

# **Professional High Growth**

Quarterly Investment Option Update

30 June 2020

# **Aim and Strategy**

To provide high investment returns over the long term, with the likelihood of significant fluctuations in the value of the investment from year to year. The portfolio will primarily invest in a diversified mix of defensive and growth assets managed by professional asset managers.

# **Investment Option Performance**

To view the latest investment performances for each product, please visit <a href="https://www.amp.com.au">www.amp.com.au</a>

# **Investment Option Overview**

Investment category	Multi-Sector
Suggested minimum investment timeframe	6 years
Relative risk rating	High
Investment style	Active
Manager style	Multi-manager

Asset Allocation	Benchmark (%)
International shares	47
Australian Shares	39
Listed and Unlisted Property and Infrastructure	6
Growth Alternatives	5
Cash	3
Defensive Alternatives	0
Australian Fixed Interest	0

Actual Allocation	%
International Shares	46.90
Australian Shares	37.91
Listed Property and Infrastructure	5.39
Growth Alternatives	6.74
Defensive Alternatives	0.11
Cash	2.96

#### **Fund Performance**

Global shares surged back from their March lows over the June quarter, with the MSCI World ex Australia index finishing the period up by 18.5%. This came as virus-related market panic progressively dissipated and lockdowns began to be lifted. Death rates, while high, were also far below previous 'worst-case' scenario estimates. As businesses reopened, most governments maintained (and in some case even increased) their stimulus programmes on offer, leading to continued support for share prices. Various economic indicators also appeared to confirm a global economic recovery was indeed underway, reflected in sharp rises in business confidence and falling rates of unemployment. Contrary to the markets' bullish sentiment, the list of concerns on many investors' radars however only appeared to grow, with issues such as civil unrest in the US, the upcoming US election, Chinese tensions (with Hong Kong, the US, India and even Australia) and an apparently rising risk of a 'second wave' of COVID-19 infections (particularly in the US) leading to a growing sense of unease. Perhaps most pressingly for shares, corporate earnings visibility remains low, resulting in many businesses being hard to value, particularly over the short-term. Emerging markets meanwhile were also very strong, driven by the same trends as broader developed markets to return 16.7% over the quarter as measured by the MSCI Emerging Markets index. In line with broader global markets, Australian shares recorded an extremely strong June guarter, as stocks rebounded from their lows experienced at the height of the COVID-19 related market panic in late March. The market finished the quarter up by 16.5%, as measured by the S&P/ASX 200 index on a total return basis. The relative success of Australia's COVID-19 containment measures, which saw authorities begin lifting mandatory lockdowns, combined with unprecedented fiscal stimulus drove the market's surge. Later in the quarter, economic indicators, such as business confidence, retail sales and trade figures, appeared to confirm the Australian economy was indeed in recovery mode. Amid all the bullishness, concerns of recent months however remained - and in some cases actually grew - such as tensions with China, potential second waves of infections (particularly in Melbourne), a rising Australian dollar and still most pressingly, COVID-19's effect on company earnings.

#### **Market Review**

As expected, global markets were heavily impacted by COVID-19 government restrictions and the flow-on effects of lockdown. Equities were volatile as shifting sentiment created swings between a risk-on and risk-off bias. Despite this, there was a net sharp rally over the quarter in equity markets as some COVID-19 lockdown measures started to be unwound. This leaves equity markets open to the risk of a correction. COVID-19 impacts were aggravated by increasingly acrimonious relations between the US and China. In addition, there is the risk of further waves of COVID-19, especially in the more densely populated countries, and the potential for economies to fall back once working capital supplied by government policies peters out and companies review their strategies and demand. The World Bank, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, and the International Monetary Fund all indicate they expect the worst global recession since the Great Depression.

In the US, the Federal Reserve (Fed) significantly increased its COVID-19-related lending programmes. Fed Chairman Jerome Powell suggested the central bank will use its "full range of tools" and act "forcefully, proactively and aggressively until it is confident the economy is on the road to recovery". He also said the central bank still had plenty of options available, with the expectation that monthly bond purchases will increase.

### **Availability**

Product Name	APIR
AMP Flexible Super	AMP1971AU
AMP Flexible Super - Retirement	AMP1964AU
Flexible Lifetime - Allocated Pension	AMP1950AU
Flexible Lifetime - Investments (Series 2)	AMP1982AU
Flexible Lifetime - Super	AMP1957AU
Flexible Lifetime - Term Pension	AMP1950AU
SignatureSuper	AMP1732AU#

#Restricted. Please see your Product Disclosure Statement if this option is available to you.

#### **Contact Details**

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