



New exec team to drive AFA expansion

Hamish Madden

The Association of Financial Advisers (AFA) has unveiled a new strategic initiative with the formation of an executive board committee charged with driving new projects and initiatives for the AFA's growing membership.

The AFA national executive committee will work closely with chief executive officer, Richard Klipin, to continue the AFA's resurgence and drive significant projects for members nationwide, develop new services, education programs, tools for members and expand the association's activities, particularly in regional Australia.

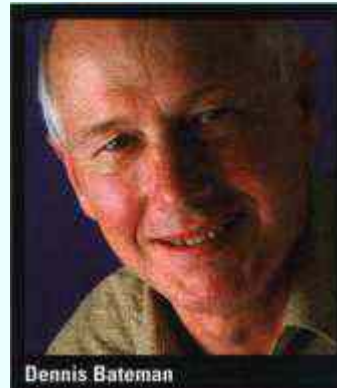
On the back of an invigorated 2006 and big plans for 2007, the AFA is expecting another year of 20 per cent growth in membership from across Australia, with regional Australia being a core part of the national strategy.

"A significant proportion of Australia's population lives outside of the cities, therefore these people – advisers and clients – need the services of someone like the AFA," said national president, Dennis Bateman.

Bateman said it was important AFA strategy, services and initiatives remained in the hands of practitioners.

"I think that's part of our point of differentiation, that the AFA is by the members for the members."

The national executive committee will be instrumental in garnering resources, ideas and input from some of the association's most experienced members



Dennis Bateman

to continue the AFA's strategy of Generation Next – promoting the next generation of advisers while sharing ideas and experience between generations. Bateman said many AFA members were excited to hear the voice of the next generation at 2006's national conference and the initiative was a core plank of the association's long-term strategy.

"I think there's a lot to learn from the younger group as well ... we can learn from them as much as they can learn from us," he said.

Klipin said the national executive committee would underpin the AFA's continued growth.

"I am delighted that this executive committee of the board is available to give the AFA even more capability and flexibility to grow our member offer and industry presence."

The AFA national executive comprises national president, Dennis Bateman, vice president, Paul Riegelhuth, treasurer, Mark Hawes, and chief executive officer, Richard Klipin. ■