

# SMARTMONDAY PRIME - CHOICE MEMBER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT

# INTRODUCTION

In this report, Equity Trustees Superannuation Limited publishes the results of our annual assessment of how well the smartMonday PRIME - Choice product (the **product**) issued from the Smart Future Trust (the **fund**) provides member outcomes and promotes members' financial interests. The assessment is based on information as at 30 June 2024.

# METHODOLOGY AND STRUCTURE

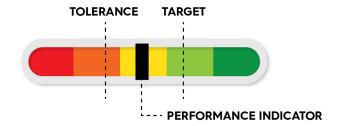
In conducting this assessment, we compared the product to other corporate superannuation products included in statistical data published by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (comparable products) using the criteria in Part 6 of the Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993 and Prudential 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 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;
- 6. the insurance premium charged for the product does not inappropriately erode members' account balances;
- 7. the insurance strategy for the product is appropriate; and
- 8. the scale of the product and the fund does not disadvantage members.

### **DASHBOARD**

#### STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Working together with the fund's promoter, smartMonday Solutions Limited, our purpose is to support members to meet their financial goals by focusing on smart, easy actions that contribute to the long-term growth of their superannuation savings.

To support this purpose, our goals for the fund are to deliver long term sustainable investment returns and fee structures, grow the fund organically and strategically, rationalise and simplify the operational structure, maintain strong governance, improve member engagement and develop and offer innovative and needs-based solutions to improve member outcomes.

The product is a choice accumulation product.



#### **INVESTMENT RETURN**

Our product's performance relative to comparable products			_	I I	
		Tolerance		Target	
Metrics	Ref	Metric Label	Value	Tolerance	Target
	1.1	1-year actual net return	10.42%	9.74%	10.34%
	1.2	3-year actual net return	4.48%	3.94%	4.66%
	1.3	5-year actual net return	5.81%	5.51%	6.04%
	1.4	10-year actual net return	6.68%	6.44%	7.08%

#### 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. All the diversified options listed in Appendix 1 have passed the performance test in APRA's Comprehensive Product Performance Package.

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**

	Investment risk for a \$50,000 account balance in the product is consistent with the Standard Risk Measure ( <b>SRM</b> ) <sup>2.0</sup> .							
Our product's performance relative to comparable products		Tolerance		      Target				
Metrics	Ref	Metric Label	Value	Tolerance	Target			
	2.1	Negative annual net returns over last 10 years	2.03	2.00	1.00			

#### 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 following asset classes:

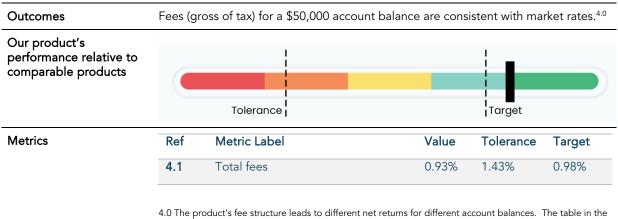
- Cash; and
- International Shares.

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**



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

#### 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 above our target level. As a result, we are comfortable that fees and costs are consistent with market rates and therefore are appropriate having regard to members financial interests.

<sup>4.1</sup> 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.



#### **INSURANCE CLAIM MANAGEMENT**

Outcomes	Valid cla	aims are accepted and paid in a timely m	nanner.		
Our product's performance relative to comparable products		Tolerance	Target		
Metrics	Ref	Metric Label	Value	Tolerance	Target
	6.1	Insurer's declined claims ratio - life cover	3.45%	4.75%	3.00%
	6.2	Insurer's average time to decision - life cover	1.54	2.50	2.00
	6.3	Insurer's declined claims ratio - TPD cover	13.64%	22.25%	16.50%
	6.4	Insurer's average time to decision - TPD cover	5.64	13.75	8.00
	6.5	Insurer's declined claims ratio - IP cover	8.33%	6.75%	5.25%
	6.6	Insurer's average time to decision - IP cover	1.80	2.00	1.50
	6.7	Insurance-related EDR complaints	0.72	2.25	0.75

#### Commentary

The performance indicator measures the acceptance of insurance claims, the timeliness of claim decision-making and the quality of the claims process against comparable products.

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

The insured benefits in this product are supported by group and retail insurance policies. For this suite of policies, in the year ended 30 June 2024 the fund's insurers:

- paid 28 life insurance claims and declined 1 life insurance claims;
- paid 38 TPD insurance claims and declined 6 TPD insurance claims; and
- paid 11 IP insurance claims and declined 1 IP insurance claims.

The declined claims ratio for IP insurance cover is based on a low volume of claims, which makes this outcome volatile. Every declined claim is reviewed individually by our specialised claims team to ensure the insurer has acted fairly and reasonably, and consistently with the relevant policy terms and conditions. For this reason, the metric shown is not an indication of a systemic problem that needs to be addressed.

Considering all these matters, we are comfortable that valid claims are accepted and paid.

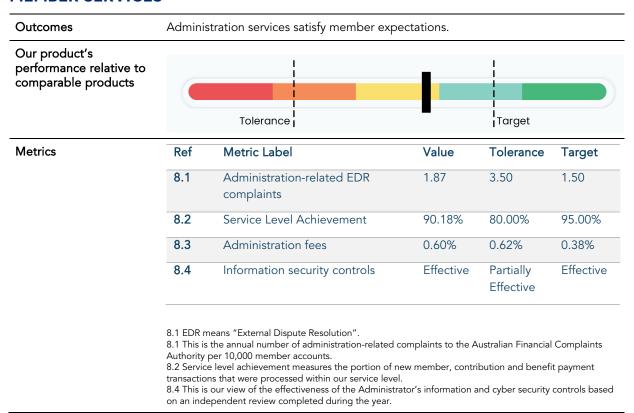


We believe that the appropriate level of insurance cover is a balance between the amount of cover required (based on the maintenance of the member's, and their dependants', standard of living in the event of an accident or illness) and the affordability of that cover for the member.

Members have the opportunity to seek personal financial advice if required, select their own level of insurance cover and cancel their cover if no longer required. Therefore:

- the insurance premiums charged for the product do not inappropriately erode members' account balances; and
- the insurance strategy for the product is appropriate.

#### **MEMBER SERVICES**



#### 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.

Administration fees were outside of tolerance level. As total fees are within our tolerance level, no action is required as a result of this assessment.

We are comfortable that administration services satisfy member expectations because of the high rate of service level achievement, the number of administration related complaints 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 Tolerance

Metrics	Ref	Metric Label	Value	Tolerance	Target
	9.1	RSE adjusted total accounts growth rate	6.24%	-6.25%	-2.50%
	9.2	RSE Net Cash Flow Ratio	-3.64%	-2.75%	-0.50%
	9.3	RSE Net Rollover Ratio	-0.57%	-3.00%	-1.75%

<sup>9.1</sup> 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.

#### Commentary

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

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

As part of the ongoing strategic review of the fund, actions are being taken to address the outflow in funds under management. We will be updating members regarding the future plans for the fund. No further action is required as a result of this assessment.

Therefore, we are comfortable that the scale of the product and the fund does not disadvantage members.

<sup>9.2</sup> 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.



#### **LIQUIDITY**

#### **Outcomes** Benefit and rollover requests can be met in a timely manner from investments and/or insurance policies. Our product's performance relative to comparable products Tolerance Target Metrics Ref Metric Label Value Tolerance **Target** 10.1 Investment liquidity in a GFC 92.59% 40.00% 80.00% scenario 10.2 Insurer financial strength rating A+ BBB AA 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 and any insurance policies 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
smartMonday Australian Shares	2001-06-30		\$128.8M	10.26%	6.73%	7.57%	7.5%
smartMonday Australian Shares Core	2008-09-30		\$0.0M	9.14%	6.39%	7.4%	7.41%
smartMonday Australian Shares Index	2004-09-30		\$0.0M	10.49%	6.25%	7.08%	7.31%
smartMonday Balanced Growth	2004-10-31	68%	\$744.6M	9.53%	3.54%	5.16%	6.31%
smartMonday Balanced Growth - Active	1998-06-30		\$0.0M	8.01%	3.61%	5.07%	6.0%
smartMonday Cash	2001-06-30		\$109.3M	3.26%	1.61%	0.87%	0.84%
smartMonday Defensive	1998-06-30	16%	\$38.3M	3.74%	-0.24%	0.59%	1.43%
smartMonday Defensive - Index	2004-10-31		\$0.0M	3.2%	-1.09%	-0.04%	1.11%
smartMonday Fixed Interest - Diversified	2001-06-30		\$0.0M	2.17%	-1.87%	-0.57%	1.26%
smartMonday Growth	2004-08-31	82%	\$452.7M	11.22%	4.83%	6.34%	7.41%
smartMonday Growth - Active	1998-06-30		\$0.0M	8.92%	4.54%	6.04%	6.88%
smartMonday High Growth	2004-08-31	96%	\$539.3M	13.11%	6.14%	7.56%	8.4%
smartMonday High Growth - Active	1999-12-31		\$0.0M	10.01%	5.31%	6.83%	7.72%
smartMonday International Shares	2001-06-30		\$98.4M	17.47%	8.97%	10.44%	9.93%
smartMonday International Shares - Index	2004-09-30		\$0.0M	15.88%	7.76%	9.9%	10.57%
smartMonday Lifecycle 36	2014-01-01	83%	\$2.5M	10.98%	4.73%	6.44%	
smartMonday Lifecycle 37	2014-01-01	83%	\$3.1M	10.93%	4.69%	6.4%	
smartMonday Lifecycle 38	2014-01-01	82%	\$2.0M	10.86%	4.64%	6.33%	
smartMonday Lifecycle 39	2014-01-01	81%	\$3.6M	10.79%	4.57%	6.26%	
smartMonday Lifecycle 40	2014-01-01	81%	\$4.9M	10.73%	4.52%	6.2%	
smartMonday Lifecycle 41	2014-01-01	80%	\$6.2M	10.66%	4.45%	6.13%	
smartMonday Lifecycle 42	2014-01-01	79%	\$5.2M	10.59%	4.4%	6.06%	
smartMonday Lifecycle 43	2014-01-01	78%	\$4.4M	10.52%	4.34%	5.99%	7.5%
smartMonday Lifecycle 44	2014-01-01	78%	\$4.3M	10.44%	4.27%	5.91%	7.36%
smartMonday Lifecycle 45	2014-01-01	77%	\$4.5M	10.36%	4.21%	5.84%	7.21%
smartMonday Lifecycle 46	2014-01-01	76%	\$5.8M	10.3%	4.15%	5.77%	7.06%
smartMonday Lifecycle 47	2014-01-01	75%	\$4.5M	10.22%	4.08%	5.68%	6.9%
smartMonday Lifecycle 48	2014-01-01	74%	\$3.3M	10.14%	4.01%	5.61%	6.75%
smartMonday Lifecycle 49	2014-01-01	74%	\$8.8M	10.05%	3.94%	5.53%	6.59%
smartMonday Lifecycle 50	2014-01-01	73%	\$5.5M	9.97%	3.87%	5.43%	6.43%
smartMonday Lifecycle 51	2014-01-01	72%	\$7.6M	9.88%	3.79%	5.34%	6.27%
smartMonday Lifecycle 52	2014-01-01	71%	\$3.8M	9.78%	3.71%	5.25%	6.11%
smartMonday Lifecycle 53	2014-01-01	70%	\$6.9M	9.7%	3.63%	5.15%	5.94%
smartMonday Lifecycle 54	2014-01-01	69%	\$8.6M	9.59%	3.54%	5.05%	5.77%
smartMonday Lifecycle 55	2014-01-01	68%	\$6.2M	9.48%	3.44%	4.94%	5.6%
smartMonday Lifecycle 56	2014-01-01	66%	\$4.9M	9.36%	3.34%	4.82%	5.43%
smartMonday Lifecycle 57	2014-01-01	65%	\$3.8M	9.25%	3.24%	4.69%	5.24%
smartMonday Lifecycle 58	2014-01-01	64%	\$4.6M	9.11%	3.13%	4.56%	5.06%
smartMonday Lifecycle 59	2014-01-01	62%	\$5.9M	8.99%	3.01%	4.42%	4.87%
smartMonday Lifecycle 60	2014-01-01	61%	\$5.0M	8.83%	2.89%	4.27%	4.67%



					Investme	nt Period	
Investment Option	Inception Date	Growth Ratio	Member Assets	1 Year	3 Years	5 Years	10 Years
smartMonday Lifecycle 61	2014-01-01	59%	\$3.9M	8.67%	2.75%	4.11%	4.47%
smartMonday Lifecycle 62	2014-01-01	57%	\$3.5M	8.5%	2.6%	3.93%	4.25%
smartMonday Lifecycle 63	2014-01-01	55%	\$3.2M	8.3%	2.43%	3.72%	4.02%
smartMonday Lifecycle 64	2014-01-01	53%	\$7.0M	8.1%	2.25%	3.51%	3.79%
smartMonday Lifecycle 65	2014-01-01	51%	\$2.3M	7.89%	2.07%	3.29%	3.55%
smartMonday Lifecycle 66	2014-01-01	50%	\$1.2M	7.81%	1.99%	3.18%	3.38%
smartMonday Lifecycle 67	2014-01-01	50%	\$1.7M	7.74%	1.94%	3.11%	
smartMonday Lifecycle 68	2014-01-01	49%	\$0.5M	7.69%	1.88%	3.05%	
smartMonday Lifecycle 69	2014-01-01	48%	\$2.4M	7.63%	1.83%	2.98%	
smartMonday Lifecycle 70	2014-01-01	48%	\$0.7M	7.56%	1.77%	2.91%	
smartMonday Lifecycle 71	2014-01-01	47%	\$0.0M	7.5%	1.72%	2.85%	
smartMonday Lifecycle 72	2014-01-01	47%	\$0.6M	7.44%	1.66%	2.78%	
smartMonday Lifecycle 73	2014-01-01	46%	\$0.5M	7.38%	1.61%	2.72%	
smartMonday Lifecycle 74	2014-01-01	45%	\$0.0M	7.31%	1.55%	2.65%	
smartMonday Lifecycle Over 75	2014-01-01	44%	\$0.2M	7.25%	1.5%	2.58%	
smartMonday Lifecycle Under 35	2014-01-01	84%	\$11.5M	11.0%	4.75%	6.47%	
smartMonday Moderate	1998-06-30	32%	\$135.7M	5.46%	1.01%	1.91%	3.23%
smartMonday Moderate - Index	2004-10-31		\$0.0M	4.3%	-0.47%	0.89%	2.92%
smartMonday Property - Australian Index	2004-08-31		\$0.0M	20.6%	4.62%	2.91%	7.04%
smartMonday Property - Diversified	2001-06-30		\$0.0M	10.96%	-0.04%	0.85%	4.77%
smartMonday-Fixed Interest-Diversified Index	2021-10-01		\$0.0M	1.7%			
Weighted Average		75%	\$2412.2M	10.42%	4.48%	5.81%	6.68%

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	\$100,00 0	\$250,00 0	\$500,000	
1	9.9%	10.3%	10.4%	10.5%	10.5%	10.5%	
3	4.0%	4.3%	4.5%	4.5%	4.6%	4.6%	
5	5.3%	5.7%	5.8%	5.9%	5.9%	6.0%	
10	6.2%	6.5%	6.7%	6.7%	6.8%	6.8%	

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.

Equity Trustees Superannuation Limited (ABN 50 055 641 757, AFSL 229757, RSE L0001458) (referred to in this Schedule as "Equity Trustees") is part of the EQT Holdings Limited (ABN 22 607 797 615) group of companies, listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX: EQT). This information is intended as a source of information only. No reader should act on any matter without first obtaining professional advice which considers an individual's specific objectives, financial situation and needs.

Copyright  $\ @$  2025 Equity Trustees. All rights reserved.