

Future Directions Balanced

Quarterly Investment Option Update

30 September 2021

Aim and Strategy

To provide moderate to high returns over the long term through a diversified portfolio, with a bias towards growth assets such as shares, property and alternative assets. The portfolio aims to achieve a rate of return above inflation after costs over a 5-year period.

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	5 years
Relative risk rating	Medium to High
Investment style	Active
Manager style	Multi-manager

Asset Allocation	Benchmark (%)
International shares	31
Australian Shares	23
Growth Alternatives	12
Australian Fixed Interest	10
International Fixed Interest	8
Unlisted Property and Infrastructure	7
Listed Property and Infrastructure	4
Cash	3
Defensive Alternatives	2

Actual Allocation	%
International Shares	32.01
Australian Shares	24.02
Listed Property and Infrastructure	5.65
Unlisted Property and Infrastructure	6.20
Growth Alternatives	9.55
International Fixed Interest	11.94
Australian Fixed Interest	7.52
Defensive Alternatives	2.06
Cash	1.04

Fund Performance

The Fund delivered a modest positive return over the September quarter. Performance was mixed for most asset classes, with markets starting off strongly then selling off in September. Overall, the Fund performed broadly in line with the neutral benchmark but underperformed its CPI objective amid the market volatility.

July and August saw share markets continue to move higher as a strong earnings season and dovish global central banks buoyed investor sentiment. However, growth and inflationary concerns late in the period saw most global share markets retrace earlier gains. Overall, the S&P/ASX 200 index ended up 1.7%, while the MSCI World ex Australia index closed 0.6% higher (in local currency terms). Emerging market shares ended down 2.8% (in local currency terms) as increased regulations in China, as well as the potential default of large Chinese property developer, Evergrande, saw investors rotate out of the region. Listed real assets also started strong but gave up a portion of gains by quarter end as concerns about China increased. Unlisted real assets and private equity remained relatively stable, while defensive assets, such as bonds and credit continued to move sideways.

The Fund performed broadly in line with the neutral benchmark over the quarter but remained ahead over the year. Sizeable allocations to Australian shares and listed real assets continued to produce strong relative performance. Allocations to absolute return strategies, such as hedge funds, also contributed positively. Outperformance in these asset classes was largely offset by weaker performance from underlying global share managers and an overweight exposure to cash.

Market Review

A complex macroeconomic and political backdrop characterised the September quarter, pulling markets in varying directions. Major themes included ongoing fears on the persistency of inflation, a focus shifting towards living with COVID-19 rather than persisting with lockdowns - particularly given much of the population has now had the opportunity to be vaccinated - and the mixed interpretation of central bank communications leading to continued speculation on the path towards 'normalisation' of monetary and fiscal policy. Geopolitics was also heavily in focus, as the US withdrew from Afghanistan, leading to a swift and unopposed takeover by the Taliban regime. China was also in the spotlight during the period, coming under criticism for adopting an apparent conciliatory tone towards the Taliban, in addition to its continued regulatory crackdown on technology and the property sector amid its continuing broader shift towards 'big government' policy. Later in the quarter, volatility rose in markets on heavily fluctuating commodity prices, as well as the news that major Chinese property developer, China Evergrande Group, had run into financial stress, with concerns that a failure to pay its debts could spread to global markets, given its significant size. This volatility was further exacerbated by concerns on the Biden administration's upcoming tax rises and an impending debt-ceiling in the US, with the risk of a government shutdown possible.

Outlook

Despite increased volatility over the quarter, we remain optimistic for the rest of 2021. With the global economy on the path to recovery, we continue to look favourably on shares relative to bonds. However, the impact of the pandemic during the northern hemisphere winter, as well as inflationary concerns and future tightening of monetary policy, has left markets susceptible to a short-term correction. Maintaining an active, well-diversified asset exposure, in addition to a focus on the long term, should aid portfolio resilience and performance outcomes. We continue to lean into shares and alternative assets at the expense of domestic and international government bonds, as we expect them to benefit from the ongoing global recovery over the medium term.

Availability

Product Name	APIR
AMP Flexible Super - Retirement	AMP1348AU*
AMP Flexible Super - Super	AMP1477AU*
CustomSuper	AMP0506AU
Flexible Lifetime - Allocated Pension	AMP0601AU*
Flexible Lifetime - Investments (Series 1)	AMP0690AU**
Flexible Lifetime - Investments (Series 2)	AMP1412AU**
Flexible Lifetime - Super	AMP0506AU*
Flexible Lifetime - Term Pension	AMP0922AU*
SignatureSuper	AMP0798AU
SignatureSuper - Allocated Pension	AMP1080AU
SignatureSuper Select	AMP0798AU

*Closed to new investors

**Closed to new and existing investors

Contact Details

Web: www.amp.com.au

Email: askamp@amp.com.au

Phone: 131 267



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