

# Professional Moderately Conservative

Quarterly Investment Option Update

30 September 2019

## Aim and Strategy

To provide moderate long term investment returns, with limited likelihood of 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 identified and selected by ipac within each asset class.

## Investment Option Performance

To view the latest investment performances for each product, please visit [www.amp.com.au](http://www.amp.com.au)

## Investment Option Overview

<b>Investment category</b>	Multi-Sector
<b>Suggested minimum investment timeframe</b>	4 years
<b>Relative risk rating</b>	Medium to High
<b>Investment style</b>	Active
<b>Manager style</b>	Multi-manager

<b>Asset Allocation</b>	<b>Benchmark (%)</b>
Australian and International Fixed Interest	32
International shares	21
Australian Shares	20
Cash	15
Listed and Unlisted Property and Infrastructure	7
Defensive Alternatives	3
Growth Alternatives	2

<b>Actual Allocation</b>	<b>%</b>
International Shares	22.55
Australian Shares	19.54
Listed Property and Infrastructure	7.33
Growth Alternatives	2.01
International Fixed Interest	27.89
Defensive Alternatives	4.09
Cash	16.59

## Fund Performance

After showing some signs of consolidating early in the September quarter, global government bond markets rallied into the widely anticipated move by the US Federal Reserve to lower the Federal Funds Rate range by 0.25% following its policy meeting on 31 July, and picked up momentum during August as an escalation of the US-China trade dispute eroded investor confidence in global economic growth prospects. The significant fall in bond yields prompted yield curves globally to flatten. In September, bond yields initially moved higher amid indications that the US economy continues to create new jobs, however yields subsequently retraced part of their rise after disruptive drone attacks on Saudi Arabian oil facilities saw the return of 'risk off' sentiment and the US Federal Reserve lowered the target range for the federal funds rate by a further 0.25%. Monetary easing also featured in Europe later in the period, where the European Central Bank announced a reduction in its deposit rate to -0.50% and a planned restart in November of its asset purchase plan at a rate of €20 billion per month. The US 10-year bond yield ended the quarter at 1.66%, while its German and Japanese counterparts ended at -0.57% and -0.21% respectively.

Monetary policy dominated news flow in the domestic bond market early in the September quarter, with the Reserve Bank of Australia announcing a 0.25% reduction in early July, bringing the official cash rate to 1.0%. The central bank maintained an unchanged monetary policy stance in August, however left the door open for further easing. Against this backdrop, the domestic yield curve mirrored the flattening trend evident in overseas peers and reached its flattest level since 2010. Domestic yields continued to follow the lead of their global counterparts during September, reversing their previous downtrend to end the month higher, although bonds did rally later in the period on the back of rising geopolitical tensions, easier monetary policy in the US and Europe and the release of dovish RBA meeting minutes. The Commonwealth Government 2-year bond yield ended the quarter at 0.77%, while the 10-year bond yield ended at 1.02%.

International shares climbed higher in the September quarter, with the MSCI World ex Australia index rising by 1.50% over the period amid continued volatility. Drivers included central bank interest rate reductions and commentary (as the US Federal Reserve reduced the Federal Funds Rate range by a further 25 basis points to 1.75-2.0%), the drone strike in Saudi Arabia by Iranian-backed Houthi rebels, as well as some small but positive US-China trade developments.

## Market Review

Increasing predispositions by global central banks to become ever more accommodative during the September quarter have kept the bias on interest rates downwards, making equities relatively attractive and increasing the correlation between equities and bonds. However, the International Monetary Fund revised down its projection for global growth further during the period.

For the US-China trade dispute, which saw further escalation during the period, trust will need to be re-established between both parties at face-to-face meetings before any serious progress can be made. Until then, there is the potential for volatility to ramp-up substantially.

As was widely factored into the market, the US Federal Reserve (Fed) cut the Federal Funds Rate range by 25 basis points to 2.0-2.25% on 31 July; the first cut since the Global Financial Crisis, followed by a further cut of 25 basis points on 18 September to take the rate range to 1.75-2.0%.

In the US economy, the trade deficit continued to widen. However, as a whole, US economic data was generally benign, and the US stock market reached a record high during the quarter. There has been strong consumer-related and business data; however, jobs growth has been somewhat sluggish, and the ISM manufacturing conditions index remains subdued. Recent retail sales have risen more than expected and small business confidence remains strong, although latest labour market indicators have been more mixed.

## Availability

Product Name	APIR
AMP Flexible Lifetime Super	AMP1958AU
AMP Flexible Super - Retirement account	AMP1965AU
AMP Flexible Super - Super account	AMP1972AU
Flexible Lifetime - Allocated Pension	AMP1951AU
Flexible Lifetime - Investments (Series 2)	AMP1983AU
Flexible Lifetime - Term Pension	AMP1951AU
SignatureSuper	AMP1984AU

## Contact Details

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

**Email:** [askamp@amp.com.au](mailto:askamp@amp.com.au)

**Phone:** 131 267



### What you need to know

This publication has been prepared by AMP Life Limited ABN 84 079 300 379, AFSL No. 233671 (AMP Life). The information contained in this publication has been derived from sources believed to be accurate and reliable as at the date of this document. Information provided in this investment option update are views of the underlying Investment Manager only and not necessarily the views of the AMP Group. No representation is given in relation to the accuracy or completeness of any statement contained in it. Whilst care has been taken in the preparation of this publication, to the extent permitted by law, no liability is accepted for any loss or damage as a result of reliance on this information. AMP Life is part of the AMP Group. In providing the general advice, AMP Life and AMP Group receives fees and charges and their employees and directors receive salaries, bonuses and other benefits.

The information in this document is of a general nature only and does not take into account your financial situation, objectives and needs. Before you make any investment decision based on the information contained in this document you should consider how it applies to your personal objectives, financial situation and needs, or speak to a financial planner.

The investment option referred to in this publication is available through products issued by AMP Superannuation Limited ABN 31 008 414 104, AFSL No. 233060 (ASL), AMP Capital Funds Management Limited ABN 15 159 557 724, AFSL 426455 (AMPCFM), ipac asset management limited ABN 22 003 257 225, AFSL 234655 (ipac) and/or AMP Life. Before deciding to invest or make a decision about the investment options, you should read the current Product Disclosure Statement for the relevant product, available from the issuer or your financial planner.

Any references to the "Fund", strategies, asset allocations or exposures are references to the underlying managed fund that the investment option either directly or indirectly invests in (Professional Moderately Conservative). The investment option's aim and strategy mirrors the objective and investment approach of the underlying fund. An investment in the investment option is not a direct investment in the underlying fund.

No other company in the AMP Group nor underlying fund manager guarantees the repayment of capital or the performance of any product or particular rate of return referred to in this document. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.