse heading the medical unit has handed in her notice citing concerns about safety, qualifications and procedures.

The URG protection specialists in Baghdad are mostly former military or police and are required to work in three teams of 10 on a roster.

The personal protection detail is armed and each team is required to have two personnel who are qualified medics.

The clinic, headed by a registered nurse with specialist training in frontline care in hostile environments, is contracted to provide on-site care for between 100 and 150 staff, comprising Australian diplomatic staff, URG contractors, who come mainly from Australia and Britain, and a corps of static security guards from Chile who reside in run-down, rented houses funded by URG 1km away from the embassy.

According to the URG's internal Standard Operating Procedures document on medical services, the Australian embassy clinic is a "primary healthcare facility designed to provide the first line of medical care for embassy staff, visitors and contractors".

It is understood that in the past five years, URG management has been warned repeatedly that it is illegal for nurses and unqualified medics to prescribe and dispense prescription-only medication.

The problem is particularly serious for registered nurses, who risk losing professional accreditation if they provide prescriptions, or let unqualified personnel such as personal protection detail staff under their supervision do so.

One source said: "The company never seemed to understand that. These people travel all over the country and lifesaving medication travels with them. "People who get blown up go into shutdown ... if you don't carry the correct medication, the chances of getting out alive are slim."

Choice of super back on agenda

Continued from Page 1

the Howard government when employers preferred to deal with a single fund. In the retail industry there are thousands of young workers and high staff turnover.

Industry Super Australia chief David Whiteley said the government needed to produce analysis from Treasury or the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority to show current rules were no longer relevant. "There's no room for ideology in retirement income policy. It must be fact-based, it must be evidence based," he said.

"Industry super funds support a regulatory framework that has strong default arrangements in place and allows people to choose their funds. The super industry and the Australian public can't be expected to address the merit of the changes without the government putting forward that analysis."

There are now four fronts in Ms O'Dwyer's attempts to overhaul super: governance changes to require more independent directors; transparency rules to force funds to reveal more about investments; reforms to the way "default" funds are named in workplace awards; and changes to the restrictions in EBAs.

The government is separately examining super tax breaks.

Ms O'Dwyer said she would "certainly" bring back the governance legislation this year. The Senate rejected the changes last month, and the government avoided bringing it to a vote. "The ultimate objective is to make sure people are provided with a strong retirement income," she said.

"Having world's best governance arrangements, giving them choice in their superannuation fund, making sure there is transparency so there is competition between funds so members can make the best decisions — this will all ultimately mean people can make the best possible decisions for their retirement future."