

# Specialist Geared Australian Share Fund

## On-platform Class A

### Investment objective

The Fund aims to provide high returns over the long term through geared exposure to securities listed on the ASX. The objective of the Fund's portfolio before gearing is applied, is to provide a total return (income and capital growth), after costs and before tax, above the S&P/ASX 200 Accumulation Index on a rolling 3 year basis. The Fund may be suitable for investors seeking to invest in a diversified portfolio of Australian shares. The Fund allows the ability to borrow in order to increase the amount that can be invested. The aim of gearing is to contribute more capital and provide greater exposure to the Australian share market. The Fund aims to pay distributions yearly. You should be aware that although the Fund aims to pay distributions, the amount of each distribution may vary, or no distribution may be payable in a distribution period.

### How we manage your money

The Fund normally invests in shares listed or about to be listed on the Australian Securities Exchange.

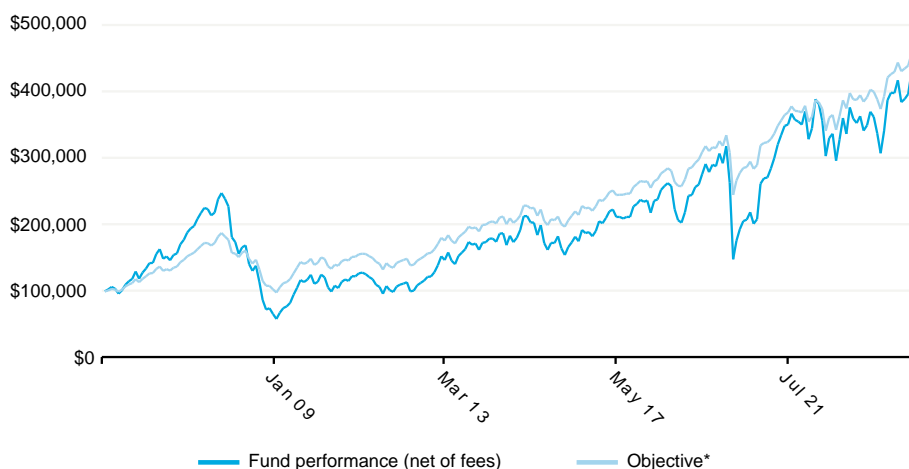
### Performance as at 28 February 2025

%	1 MTH	3 MTH	1 YR	3 YRS	5YRS	7YRS	SINCE INCEPT
Total Return - Net of Fees	-9.08	-8.70	7.48	7.42	10.17	8.81	7.45
Objective*	-3.79	-2.56	9.94	9.24	8.87	8.57	7.98
Excess return	-5.29	-6.14	-2.45	-1.82	1.31	0.24	-0.53

Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance. Performance is annualised for periods greater than one year. Total returns are calculated using the net asset value per unit for the relevant month end. This price may differ from the actual unit price for an investor buying or selling an investment. Actual unit prices will be confirmed following any transaction by an investor. Returns quoted are before tax, after fees and costs and assume all distributions are reinvested.

\* The benchmark for this Fund changed from the S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index to the S&P/ASX 200 Accumulation Index on 26 May 2011. Past performance of this Fund is reported using the S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index up to 25 May 2011. Performance reported after 26 May 2011 uses the current benchmark, the S&P/ASX 200 Accumulation Index.

### \$100,000 invested since inception



### FUND FACTS

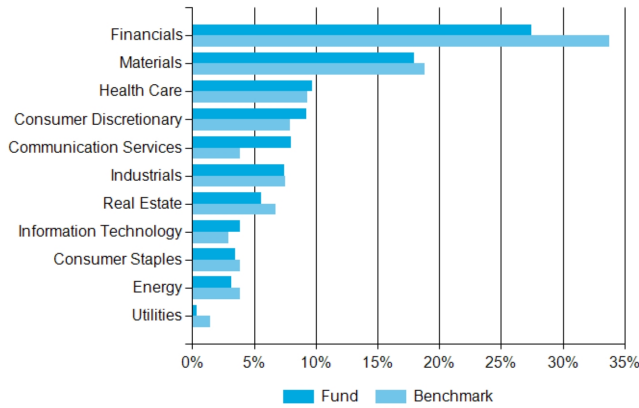
APIR	AMP0969AU
Inception date	30 December 2004
Fund Size	\$373,018,094
Total ongoing annual fees and cost*	3.12% p.a.
Buy/Sell spread*	+0.30%/-0.30%
Distribution frequency	Yearly
Minimum investment	\$10,000,000
Minimum suggested time frame	7 years

\*Fee information is correct as of 30 June 2024 and is updated biannually. Total ongoing annual fees and costs are made up of management fees and costs, performance fees (if applicable) and transaction costs. You should refer to the current PDS or other offer document for the relevant Fund available at [www.amp.com.au/investments](http://www.amp.com.au/investments) for the latest ongoing annual fees and costs as well as member activity-related fees and costs (if applicable).

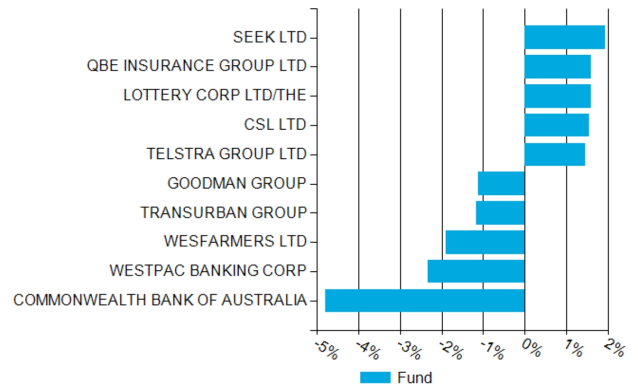
### What happened last period

- Australian shares were somewhat volatile and finished down in February.
- The Fund produced a negative absolute return and underperformed its benchmark, primarily due to gearing.
- All underlying managers also lost ground.
- Sector allocation added to relative returns, whereas stock selection detracted.

## Sector allocation (%)



## Top/Bottom Excess Weights



Asset allocation	(%)
Australian Shares	84.5
Global Shares	6.2
Cash	4.7
Property	4.6

## Fund Performance

The Fund produced a negative return for the month of February and underperformed its benchmark, primarily due to gearing. During a volatile period for the market, the three underlying managers all lost ground as well as lagging the benchmark, with Macquarie's enhanced index portfolio faring relatively better than Vinva whilst DNR Capital was the main laggard. Fund returns however continue to be robust over most longer time periods, on both an absolute and relative basis.

Sector allocation added some value, with the Fund's cash position as well as an overweight to communications the main contributors, whereas the underweight exposures to materials and utilities were the primary detractors. Stock selection was negative overall, with the active positioning in financials the major detractor, whereas selection within energy was the strongest.

The largest individual contributor to relative returns was an overweight position in telecommunications giant Telstra (+7%), which was buoyed by its strong half year result, which included improvement in business areas which had previously been more challenged and encouraging signs for cashflows which underpinned its announcement of a significant buyback of shares. Another major contributor included an overweight exposure to online employment marketplace SEEK (+4%) following the release of its latest result which was better than the market's expectations, with the strong operational result being achieved despite continued softness in job advertisement volumes. In addition, the Fund benefited from its underweight position in commercial and industrial property

company Goodman Group (-14%) which suffered on the back of a major capital raising early in the month which was required to fund its data centre development pipeline, coupled with results which were slightly weaker than expected.

The largest individual detractor was an overweight position in online payments platform Block (-32%), which gave up some of its prior recent outperformance following the announcement of its latest fiscal year result. Whilst the result was solid, investors raised concerns as company management's outlook for the current quarter was below market expectations. Another major detractor included an underweight exposure to bank behemoth Commonwealth Bank of Australia (-1%), which continued its recent outperformance to again fare better than the broader market after the company's latest half yearly results showed better than expected performance in terms of asset quality and bad debts. In addition, the overweight position in international student placement company IDP Education (-25%) detracted, with the share price falling significantly after the release of results that showed an 18% decrease in revenue and overall fell short of what the market had expected, with management also downgrading its forecasts for the current financial year.

Please note: At the end of the most recent financial year for the Fund (31 December 2024), the Fund's leverage ratio was 52.20%. At this time, the derivatives counterparties engaged (including capital protection providers if applicable) were Macquarie Bank Ltd, Goldman Sachs International, Morgan Stanley & Company International, Merrill Lynch International Ltd and Citigroup Global Markets Australia Pty Ltd.

## Market Review

The Australian sharemarket was somewhat volatile in February, rising early in the month then subsequently falling, to finish down by 3.8%, as measured by the S&P/ASX200 total return index. This was driven by escalating global trade tensions, particularly following President Trump's various tariff announcements, driving a risk clear nervous shift in market sentiment. Domestically, robust employment numbers somewhat tempered aggressive rate cut expectations, despite the RBA having shifted into a likely cutting cycle. Amid the volatility, defensive sectors of the market, such as communications, consumer staples and utilities tended to outperform, while IT was the clear laggard, as technology stocks fell driven by pullbacks in overseas tech sector stocks, many of which were arguably priced for perfection going into the recent US reporting season.

## Outlook

Despite the RBA beginning to cut interest rates (in mid-February), some trepidation remains regarding domestic economic growth, the ability of corporates to grow profitability over the near-term, as well as broader issues such as housing affordability, immigration policy and political change. Business sentiment however is starting to pick up following the lead from consumers, albeit from a low base, while the ability to pass on costs to consumers is being limited by lagging wages growth vs price rises. While the economic climate remains difficult, the stability of Australian earnings and dividends over the long-term, and their ability to generate a growing, tax effective income stream should be kept in mind. Over the medium-term, we believe Australian shares will continue to rise, albeit with some bumps along the way.

## Portfolio Manager



### Duy To

Duy To is the Head of Public Markets and the Portfolio Manager for Australian Shares and Emerging Markets. He leads the investment strategy, portfolio construction and manager selection functions in the Public Markets team. Duy has extensive experience in investment management, specifically focused on managing multi-manager portfolios. He joined AMP Capital in October 2007 and is currently undertaking a PhD in Finance at Bond University.

## Further information

For information about the Fund including fees, features, benefits and risks talk to your financial advisor today or read the product disclosure statement (PDS) which can be found on:

[www.amp.com.au/investments](http://www.amp.com.au/investments)

You can also call us on **133 267**

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