

Super Easy Australian Share

Quarterly Investment Option Update

31 December 2018

Aim and Strategy

The strategy aims to provide returns that track the S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index with net dividends reinvested.

Investments into the Australian shares asset class will be attained through the use of low cost index-focused investment managers.

Investment Option Performance

To view the latest investment performances please visit <u>www.amp.com.au</u>

Investment Option Overview

Investment category	Australian Shares	
Suggested investment timeframe	5 – 7 years	
Relative risk rating	High	
Investment style	Index	

Asset Allocation	Benchmark (%)
Australian shares	100
Cash	0

Actual Allocation	(%)
Global shares	1.55
Australian Shares	90.59
Listed property & infrastructure	7.43
Cash	0.44

Market Commentary

Australian shares' trajectory followed the US's lead, closing down significantly in the December quarter and returning -8.24% as measured by the S&P/ASX200 total returns Index. This came as traders began to factor in the possibility of a domestic interest rate reduction, rather than a hike sometime in the nearer future, perhaps in 2019 or 2020. Negative sentiment was also added to by political noise, following recent political resignations within the Liberal Party and subsequent moves to the crossbench weakening the government, with an upcoming general election due in May 2019. Despite reasonable corporate profitability and earnings growth, the economic backdrop is presenting some significant hurdles for equities to overcome, such as weak economic growth, poor levels of consumer spending and perhaps most significantly, a falling house market with high and still-increasing levels of supply, falling demand and rising vacancy rates. The health care segment was one of the better performers over the period, given the "flight to safety" which occurred over the period.

Outlook

Australian shares remain exposed to a Chinese slowdown and the recent global sell-off. Banking profitability is also likely to be constrained by increased macro-prudential regulation, capital-holding requirements and a shifting banking structural landscape. Banking stocks are likely to see ongoing volatility until the Royal Commission's final findings are released in full in early 2019. Credit will continue to be subdued as banks tighten lending standards. Economic uncertainty could also be amplified by a volatile political situation as we approach the general election in 2019. In the current environment, investors should benefit by being highly selective and focussing on companies with strong business fundamentals.

Availability

Product name	APIR
AMP Flexible Super - Retirement account	AMP1618AU
AMP Flexible Super - Super account	AMP1609AU

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