

# MULTIFUND FLEXIBLE INCOME PLAN MEMBER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

### INTRODUCTION

In this report, Equity Trustees Superannuation Limited publishes the results of our annual assessment of how well the Multifund Flexible Income Plan product (the **product**) issued from National Mutual Retirement Fund (the **fund**) provides member outcomes and promotes members' financial interests. The assessment is based on information as at 30 June 2024.

#### METHODOLOGY AND STRUCTURE

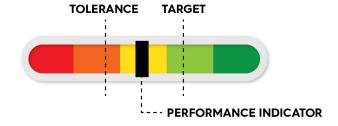
In conducting this assessment, we compared the product to other choice superannuation products included in statistical data published by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (comparable products) using the criteria in Part 6 of the Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993 and Prudential Standard SPS 515 Strategic Planning and Member Outcomes.

This report includes:

- our overall assessment of whether the product provides optimal member outcomes and promotes their financial interests;
- a dashboard that depicts our assessment of the product's market-relative performance for each outcome we aim to provide members;
- a table summarising the key metrics that we relied on when making this assessment; and
- our commentary on this performance that includes action items to improve suboptimal performance.

For each member outcome, the dashboard presents the relevant segment of market performance. The width of each segment is based on the range of market performance for each outcome and is specific to each outcome. The positioning of the black performance indicator bar against the colour coding is our assessment of how well the outcome has been delivered. The colour coding gives a visual representation of performance that moves from neutral (yellow) through orange to least tolerance (red), and in the opposite direction from yellow to the target (or green) area of the dashboard. The assessment of each member outcome is based on several equally-weighted metrics. Accordingly, if one metric is outside our tolerance level it doesn't automatically mean the entire member outcome is outside our tolerance level.

Example dashboard for illustrative purposes only



The target is generally the average position of the comparable products while the tolerance level is the trigger for us to consider any necessary actions to improve member outcomes.

Please visit our website to view a short video that provides more information about the operation of the dashboard.



#### **OVERALL ASSESSMENT**

Having carefully considered the comparisons of the product with comparable products set out in this report, including the dashboards, metrics, commentary, and other relevant information available to us at the time of writing, we have concluded that as a result of the following factors the product is promoting members' financial interests:

- 1. the fees and costs that affect the return to members are not appropriate having regard to their financial interests;
- 2. the net returns for the product (i.e. returns after deducting all fees, costs and taxes) are consistent with market rates;
- 3. the level of investment risk for the product is acceptable in relation to the net returns generated;
- 4. the investment strategy for the product is appropriate;
- 5. the options, benefits and facilities offered in the product are appropriate for members; and
- 6. the scale of the product and the fund does not disadvantage members.

#### **DASHBOARD**

#### STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Working together with the fund's promoter, Resolution Life, our purpose is to enhance the retirement outcomes for members by providing a broad and effectively delivered service offering to enhance member experience and simplify product and pricing strategies.

To support this purpose, our goals for the fund are to enhance member's retirement balances through reduced fees, provide members with confidence through reliable and clear delivery of regulatory compliance, satisfy members through engaging member service that assists them grow their account balances, grow member balances through competitive investment returns in line with stated objectives and targets and effective governance and risk management to protect member interests.

The product is a choice accumulation product.

#### **INVESTMENT RETURN**

Outcomes		Investment return for a \$50,000 account balance in the product <sup>1.0</sup> is consistent wit market indexes.						
Our product's performance relative to comparable products		Tolerance	Target					
Metrics	Ref	Metric Label	Value	Tolerance	Target			
	1.1	1-year actual net return	10.20%	9.33%	9.93%			
	1.2	3-year actual net return	3.97%	3.74%	4.46%			

<sup>1.0</sup> Investment returns and associated targets and tolerance levels are weighted averages for the product. The weighted averages are based on the performance, asset allocation and funds under management of the investment options available in the product. The table in Appendix 1 provides more information.

#### Commentary

The performance indicator measures the weighted average investment return of all investment options in the product over 1 and 3-year periods and is based on an equal weighting of all the metrics in the above table.

<sup>1.1</sup> The product's fee structure leads to different net returns for different account balances. The table in Appendix 2 provides more information.

<sup>1.2</sup> Net returns are based on historic returns and the current fee structure.



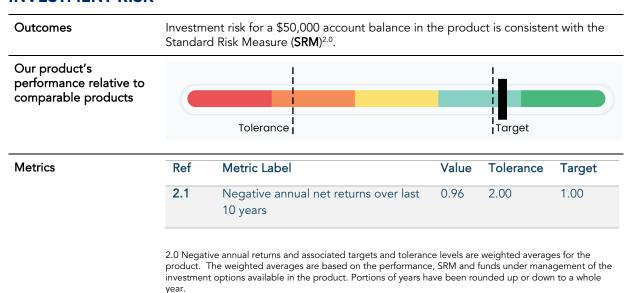
Appendix 1 displays the investment returns for each investment option available in the product and the weighted average investment returns for the product over these periods.

This commentary focuses on the 3-year weighted average return to 30 June 2024. The 3-year period is a balance between short-term and long-term performance. When reading this commentary, it's important to bear in mind that past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

Over the 3-years to 30 June 2024 the product's weighted average investment return was within our tolerance level. No action is required as a result of this assessment.

The investment strategy for the Fund is reviewed annually, which includes the risk return profile of the investment options, and we are comfortable it is appropriate for members.

#### **INVESTMENT RISK**



#### Commentary

The performance indicator measures the weighted average number of negative annual returns since the product's inception.

When reading this commentary, it's important to bear in mind that past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

Since inception the weighted average number of negative returns for the product was above our target level.

The investment strategy for the Fund is reviewed annually, which includes the risk return profile of the investment options and we are comfortable it is appropriate for members.



#### **FEES AND COSTS**

# Outcomes Fees (gross of tax) for a \$50,000 account balance are consistent with market rates. 4.0 Our product's performance relative to comparable products Tolerance

Metrics	Ref	Metric Label	Value	Tolerance	Target
	4.1	Total fees	1.48%	1.43%	0.98%

4.0 The product's fee structure leads to different net returns for different account balances. The table in the Appendix 2 provides more information.

4.1 These fees include a weighted average investment fee that is based on the investment fees and funds under management of the investment options available in the product.

#### Commentary

This table lists the product's total fees and costs (administration and investment fees and costs) that members paid in the year ended 30 June 2024. Other fees may be payable which are set out in the product's disclosure documents.

The performance indicator measures total fees and costs together against comparable products.

Total fees were outside our tolerance level in the year ended 30 June 2024. However, it's important to note that:

- due to reductions, fee rates as of 30 June 2024 are lower than the amounts listed in the table; and
- the full effect of these reductions will be reflected in the Member Outcomes Assessment for the year ended 30 June 2025.

We are not comfortable that the fees and costs paid in the year ended 30 June 2024 were consistent with market rates and therefore, did not advance members financial interests in that year.



#### **MEMBER SERVICES**

Outcomes  Our product's performance relative to comparable products	Administration services satisfy member expectations.  Tolerance						
Metrics	Ref	Metric Label	Value	Tolerance	Target		
	8.1	Administration-related EDR complaints	4.29	3.50	1.50		
	8.2	Service Level Achievement	77.11%	80.00%	95.00%		
	8.3	Administration fees	0.64%	0.62%	0.38%		
	8.4	Information security controls	Effective	Partially Effective	Effective		
	8.1 This is Authority 8.2 Servic transactio 8.4 This is	means "External Dispute Resolution".  It he annual number of administration-related of per 10,000 member accounts.  The level achievement measures the portion of nor that were processed within our service levels our view of the effectiveness of the Administrate peendent review completed during the year.	ew member, contri l.	bution and benef	it payment		

#### Commentary

The performance indicator measures the delivery of administration services against our service levels, and against the cost of similar services for comparable products.

The performance indicator, which is within our tolerance level, is based on an equal weighting of the above metrics.

The number of complaints about administration services that have been made to the Australian Financial Complaints Authority is outside our tolerance level. However, we review all complaints to make sure that valid complaints are upheld and the member receives appropriate remediation / compensation.

Service level achievement and administration fees are outside of our tolerance level.

We are reasonably comfortable that administration services satisfy member expectations because of the improvement in the rate of service level achievement since FY23, the reduction in number of administration related complaints and administration fees since FY23 and the effectiveness of administrator's information and cyber security controls.

Therefore, we consider the options, benefits and facilities offered in the product are appropriate for members.



#### **SCALE**

Outcomes	The fun	The fund is likely to deliver optimal outcomes in the future.						
The scale of the fund relative to comparable products		Tolerance						
		,		1 0				
Metrics	Ref	Metric Label	Value	Tolerance	Target			
	9.1	RSE adjusted total accounts growth rate	-9.13%	-6.25%	-2.50%			
	9.2	RSE Net Cash Flow Ratio	-9.35%	-2.75%	-0.50%			
	9.3	RSE Net Rollover Ratio	-6.43%	-3.00%	-1.75%			
	accounts consolida	SE adjusted total accounts growth rate is the a averaged over the three year period, excludin tions. SE Net Cash Flow Ratio is members' benefits the second	g Successor Fund	Transfers (SFTs) an	d account			

#### Commentary

The performance indicator measures the fund's growth and ability to deliver scale benefits to members against other funds.

assets averaged over the three year period, excluding SFTs.

percentage of cash flow adjusted net assets averaged over the three year period, excluding SFTs. 9.3 The RSE Net Rollover Ratio is rollovers in less rollovers out as a percentage of cash flow adjusted net

The performance indicator, which is below our tolerance level, is based on an equal weighting of the above metrics.

The fund is closed to new members and continues to be in run off, with membership decreasing by 9% in FY24. It is expected to decrease at a slightly lower rate over the next 3 years.

With total member benefits of \$5.8b and approximately 161,000 members, we believe that the fund has reasonable scale.

We will continue to monitor the impact that the expected reduction in fund size may have on member outcomes and take appropriate action if required.



#### **LIQUIDITY**



Metrics	Ref	Metric Label	Value	Tolerance	Target
	10.1	Investment liquidity in a GFC scenario	93.36%	40.00%	80.00%

10.1 Liquidity is a weighted average that is based on the liquidity in a Global Financial Crisis scenario and funds under management of the investment options available in the product. The table in Appendix 1 provides more information.

#### Commentary

The performance indicator measures the fund's ability to meet benefit and rollover requests in a timely manner.

We regularly monitor whether the investments would be able to meet cash requirements in extreme situations. Based on our analysis, we consider that benefits are supported by liquid investments.

As a result, we are comfortable that the level of liquidity risk for the product is acceptable.



# **APPENDIX 1**

#### **INVESTMENT OPTION INFORMATION**

					Investme	nt Period	
Investment Option	Inception Date	Growth Ratio	Member Assets	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
All Growth	2020-05-15	93%	\$0.0M	12.24%	5.19%		
Alphinity Australian Share	2010-11-13	100%	\$0.3M	11.85%	6.14%		
Australian Bond	2020-05-15	0%	\$0.1M	3.49%	-2.95%		
Australian Share	1994-04-05	100%	\$2.0M	13.47%	7.18%		
Australian Share Index	2020-05-15	100%	\$0.0M	13.03%	6.39%		
Balanced Growth	2020-05-15	72%	\$12.0M	9.67%	3.72%		
BlackRock Global Bond	2020-05-15	0%	\$0.0M	0.81%	-2.26%		
BlackRock Scientific Hedged Int'l Share	2020-05-15	100%	\$0.1M	18.16%	6.13%		
Cash	2020-05-15	0%	\$1.0M	2.59%	0.86%		
Conservative	2020-05-15	31%	\$1.5M	4.64%	0.64%		
Future Directions Australian Bond	2020-05-15	0%	\$0.0M	3.15%	-2.94%		
Future Directions International Bond	2020-05-15	0%	\$0.0M	1.0%	-4.86%		
High Growth	2020-05-15	85%	\$0.7M	11.33%	4.55%		
International Bond	2020-05-15	0%	\$0.0M	1.21%	-4.62%		
International Share	2020-05-15	100%	\$0.1M	19.08%	8.61%		
International Share Index	2005-04-21	100%	\$0.0M	19.2%	9.96%		
Listed Property Trusts	2020-05-15	100%	\$0.6M	29.45%	6.23%		
Macquarie Income Opportunities	2020-05-15	0%	\$0.0M	3.56%	-0.3%		
Moderate Growth	2020-05-15	52%	\$0.2M	7.28%	2.03%		
Perpetual Industrial Share	2020-05-15	100%	\$0.4M	11.54%	6.02%		
Schroder Australian Equities	2020-05-15	100%	\$0.2M	11.68%	7.44%		
Secure Growth	1999-02-01	30%	\$0.1M	5.89%	4.2%		
Specialist Australian Share	2020-05-15	100%	\$0.4M	13.3%	6.01%		
Specialist International Share	2020-05-15	100%	\$0.3M	19.0%	8.15%		
Specialist Property and Infrastructure	2020-05-15	100%	\$0.0M	1.26%	-1.09%		
Zurich American Century Global Growth	2020-05-15	100%	\$0.0M	18.76%	6.49%		
Weighted Average		71%	\$20.3M	10.2%	3.97%		

This table provides information about the asset allocation, size and performance of the investment options available in the product.



## **APPENDIX 2**

#### **ACCOUNT BALANCE-BASED INVESTMENT METRICS**

Account Balance Value						
Time Frame	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$250,000	\$500,000
1	10.2%	10.2%	10.2%	10.2%	10.5%	10.8%
3	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.0%	4.2%	4.5%

This table illustrates how the product's fee structure affects net returns for different account balances. The illustration is based on historic returns and the current fee structure.