

# **Future Directions Conservative**

Quarterly Investment Option Update

30 September 2018

### **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 please visit www.amp.com.au

**Investment Option Overview** 

| Investment category            | Multi-Sector  |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Suggested investment timeframe | 5 years       |
| Relative risk rating           | Medium - High |
| Investment style               | Multi-Manager |

| Asset Allocation                   | Benchmark (%) |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| Global shares                      | 12            |
| Australian shares                  | 9             |
| Listed property & infrastructure   | 5             |
| Unlisted property & infrastructure | 4             |
| Growth alternatives                | 5             |
| Global fixed interest              | 20            |
| Australian fixed interest          | 22            |
| Defensive alternatives             | 5             |
| Cash                               | 18            |
|                                    |               |

| Actual Allocation                  | (%)   |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Global shares                      | 14.57 |
| Australian shares                  | 15.59 |
| Listed property & infrastructure   | 1.80  |
| Unlisted property & infrastructure | 2.12  |
| Global fixed interest              | 11.16 |
| Australian fixed interest          | 22.12 |
| Others                             | 16.65 |
| Cash                               | 15.98 |

#### **Portfolio Summary**

- > Returns continued their positive run, with the Fund on track for a strong 2018.
- > Growth assets were a key driver of performance over the quarter.
- > We remain cognisant of downside volatility in the months ahead and the importance of minimising risk.

#### **Fund Performance**

The Future Directions Conservative Fund delivered a positive return in the September quarter, building on the positive return of the previous quarter, as global equity markets continued to rise. The Fund has now delivered a positive return for investors so far this year and is on track for a strong 2018.

Growth assets were a key driver of performance over the quarter. The sizeable allocation towards Australian fixed interest contributed only marginally to total return, while international bond markets on a whole ended the quarter largely unchanged. Tactical short positioning in US bonds did, however, provide an uplift to the otherwise modest overall contribution from the sector.

International equities provided the largest contribution, as developed market equities ended the quarter up 5.4% in local currency terms. Positive economic data helped drive US equities 7.7% higher over the period. Returns across other developed markets were positive, but moderated by continuing concerns over global trade and below consensus economic data releases out of Europe and China.

Australian equities ended the quarter up 1.8%, driven by strong performance in the telecommunications and IT sectors. This helped offset weaker share price performance in the financial sector and concerns surrounding the residential property market. The Fund's other investments, in property, infrastructure and alternatives (private equity and hedge funds), experienced generally positive results over the quarter.

#### **Outlook**

Looking ahead, we continue to see an uptrend in shares as global growth remains solid and US company earnings are still strong. However, we do expect an increase in market volatility in the future given geopolitical and trade concerns, in conjunction with the late cycle interest rate environment. While we continue to believe equity markets will perform moderately well, we remain cognisant of downside volatility in the months ahead and the importance of minimising risk. We continue to hold equity allocations at neutral levels and prefer cash to bonds, as we believe bonds are at risk of investors potentially underestimating inflationary pressure and of future interest rate increases in the US. To further counter short-term volatility, we continue to hold option protection to limit downside risk and protect member capital.

**Availability** 

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

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

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