

# Future Directions Extended Markets International Share

Quarterly Investment Option Update

30 September 2020

# **Aim and Strategy**

To provide a total return (income and capital growth) after costs and before tax, above the Fund's performance benchmark on a rolling 3 year basis. The Fund is designed to blend specialist investment managers from around the world, with the aim of maximising returns and managing levels of risk. In structuring the Fund, we take a four-stage investment approach: setting objectives and asset allocation; targeted manager selection; portfolio construction and implementation; and ongoing portfolio and manager review. The Fund is normally invested in international shares, with a focus on small companies and emerging markets.

#### **Investment Option Performance**

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

### **Investment Option Overview**

| Investment category                    | Global Shares |
|--|---------------|
| Suggested minimum investment timeframe | 7 years       |
| Relative risk rating                   | 7 / Very High |
| Investment style                       | Active        |
| Manager style                          | Multi-manager |
|  |               |

| Asset Allocation     | Benchmark (%) |
|----------------------|---------------|
| International Shares | 100           |
| Cash                 | 0             |

#### **Market Review**

Global share markets rose strongly in the first half of the September quarter, before pulling back somewhat towards the end of the period to finish up by 6.87%, as measured by the MSCI World ex Australia index. Growing confidence around the speed of the global economic recovery, better than expected corporate earnings, improved manufacturing activity data and reasonably strong US jobs figures all contributed to the strong rise. This was despite some renewed fears around further waves of COVID-19 and more specifically, how governments might react to renewed outbreaks. Geopolitical tensions abounded, though this was mostly treated as noise by markets. Towards the end of the quarter, a marked correction in technology stocks occurred, which in turn pulled the broader market down somewhat. Amid a strong Chinese economic recovery and growing demand for commodities, emerging markets also rose over the period, outperforming developed markets and returning 8.65% as measured by the MSCI Emerging Markets index. (All indices quoted in local currency terms and on a total-return basis, unless otherwise stated.)

#### Outlook

The medium-term outlook for earnings remains generally hard to predict; and varies greatly depending on company specifics. We continue to believe investors should exercise caution, particularly where prices have risen quickly. Amid changing consumer dynamics, many companies will likely struggle for some time, while stronger businesses are likely to emerge from the COVID-19 crisis with gained market share. Although pressure on some global economies has begun to ease, risks of further COVID-19 breakouts; and indeed, the manner in which governments choose to respond, remain a risk. Governments generally continue to implement supportive monetary and fiscal programmes to ease shorter-term burdens and keep economies more resilient, though some concern is growing around the sustainability of some programmes. Despite this, we believe the longer-term market trend will remain to the upside. As always, while the near-term direction of markets is impossible to accurately predict, we believe that those with a diversified portfolio of quality businesses, bought at a reasonable price, are likely to do well over the long term.

# **Availability**

| Product Name                          | APIR       |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| AMP Flexible Super - Retirement       | AMP1351AU* |
| Flexible Lifetime - Allocated Pension | AMP0880AU* |
| Flexible Lifetime - Term Pension      | AMP0934AU* |
| SignatureSuper - Allocated Pension    | AMP1148AU* |

<sup>\*</sup>Closed to new investors

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