

Investment update for Defined Benefit Division (DBD) members, 30 June 2009

# Your super in perspective

In a year that was generally dominated by bad news for investors, the last three months of the financial year finally gave us some positive signs. And although the road is likely to remain bumpy into the foreseeable future, some in the investment community are suggesting that the worst may now be behind us.

Most of UniSuper's Defined Benefit Division (DBD) members will have two components to their account – a defined benefit component and an accumulation component.

## Your defined benefit component

Your defined benefit component is pooled with other members of the DBD and invested in a diversified portfolio with an asset allocation that currently mirrors UniSuper's Balanced investment option. Ultimately, your benefit for this component is calculated using a formula (based on your age, salary, years of membership and level of contributions).

The pooled resources of all DBD members are invested to grow over time so that sufficient funds are available to pay the benefits and pensions of individual members as they fall due. If future investment returns continue to be below long-term expectations for several years, then it is possible that the assets of the DBD pooled fund may be insufficient to meet defined benefit liabilities.

To protect DBD members in the unlikely event that this scenario should occur, the Trustee initiated the process described in Clause 34 of the UniSuper Trust Deed in June 2009. Essentially, Clause 34 provides a process for the Trustee to respond to prolonged market downturns and maintain the ongoing health of the DBD. Ultimately, if UniSuper considers it necessary, this clause provides a mechanism to reduce members' benefits on a fair and equitable basis.

It's important to understand that there are no current plans to reduce the benefits of DBD members. Such steps would only be taken in extreme circumstances.

As at 30 June 2009, UniSuper's actuary estimated the DBD's Accrued Benefits Index (ABI) and Vested Benefits Index (VBI) to be 99.4% and 86.0% respectively. More recently, at 31 July 2009, UniSuper estimates that the ABI and VBI were 102.2% and 88.5% respectively.

For more information visit [www.unisuper.com.au/DBDupdate](http://www.unisuper.com.au/DBDupdate).

## Your accumulation component

Most DBD members also have an accumulation component as part of their UniSuper account. This accumulation component is subject to rises and falls in investment markets.

The global financial crisis continued to have a negative influence on the world's investment markets throughout the year to 30 June 2009. But while few would describe the year as good, the news wasn't all bad, especially here in Australia. As at 30 June 2009, the local economy had managed to avoid a recession (technically defined as two consecutive quarters of negative gross domestic product (GDP) growth). Indeed, the Australian economy weathered the global downturn better than most developed economies.

Despite the challenging market conditions, most of UniSuper's investment options fared better than their respective benchmarks over the year.

UniSuper also performed well relative to its peers over the year. According to SuperRatings – one of Australia's largest ratings and research companies – UniSuper's High Growth, Growth, Balanced, Conservative Balanced and Capital Stable investment options all achieved top quartile performance for 2008/09. In addition, UniSuper's flagship investment option – the Balanced option – was ranked 13th out of 113 comparable super funds in Australia for the year.

Over the longer term, the Balanced option has posted sound results. Returning 5.3% p.a. over the 5-year period to 30 June 2009, the option outperformed its benchmark and delivered first quartile performance in comparison to its peers, according to SuperRatings.

# The year in review

For the second year in a row, the majority of super members received negative investment returns. This was a direct result of difficult investment conditions, with global sharemarkets experiencing extreme volatility as economies around the world grappled with recession. While Australia avoided a technical recession, it nonetheless endured a substantial downturn.

Towards the end of the financial year, Australian and international sharemarkets experienced positive returns, causing some commentators to suggest that a 'green shoots' recovery was unfolding. But only time will tell if this growth can be sustained.

## Shares

Despite Australia avoiding recession, the local sharemarket still experienced significant losses – it fell by 20.3% over the course of the year. The healthcare sector posted the sole positive return for the year, up 0.4%. Materials and energy were major drivers of the drop in Australian equities, falling 33.7% and 23%, respectively. Small companies fell 28.6%.

International shares were also weaker, falling 28.4% on a currency hedged basis. Taking into account the decreased value of the Australian dollar against major currencies over 2008/09, international markets fell 16.2% on an unhedged basis. Emerging markets, too, were not spared the general downturn, recording an unhedged fall of 14.6%.

The chart below paints a picture of the ups and downs on the Australian sharemarket throughout the course of the year. While the first half of the year was characterised by substantial falls, since then there has been some evidence of a gradual climb in asset values, particularly during the final quarter of the 2008/09 financial year.

## Cash and fixed interest

At the beginning of the 2008/09 year, domestic cash rates were relatively high (with official rates at 7.25% p.a.). However, rates fell rapidly as central banks around the world responded to the financial crisis by easing monetary policy. By the end of June 2009, cash

rates in Australia had fallen to 3.0% p.a. As a result, returns on cash fell over the year while Australian fixed interest returns were relatively strong.

At the same time, corporate issuers were also under pressure. The result was a substantial increase in bond yields (and consequently losses in bond values) for credit securities. Fortunately, as the year progressed, markets witnessed some improvement in the returns for credit securities.

Despite significant volatility during the period, overall returns were positive. The Australian bond market returned 10.8% for the year, and international bonds returned 10% on a currency hedged basis.

## Property

Property markets experienced significant weakness over the year. Unlisted property fell 12.4%, reflecting the impact of ongoing capital market constraints on this sector, as well as deteriorating property income growth expectations and their flow-on effect to property valuations.

Australian listed property fell by 42.1%, largely due to continuing concerns around refinancing risks, discounted equity raisings, distribution cuts, and declining property valuations.

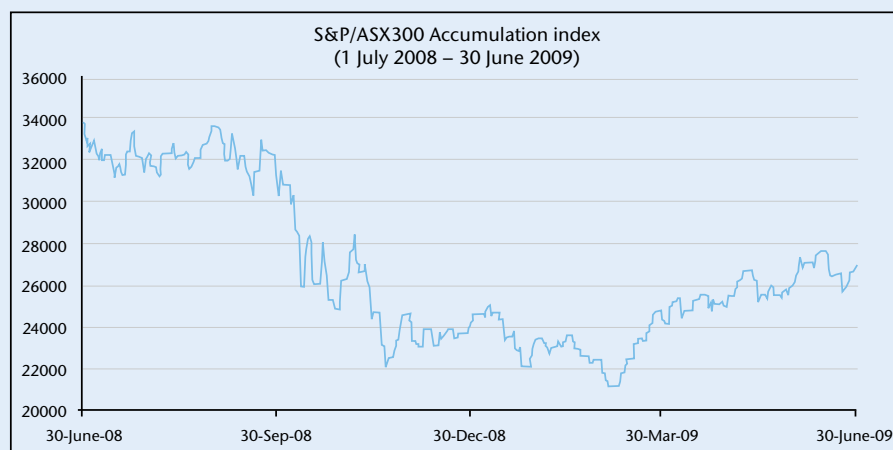
## Could the worst be over?

Around the world, many positive steps have been taken to turn the downturn around. Governments launched

### A 'green shoots' recovery?

In the three months to 30 June 2009, the Australian sharemarket showed some signs of recovery. Will it last?

Australian sharemarket returns measured by the S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index (1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009).



Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

substantial fiscal stimulus packages (for example, the US recently introduced a US\$787 billion plan to help boost the economy), and reserve banks have cut interest rates in a bid to stimulate activity (at present, the UK, the US and Japan all have official interest rates close to zero).

Encouragingly, some of these measures seem to be having the desired effect. International sharemarkets, as well as our own local sharemarket, posted positive returns just prior to the end of the financial year. At this early stage, however, these positive results should be viewed with restraint. The road ahead is likely to remain fairly uncertain, at least for the foreseeable future.

### Your accumulation super

UniSuper's investment options have not been immune from the negative sentiment and volatility in investment markets. And while the year did end on a brighter note, overall falls mean that unless your accumulation component was invested in the Cash or Australian Fixed Interest investment options, this component of your account will have experienced negative results for the year. Over the longer term, however, performance remained positive for UniSuper members, with most options returning around 5% p.a. for the last five years on average.

The annual returns for UniSuper's investment options over the last five years to 30 June are shown in the top table (if you are unsure of which option(s) your accumulation component is invested in, this will be shown on your Benefit Statement). The options are listed in order from most defensive (e.g. Cash and Capital Stable) through to those with the highest proportion of growth assets (e.g. High Growth and Socially Responsible High Growth).

Returns in the past two years have clearly suffered when compared with the preceding three years. However, the bottom table shows, over longer time-frames, the investment options have performed well, with most outpacing both the benchmarks and their competitor funds.

### Annual investment returns for financial years ending 30 June

UniSuper Accumulation investment option	2008/09 %	2007/08 %	2006/07 %	2005/06 %	2004/05 %
<b>Pre-Mixed options</b>					
Cash	3.72	4.98	6.11	5.50	5.08
Capital Stable	-0.94	0.32	8.49	7.78	9.67
Conservative Balanced	-5.01	-3.67	11.67	11.24	11.68
Balanced	-9.12	-6.03	14.92	14.48	15.08
Socially Responsible Balanced <sup>1</sup>	-8.94	-9.47	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Growth	-12.68	-8.15	17.45	17.39	17.46
Socially Responsible High Growth	-15.82	-15.80	17.78	21.20	15.40
High Growth	-14.50	-10.20	20.91	21.14	16.59
<b>Self-Select options<sup>2</sup></b>					
Australian Fixed Interest	10.00	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Listed Property	-34.66	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
Australian Shares	-16.00	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
International Shares	-18.35	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

### Annualised investment returns for 5 and 7-year periods to 30 June 2009

UniSuper investment option	5-year annualised returns			7-year annualised returns		
	Investment return % p.a.	Benchmark <sup>3</sup> % p.a.	Survey median <sup>4</sup> % p.a.	Investment return % p.a.	Benchmark <sup>3</sup> % p.a.	Survey median <sup>4</sup> % p.a.
<b>Pre-Mixed options</b>						
Cash	5.07	5.19	5.13	4.91	4.95	4.89
Capital Stable	4.97	4.68	4.07	5.63 <sup>5</sup>	n.a.	n.a.
Conservative Balanced	4.89	4.39	3.75	5.48	4.91	4.56
Balanced	5.27	4.13	3.42	5.87	4.90	4.41
Growth	5.37	3.82	2.39	6.04	4.75	3.89
Socially Responsible High Growth	3.15	3.09	3.39	4.75 <sup>5</sup>	n.a.	n.a.
High Growth	5.57	3.44	3.14	5.99	4.17	4.37

The past performance of an investment option should not be relied upon as an indicator of future performance. Option and benchmark returns are calculated net of investment expenses and fund taxes but are gross of account-based fees. Members should be aware that the returns applied to their account will depend on the investment option(s) they invest in, the period of time they were invested in the option(s) and the timing of cash flows into and out of their account.

<sup>1</sup> The Socially Responsible Balanced investment option commenced on 1 January 2008. The investment return shown for 2007/08 is for the six-month period to 30 June 2008 only. Five and seven-year annualised returns, and the corresponding benchmark and survey median returns, are not available.

<sup>2</sup> The Self-Select investment options commenced on 1 July 2008, therefore returns for prior financial years are not available. Five and seven-year annualised returns, and the corresponding benchmark and survey median returns, are not available.

<sup>3</sup> Details on the relevant benchmarks for each investment option can be found on the UniSuper website ([www.unisuper.com.au](http://www.unisuper.com.au)).

<sup>4</sup> Survey medians are as measured by Mercer Investment Consulting performance surveys.

<sup>5</sup> The Capital Stable and Socially Responsible High Growth options do not have seven years of investment return history. The returns shown are taken from the date the options first received contributions (1 October 2002 for Capital Stable, and 18 October 2002 for Socially Responsible High Growth).

# Could your super do with some TLC?

At UniSuper, it's our job to make sure your investments stay on track and weather the current financial crisis. But what action can you take to help your super stay in shape?

## Combine your old super into UniSuper

If you've got more than one super fund, consider rolling your additional funds into one. With fewer accounts, you could end up saving thousands of dollars over the long term. And, with less paperwork to deal with, you'll find keeping track of your money a whole lot easier.

To consolidate with UniSuper, visit our website at [www.unisuper.com.au](http://www.unisuper.com.au) and download a *Rollover form*, or call the UniSuper Helpline on 1800 331 685 to request one.

Please note, before consolidating any super into UniSuper, you should consider the implications of exiting your previous fund/s, for example, any exit fees that may be payable and the loss of insurance cover that may have been previously provided.

## Give us your TFN

Have you provided us with your Tax File Number (TFN)? If not, you could be incurring unnecessarily high tax (46.5% instead of the usual 15%) on any contributions that your employer makes for you and any salary sacrifice contributions you're making. In addition, we can't accept any personal after-tax contributions you might wish to make, which means that you could have missed out on the government co-contribution if you were planning to receive one.

Your Benefit Statement will indicate if you've already given us your TFN. If you haven't, you can do so when you next log in to MemberOnline, or by downloading a *Tax file number collection form* from our website at [www.unisuper.com.au](http://www.unisuper.com.au).

## Stay informed

It's understandable that recent financial conditions have been cause for worry and uncertainty. One of the keys to keeping things in perspective and developing a good understanding of how your super works is to keep yourself informed.

UniSuper's website contains updates, publications and tutorials to help you learn more about your super and how to make the most of it. Visit [www.unisuper.com.au](http://www.unisuper.com.au) today and get to know your super better. And remember to visit the dedicated 'DBD update' section of the site for more on Clause 34 and what it means for your DBD account.

## Seek help if you need it

Here's something to put in your diary.

In late 2009 UniSuper is planning to launch its very own financial planning service, exclusively for members.

The service will offer a number of options for members, ranging from specific superannuation advice to comprehensive investment plans and life insurance advice. These services will be provided on a highly competitive fee-for-service basis, and UniSuper financial advisers will not receive commissions.

More information will be provided prior to the launch, including details about how to contact the UniSuper advice team.



Find out more [www.unisuper.com.au](http://www.unisuper.com.au) [enquiry@unisuper.com.au](mailto:enquiry@unisuper.com.au) 1800 331 685

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