

Future Directions Conservative

Quarterly Investment Option Update

31 December 2020

Aim and Strategy

To provide a rate of return of 1.5% above inflation (Consumer Price Index) after costs and before tax over a 3 year period. Future Directions Conservative option is a multi-manager option that gives investors access to a diversified portfolio with a bias towards income assets (bonds and cash) while having a limited exposure to growth (shares and property) and alternative assets. The multi manager option diversifies at asset and manager level investing in both AMP Capital and external managers. The key benefits are:- active management: within the assets class for example choosing stocks and allocating between asset classes- a broad range of asset classes including investments into unlisted property and infrastructure and- an experienced investment team.

Investment Option Performance

To view the latest investment performances for each product, please visit www.amp.com.au/performance

Investment Option Overview

Investment category	Multi-Sector
Suggested minimum investment timeframe	3 years
Relative risk rating	Low to Medium
Investment style	Active
Manager style	Multi-manager

Asset Allocation	Benchmark (%)
Australian Fixed Interest	20
International Fixed Interest	20
Cash	19
International Shares	11
Australian Shares	9
Growth Alternatives	7
Unlisted Property and Infrastructure	5
Defensive Alternatives	5
Listed Property and Infrastructure	4

Actual Allocation	%
International Shares	11.86
Australian Shares	9.60
Listed Property and Infrastructure	2.14
Unlisted Property and Infrastructure	4.89
Growth Alternatives	3.87
International Fixed Interest	23.04
Australian Fixed Interest	18.39
Defensive Alternatives	4.31
Cash	21.88

Fund Performance

The Fund delivered a strong positive return over the December quarter, continuing an impressive rebound since the March quarter lows, to finish the year on an encouraging note. As has been the case since the second quarter of 2020, the momentum of growth assets has continued to drive the strong Fund performance. Overall, the Fund outperformed the benchmark and comfortably exceeded its CPI objective over the quarter.

Geopolitics, stimulus relief and COVID-19 news dominated investor sentiment over the quarter. In the US, political uncertainty was quelled, as Joe Biden was confirmed by the electoral college as the President Elect of the United States. Additionally, the signing of the economic stimulus relief bill, aptly titled the CARES Act, provided further reprieve and economic support. On the COVID-19 front, despite a worrying uptick in cases in the northern hemisphere, the announcement of three effective vaccines added fuel to the post-US election rally, leading to a strong finish to the year. Overall, the S&P/ASX 200 index ended the quarter up 13.7%, while the MSCI World ex Australia index closed up 12.7% (in local currency terms), with cyclical segments of the market and small cap stocks among the key winners. Government bonds were generally unchanged as yields were largely range bound, while credit markets rallied due to the 'risk-on' tone. Unlisted assets and alternatives also saw gains.

Relative to benchmark, the Fund outperformed over the quarter. The decision to hold overweight allocations in listed real assets and credit, at the expense of bonds, boosted relative performance as riskier assets rallied and continued stimulus anchored bond yields. Stock selection in both Australian and international bonds also contributed to relative performance as underlying managers performed well. However, share market and alternatives exposures were mixed as quantitative strategies such as quality, growth and momentum signals underperformed value.

Market Review

December saw some closure and improved visibility on issues that had been weighing on the market for most of 2020. Despite further COVID-19 waves, breakouts and new strains, tangible plans for vaccine rollouts in 2021 showed an improved path to normalcy. In Europe, a Brexit deal was finally agreed and signed. All-in-all, the global environment imparted a more positive backdrop at the tail-end of the year which kept equity markets supported. However, many equity markets now look stretched and signs of excessive optimism have been reflected in IPOs often trading significantly above their launch valuations, with sketchy or sometimes zero profitability.

Ahead of the US presidential election global equities exhibited mixed performance as the initial acrimonious presidential debate impacted market certainty and support. After a protracted count, Democratic candidate Joe Biden won the election, although it took significant time for the Trump administration to tacitly accept defeat and agree to co-operate with a transition of power. Post the US election, global equity markets were buoyed by increased political certainty and positive news on several viable COVID-19 vaccines.

Global markets will be looking ahead to 2021 hoping than the impact of 2020 will be able to be reversed as soon as possible once vaccine programmes start to make their full effect felt.

Outlook

Looking ahead, we remain cautiously optimistic for 2021. Positive market momentum has continued into the start of the new year. Ongoing easy monetary policy, fiscal stimulus, rollout of vaccines and the resolution of many geopolitical concerns has benefitted the Fund. However, the sharp 'V-shaped' recovery has left markets susceptible to a correction. As such, we continue to maintain an active, well-diversified asset exposure, inclusive of alternative strategies, to help protect capital should share markets sell off. We continue to hold tilts into cash and credit assets, at the expense of government bonds, as we expect continued global central bank liquidity to support credit markets. Option protection also continues to be implemented to help mitigate losses should share markets selloff.

Availability

Product Name	APIR
AMP Flexible Super - Retirement	AMP1349AU*
AMP Flexible Super - Super	AMP1478AU*
CustomSuper	AMP0656AU
Flexible Lifetime - Allocated Pension	AMP0602AU*
Flexible Lifetime - Investments (Series 1)	AMP0688AU**
Flexible Lifetime - Investments (Series 2)	AMP1413AU**
Flexible Lifetime - Super	AMP0656AU*
Flexible Lifetime - Term Pension	AMP0923AU*
SignatureSuper	AMP0799AU
SignatureSuper - Allocated Pension	AMP1081AU
SignatureSuper Select	AMP0799AU

*Closed to new investors, **Closed to new and existing investors

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