

# RLA ALLOCATED PENSION PLAN MEMBER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

## INTRODUCTION

In this report, Equity Trustees Superannuation Limited publishes the results of our annual assessment of how well the RLA Allocated Pension 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

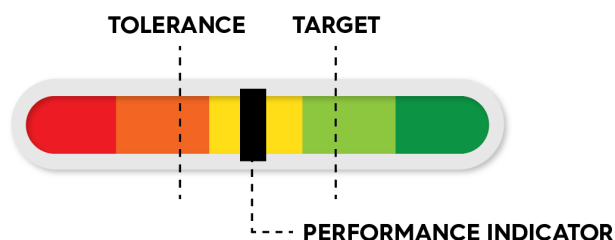
In conducting this assessment, we compared the product to other choice superannuation products included in statistical data published by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (**comparable products**) using the criteria in Part 6 of the *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993* and Prudential 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 not 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

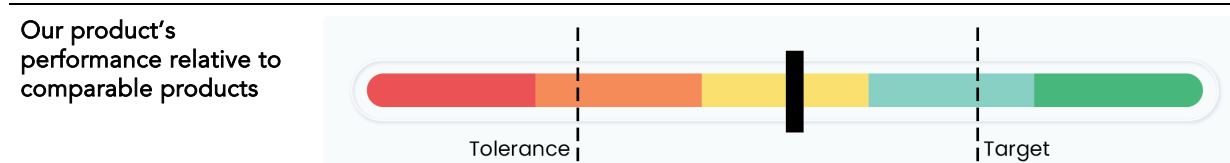
Working together with the fund's promoter, Resolution Life, our purpose is to enhance the retirement outcomes for members by providing a broad and effectively delivered service offering to enhance member experience and simplify product and pricing strategies.

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 pension product.

### INVESTMENT RETURN

Outcomes	Investment return for a \$50,000 account balance in the product <sup>1.0</sup> is consistent with market indexes.
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Metrics	Ref	Metric Label	Value	Tolerance	Target
	1.1	1-year actual net return	10.13%	8.90%	9.50%
	1.2	3-year actual net return	3.37%	3.52%	4.24%
	1.3	5-year actual net return	5.27%	4.92%	5.45%
	1.4	10-year actual net return	5.94%	5.85%	6.49%

1.0 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.

1.1 – 1.4 The product's fee structure leads to different net returns for different account balances. The table in Appendix 2 provides more information.

1.2 – 1.4 Net returns are based on historic returns and the current fee structure.

### Commentary

The performance indicator measures the weighted average investment return of all investment options in the product over 1, 3, 5 and 10-year periods and is based on an equal weighting of all the metrics in the above table.



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 5-year weighted average return to 30 June 2024. The 5-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 5-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

Outcomes	Investment risk for a \$50,000 account balance in the product is consistent with the Standard Risk Measure (SRM) <sup>2.0</sup> .				
Our product's performance relative to comparable products					
Metrics	Ref	Metric Label	Value	Tolerance	Target
	2.1	Negative annual net returns over last 10 years	2.82	2.00	1.00
2.0 Negative annual returns and associated targets and tolerance levels are weighted averages for the product. The weighted averages are based on the performance, SRM and funds under management of the investment options available in the product. Portions of years have been rounded up or down to a whole year.					

### Commentary

The performance indicator measures the weighted average number of negative annual returns for the 10 years to this date.

When reading this commentary, it's important to bear in mind that:

- we have focussed on asset classes that have a material effect on the number of negative annual returns over the last 10 years;
- the Standard Risk Measure assesses the number of negative annual returns and is not an indicator of the magnitude of the negative returns in those years;
- over the period Cash returns have been at historical lows, potentially less than the cost of administration fees; and
- past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

Over the 10 years to 30 June 2024 the weighted average number of negative returns for the product was outside our tolerance level.


The contributing factors of the negative annual returns over the period were a combination of manager selection and the product's fees and costs in the Australian Shares asset class.

While we cannot remove underperformance in the past, we have sought to protect member outcomes by optimising investment performance through changes to the investment strategy which we are seeing through the product's short term investment performance.



We therefore believe these changes ensured that the investment strategy for the product remained appropriate. No further action is required as a result of this assessment.

FEES AND COSTS

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

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). 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.

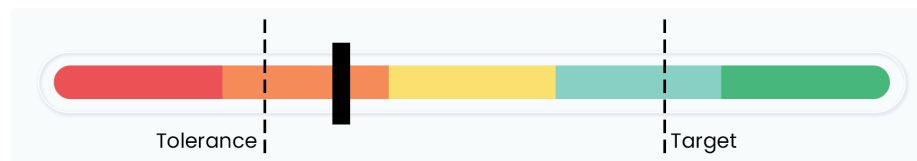
We are not comfortable that the fees and costs paid in the year ended 30 June 2024 were consistent with market rates and therefore, did not advance members financial interests in that year.



## MEMBER SERVICES

**Outcomes** Administration services satisfy member expectations.

Our product's performance relative to comparable products



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	0.56%	0.62%	0.38%
	8.4	Information security controls	Effective	Partially Effective	Effective

8.1 EDR means "External Dispute Resolution".

8.1 This is the annual number of administration-related complaints to the Australian Financial Complaints Authority per 10,000 member accounts.

8.2 Service level achievement measures the portion of new member, contribution and benefit payment transactions that were processed within our service level.

8.4 This is our view of the effectiveness of the Administrator's information and cyber security controls based on an independent review completed during the year.

### 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 is outside of our tolerance level due to ongoing delays in processing benefit payments and outward rollovers.

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 the number of administration related complaints since FY23 and the administrator's information and cyber security controls are effective.

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

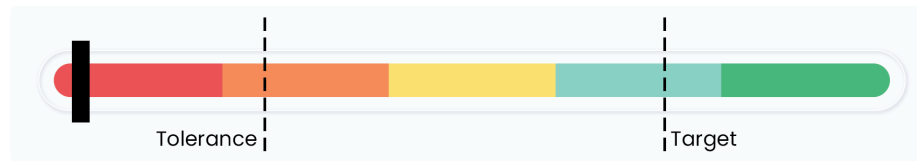


## SCALE

### Outcomes

The fund is likely to deliver optimal outcomes in the future.

The scale of the fund relative to comparable products



### 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%

9.1 The RSE adjusted total accounts growth rate is the average annual percentage change in member accounts averaged over the three year period, excluding Successor Fund Transfers (SFTs) and account consolidations.

9.2 The RSE Net Cash Flow Ratio is members' benefits flows in less members' benefits flows out as a 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 assets averaged over the three year period, excluding SFTs.

### Commentary

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

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.

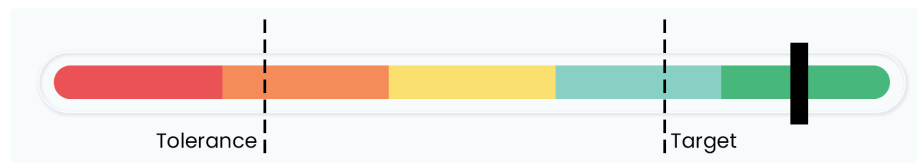
We will continue to monitor the impact that the expected reduction in fund size may have on member outcomes and take appropriate action if required.



## LIQUIDITY

**Outcomes** Benefit and rollover requests can be met in a timely manner from investments

Our product's performance relative to comparable products



Metrics	Ref	Metric Label	Value	Tolerance	Target
10.1		Investment liquidity in a GFC scenario	93.42%	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

Investment Option	Inception Date	Growth Ratio	Member Assets	Investment Period			
				1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
AMP Wholesale Global Equity Index Fund	1999-09-01	100%	\$0.1M	20.47%	10.21%	11.91%	11.77%
Australian Equities	2012-04-23	100%	\$0.1M	13.42%	6.79%	8.51%	8.39%
Cash	1999-09-01	0%	\$0.1M	4.02%	2.16%	1.64%	1.33%
Colonial First State Wholesale Imputation Fund	1999-09-01	100%	\$0.5M	13.79%	5.56%	8.43%	8.66%
Diversified Fixed Interest	1999-09-01	0%	\$0.0M	2.05%	-3.79%	-1.75%	0.77%
Multi-manager Australian Equities	1999-09-01	100%	\$0.2M	11.78%	4.39%	6.89%	7.72%
Multi-manager Balanced	1999-09-01	72%	\$1.9M	10.78%	3.57%	5.65%	6.32%
Multi-manager Growth	1999-09-01	85%	\$0.1M	11.87%	4.89%	7.18%	7.54%
Multi-manager High Growth	1999-09-01	93%	\$0.0M	14.46%	12.65%	13.17%	10.94%
Multi-manager International Equities	1999-09-01	100%	\$0.1M	22.02%	8.72%	10.97%	11.1%
Multi-manager Secure	1999-09-01	31%	\$0.4M	5.44%	0.47%	1.76%	2.95%
Multi-manager Secure Growth	1999-09-01	52%	\$2.0M	8.52%	2.27%	3.96%	4.74%
Property	1999-09-01	100%	\$0.1M	2.24%	-1.96%	1.02%	4.56%
Shielded	1999-09-01	72%	\$0.1M	10.78%	4.53%	5.43%	6.38%
Weighted Average		67%	\$5.8M	10.13%	3.37%	5.27%	5.94%

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

Time Frame	Account Balance Value					
	\$10,000	\$25,000	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$250,000	\$500,000
1	10.1%	10.1%	10.1%	10.1%	10.1%	10.2%
3	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%	3.4%	3.5%
5	5.3%	5.3%	5.3%	5.3%	5.3%	5.4%
10	5.9%	5.9%	5.9%	5.9%	5.9%	6.1%

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.

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