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Meet UniSuper member and parasitologist, Laureate Professor Marshall Lightowlers.
Welcome to the first edition of Super Informed for 2013. Inside we take a look at investment markets over the past six months—see pages 6 to 8 for commentary from our in-house investment experts.

Change is on the way
A number of superannuation reforms are on the horizon, and we’ve started 2013 with some changes of our own.

We’re launching our enhanced website, which you can read about on page 16. The new site features people like you—employees of the higher education and research sector—and we’re happy to be sharing more about our members’ careers and achievements.

We know you value updates about how legislative changes may affect your super, so we’ve included the latest news on pages 12 and 13.

However, we’re also aware that information overload can cause some members to put off important decisions. If this sounds like you, you’re not alone.

A recent study found that while many Australians say they most need financial advice on super and retirement, less than half are getting it. You may think you don’t have enough money to warrant advice, or that it may be costly—but as you’ll see on pages 14 and 15, financial advice can be well worth it.

DBD update
As you would be aware, the financial position of the DBD continues to be an absolute priority for the Board and my management team.

The monitoring period in respect of the 31 December 2008 actuarial review ended on 31 December 2012. The article on pages 4 and 5 explains the process from here and how you can stay up to date. It’s important to note that, at this stage, no decision has been made as to whether or not benefit reductions are required.

I know this is an unsettling time for some members, but I would like to assure you that UniSuper is carefully monitoring and managing the financial position of the DBD, taking expert advice and planning for a range of possible outcomes. And, as always, we have the best interests of all members as our paramount consideration. I thank you for your support through this challenging time.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter. We value your feedback, so please contact us with your thoughts.

Warm regards

Terry C. McCredden
Chief Executive Officer

1 Access to Financial Advice in Australia, ASIC 2010
Update on the financial position of the DBD

The monitoring period in respect of the 31 December 2008 actuarial report ended as at 31 December 2012. Monitoring periods under Clause 34 of the Trust Deed are designed to give the Board a mechanism to help protect the financial position of the DBD. You can find out more about Clause 34 of the Trust Deed and these monitoring periods at www.unisuper.com.au/dbdupdate.

What is the process from here?
UniSuper’s Actuary is now preparing a report examining the financial position of the DBD as at 31 December 2012—the date the monitoring period ended. This report will also consider the likely outlook for the DBD’s financial position over the short, medium and longer term. Once this report is completed, the Actuary will provide it to UniSuper’s Board. The Board then has six months from the date it receives the report to make a decision as to whether or not benefit reductions are required. No action can be taken under Clause 34 until after the Board has received the Actuary’s report.

If benefit reductions were required, they would need to be made on a basis that is fair and equitable across DBD members and pensioners as a whole.

What is the current financial position of the DBD?
The financial position of the DBD is best measured by two indices—the Accrued Benefits Index (ABI) and the Vested Benefits Index (VBI). A precise measure of these indices is taken at the end of each quarter and reported for members at www.unisuper.com.au/dbdupdate. This website also provides definitions of the ABI and VBI.

The 31 December 2012 figures will not be finalised until the Actuary completes his report. Approximations of the ABI and VBI were taken at 19 December 2012. The estimates were 97.5% for the ABI and 90.5% for the VBI. As usual, the finalised figures will be published at www.unisuper.com.au/dbdupdate once the Actuary’s report is available.

The financial position of the DBD continues to be an absolute priority for UniSuper. As such, extensive contingency planning is underway by both the Board and Management of UniSuper to ensure they are ready to act and continue providing adequate service and information to members, regardless of what the outcome may be.

More information
The best place to get the latest updates on the financial position of the DBD is to visit the dedicated section of our website at www.unisuper.com.au/dbdupdate. Of course, once the Board has made a decision as to whether or not benefit reductions are required under Clause 34, we will write to all DBD members and provide full details.
Investment update

Chief Investment Officer, John Pearce, provides an investment update for the year ended 31 December 2012 and shares his insights around the key developments UniSuper has made to its investment approach and their positive impacts.

Global sharemarkets posted solid gains over 2012, resulting in strong returns for UniSuper members who are in options with exposure to growth assets. For example, the Balanced option, which is the default accumulation option for Defined Benefit Division (DBD) members with an accumulation component, has recorded a 14.9%* return for the year ended 31 December 2012.

Note that for DBD members, the defined benefit component generally makes up the bulk of your benefit in the DBD. Defined benefits are based on a formula that takes into account your age, benefit salary, period of service and years of membership.

This is a pleasing result in absolute terms, and also compares very favourably to our market peers. Visit the Options and Performance page at www.unisuper.com.au/investments for performance information on all options.

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Indeed, our relative performance was very strong across the board, as the ‘Quartile rankings for UniSuper accumulation options’ table above shows.

Much of the strong relative performance reflects significant changes that UniSuper has made to its investment approach over recent years, and in particular in 2012. UniSuper now employs a more dynamic approach to asset allocation, a key change of which has been the inclusion of a moderate risk portfolio that focuses on companies that generate stable returns which avoid excessive investment risks (e.g. Westfield Retail Trust, Telstra, etc). These companies tended to offer higher and more defensive yields, becoming the sought-after securities for 2012.

Another key development has been to move investment management functions in house (rather than outsource them to external managers). This change has lowered fees, enhanced investment oversight, and is a reflection of our fundamental view that it is in the best interests of UniSuper’s members.

UniSuper now manages approximately $12 billion or 38% of the Fund internally, resulting in significant cost savings for members.

Internal management has also allowed UniSuper to exercise its ‘muscle’ through various means including fee negotiations, greater access to company boards and executive teams, and greater participation in investment deals.

* This is an estimated return for the 2012 calendar year based on information available as at 10 January 2013 and is after fund taxes and investment expenses, but gross of account-based fees. The final return will be available in late January 2013 and may be higher or lower than this return. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.
uniSuper understands the importance of insurance, especially the peace of mind it can provide for you and your loved ones. Currently, Defined Benefit Division (DBD) and Accumulation 2 members who reduced their standard member contributions when they first joined uniSuper do not have access to Death and Total & Permanent Disablement (TPD) insurance cover through their accumulation component/account. We’ve introduced changes that will allow these members to apply for Death and TPD insurance cover. This cover is provided through uniSuper’s group life policies with Hannover Life Re of Australasia Ltd* (Hannover) and is in addition to the inbuilt death and disablement benefits provided to DBD and Accumulation 2 members.

If you first joined uniSuper as an Accumulation 1 member and then moved into the DBD, you may already have Death and TPD cover. If you subsequently join the DBD and you choose to reduce your standard member contributions, your insurance cover will remain and premiums will continue to be deducted.

The new change will apply from 1 May 2013 to both new members who join from 1 May 2013 as well as existing members who don’t have automatic Death and TPD cover because they reduced their standard member contributions when they first joined uniSuper. Impacted members will be able to apply for Death and TPD insurance cover provided they have a minimum balance of $2,000 in their accumulation component/account. If they don’t have a minimum of $2,000 they can increase their accumulation balance by making additional voluntary contributions either as a one-off lump sum or through regular contributions.

All applications will be subject to medical underwriting and will need to be approved by Hannover. If the application is approved and cover is provided, premiums will be payable and deducted from the accumulation component/account. The amount of premiums payable will depend on the number of units the member applies for.

For more information regarding the terms and conditions that apply under the Hannover group life policies as well the premiums that are payable, please refer to the Defined Benefit Division and Accumulation 2 Product Disclosure Statement (PDS). To request a copy of the PDS call us on 1800 331 685 or visit www.unisuper.com.au/pds

* Hannover Life Re of Australasia Ltd, ABN 37 062 395 484.
Important changes

The following amendments have been made to the UniSuper Trust Deed and Regulations which govern how the Fund operates.

Amendments to the UniSuper Trust Deed

CLARIFY WHEN UNSUPER MEMBERSHIP STARTS
Effective from 23 November 2012

This amendment clarifies that membership starts as soon as contributions are accepted from a UniSuper participating employer on behalf of an employee, regardless of which division the contributions go into. This amendment confirms that it is not always necessary for UniSuper to receive an application form for membership to commence.

CONFIRM POWER FOR THE TRUSTEE TO TRANSFER DEFINED BENEFIT DIVISION (DBD) MEMBERS WHO HAVEN’T PROVIDED THEIR TFN TO ACCUMULATION 2
Effective date to be determined by the Board

This amendment confirms that the Trustee may transfer a DBD member who hasn’t provided their tax file number (TFN) to Accumulation 2.

Under superannuation law, the Trustee can’t accept employer (after-tax) contributions from members who don’t provide their TFN. Also, any employer contributions made on behalf of these members are taxed at a higher rate.

This means that where a DBD member doesn’t provide their TFN, the DBD does not receive all the contributions needed to fund the member’s benefit, and the Trustee needs to pay higher tax than it would otherwise pay.

The amendment is designed to ensure that the majority of DBD members are not adversely affected as a result of some members not providing their TFN.

Amendments to the UniSuper Regulations

EXTEND THE PERIOD IN WHICH MEMBERS MAY TRANSFER FROM THE DBD TO ACCUMULATION 2
Effective from 1 November 2012

Since 1 November 2012, eligible DBD members have had an extra 12 months to decide whether to remain in the DBD or transfer to Accumulation 2. This means that all new DBD members who join from 1 November 2012 now have 24 months to elect to transfer to Accumulation 2.

Existing DBD members who were within their first 12 months of membership and were yet to make a decision as at 1 November 2012, were given a 12-month extension from the date their original election period was due to expire.

DBD members who ceased employment within their applicable election period (without making an election) and were then transferred to Accumulation 1 will have 24 months to decide whether to transfer to Accumulation 2 if they subsequently re-join the DBD in the future.

CLARIFY THE RULES APPLICABLE TO CONTRIBUTION FLEXIBILITY APPLICATIONS
To take effect from 1 April 2013 or a later date set by the Board

DBD and Accumulation 2 members are generally required to make member contributions of at least 7% of their salary, but may reduce this rate under contribution flexibility arrangements.

This amendment confirms that, generally, contribution flexibility applications must be made in writing and will take effect from the pay period following the processing of the Contribution Flexibility Application form. The Trustee may vary these rules where member contributions have been reduced in the absence of an application, or before an application was processed.

CLARIFY THE TREATMENT OF DBD MEMBERS WHOSE BENEFITS ARE IN DEFERRAL AND WHO RE-COMMENCE AS CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS
To take effect from 1 April 2013 or a later date set by the Board

When a DBD member ceases to be a contributing member in the DBD (e.g. when they cease employment in an eligible role), they generally have 90 days from the date of cessation to elect whether to defer their entitlements in the DBD or transfer them to Accumulation 1. If the member doesn’t make an election within this period, their benefits are transferred to Accumulation 1.

This amendment confirms that when a DBD member whose benefits are deferred recommissions as a contributing member, the member’s benefits will cease to be deferred and continue to accrue in the DBD, regardless of whether recommencement occurs within or after the option period. The amendment also confirms that such members will cease to have the right to transfer to Accumulation 1 once they’ve recommenced in the DBD.

CLARIFY THE WAY INVESTMENT RETURNS ARE APPLIED WHEN PAYMENTS ARE RECEIVED FROM AN EMPLOYER ON DIFFERENT DATES TO FUND ONE CONTRIBUTION FILE
To take effect from 1 April 2013 or a later date set by the Board

When employers contribute to UniSuper they provide contribution files setting out the members to whom the payment relates, and the amounts to be contributed for each member.

Where more than one receipt is received from an employer on different dates to cover a single contribution file, this amendment ensures that investment returns are applied to members’ Accumulation 1, Accumulation 2 or Spouse accounts from the date of the later receipt.

CONFIRM THE SCOPE OF THE TRUSTEE’S POWER TO ESTABLISH RESERVES
Effective from 1 January 2013

As mentioned in the August 2012 edition of Super Informed, the Trustee has established an operational risk reserve from 1 January 2013, in line with the Government’s Stronger Super reforms.

The amendment clarifies the Trustee’s broad scope reserve-making power.
Changes to super

Since the last edition, the Government has introduced some changes to super that may affect you. We’ve outlined the key changes and what they mean for super fund members.

PORTABILITY OF RETIREMENT SAVINGS BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

The Government has introduced new rules which provide for portability of retirement savings between Australia and New Zealand.

The measures mean that:

→ New Zealanders who move to Australia can transfer any retirement savings held in a New Zealand ‘KiwiSaver’ account into an Australian APRA-regulated fund (not an SMSF).

→ Amounts transferred from an Australian complying superannuation fund to a KiwiSaver scheme will not be taxed on their exit from the Australian superannuation system.

Under the rules, amounts transferred from a KiwiSaver account into an Australian super fund will generally be treated as non-concessional (after-tax) contributions, and amounts transferred out of an Australian fund into a KiwiSaver account will be treated as a superannuation benefit. The transferred amounts will generally be subject to the host country’s restrictions on when super benefits may be accessed, but some exceptions will apply. Further legislation is anticipated to spell out these rules in more detail.

REFUND OF EXCESS CONCESSIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Legislation has been passed that gives individuals who breach their concessional contributions cap by $10,000 or less the chance to request a limited refund of the excess concessional contributions. This measure only applies to:

→ first time breaches of the concessional contributions cap

→ concessional contributions made from 1 July 2011 onwards.

If a member is eligible for a refund, the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) will write to them with a refund offer. This will be a once-only offer from the ATO—subsequent offers in later years will not be made, even if a member didn’t accept the offer in the relevant year and subsequently exceeds their concessional contributions cap in following years.

If the member accepts the offer, their super fund will generally pay an amount equal to 85% of the excess concessional contributions to the ATO—this allows for the 15% tax deducted by the Fund. The refunded amount will be included in the member’s assessable income and effectively taxed at the member’s marginal tax rate.

LOST SUPER CHANGES

The Government has introduced new rules for small lost super accounts—typically accounts that have been inactive for five years or where the member cannot be contacted—from being eroded by fees and charges.

From January 2013 super funds are required to transfer lost accounts with balances of up to $2,000 to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). This is an increase from the previous account balance threshold for lost accounts, which was $200. The ATO will then use its data-matching capabilities, including tax file numbers, to help reunite the money with its owners.

From July 2013 interest equal to inflation (as measured by the Consumer Price Index – CPI) will be paid on lost super accounts when they are claimed from the ATO.

In addition, super funds will be required to transfer the accounts of unidentifiable members to the ATO after 12 months of inactivity where they are confident that they will never be able to pay an amount to the member in future. In the past, super funds were required to transfer these accounts after they had been inactive for five years or the member was uncontactable.
Financial advice: is it worth your while?

How much have you invested in your—or your children’s—education? Think school and university fees, books and computers, and even trips to museums. And how much have you invested in your health and fitness, through gym memberships, private health insurance and doctors’ fees?

Many people don’t question the value of a solid education and quality healthcare. They are investments for the future, after all.

Interestingly, though, many Australians don’t seem to be as prepared to devote as much to their financial future. According to a recent study commissioned by ASIC, for Australians, common behaviour regarding complex financial decisions includes:

- switching off, and either putting off a decision or deferring it to someone else because of information overload
- making less-than-optimal choices, often because of overconfidence or a lack of self-control.

The study found this comes despite us having to make more financial decisions than ever, with the growing complexity and range of financial products available and the responsibility we face in funding our own retirements.

Advice can be well worth the money

As many as 80% of adult Australians have never seen a financial adviser, with many thinking they don’t have enough money to be advised on, or that financial advice would be too expensive.

However, a recent report commissioned by the Financial Planning Association and the Industry Super Network found that as well as providing benefits to the individual, financial advice can benefit society more broadly too. These general benefits include reduced debt, increasing the level of disposable income that can help an economy become more productive, and more people having a better understanding of the level of savings and insurance cover they need, which can lead to fewer people relying on welfare.

Super and retirement advice

With an ageing population putting pressure on support services for retirees, financial literacy is becoming increasingly important if Australians hope to be able to fund the retirement lifestyle they want.

Australians have already identified super (and retirement) as an area they have the greatest need of advice for, although only 40% at the most are getting it.

“Advice helps demystify super, and other more complex financial topics, and helps you see the bigger picture,” says UniSuper Head of Advice Strategy and Services, Sam Rubin.

“It’s only when you sit with an adviser who takes you through everything that you start to consider things you’ve never even thought of.”

“It’s empowering to have someone help you understand your finances, because it helps give you an idea of what you can do to drive your financial future,” he said.
A new year, a new website for UniSuper members

UniSuper’s website is receiving a makeover. We’re releasing an improved website that makes it easier and faster for you to find information about your super. Here are four great reasons to visit the new www.unisuper.com.au!

1 MORE RELEVANT INFORMATION
‘New to UniSuper’, ‘Grow your super’, ‘Planning for retirement’ and ‘Pensions’: our new information categories put all the information you need about your super at your fingertips—no matter what stage of life you’re at.

2 EASIER TO TRACK INVESTMENTS
Get a quick snapshot of how your investments are performing by adjusting date ranges and viewing investment options separately or together with our new interactive investment graphs.

3 A ONE-STOP SUPER SHOP
Our new ‘Learning Centre’ contains a range of easy-to-understand information about aspects of super—such as taxes and how interest works—as well as our existing range of tutorials, calculators, videos and fact sheets.

4 REAL MEMBERS, REAL STORIES
We’re proud of our long association with the higher education and research sector in which you work. To celebrate this partnership, our new site features photos of our members and the places where you work—you may even see some familiar faces!

New UniSuper webinars

Do you work on a small university campus where UniSuper seminars aren’t regularly held, or live in an area beyond the reach of our seminar program, such as regional Australia or overseas? With the launch of ‘webinars’—our new live, online seminars for members—there’s no need for you to miss out on our highly-popular seminars any longer.

You can now participate in webinars on popular seminar topics like Understanding Contributions & Caps and Retirement Planning from the convenience of your own computer.

Run by our experienced education presenters, UniSuper Advice financial advisers and guest speakers where relevant, our webinars bring you the same quality information that members enjoy at our face-to-face seminars.

Once you register, you’ll receive simple instructions to stream the webinar live online.

No matter what stage you’re at, you can learn about topics that are most relevant to you. Here’s a sample:

- New UniSuper members can gain an overview of the fund (UniSuper 101—An Introduction).
- Find out how you can benefit from a UniSuper pension and the Government Age Pension (Retirement Planning & Centrelink).
- Learn why women typically have a significantly lower level of retirement savings than men—and what you can do about it (Superannuation for Women).
- See how much you can contribute to your super without having to pay additional tax (Understanding Contributions & Caps).

For a full list of upcoming webinars and to register for a session, visit www.unisuper.com.au/webinars. Places are limited, so be sure to register early to avoid disappointment!
Meet a UniSuper member:

Laureate Professor
Marshall Lightowlers

Drop in to Professor Marshall Lightowlers’ workplace at the University of Melbourne’s Werribee campus, and you may feel like you’ve been transported to the country—thanks to all the farm animals such as sheep and pigs you’re likely to see.

These animals share space with the parasitologist for good reason—he and his colleagues are developing vaccines that prevent sheep and pigs from being infected with tapeworm parasites. In humans, these parasites contribute to diseases called Hydatid disease and neurocysticercosis (NCC).

Hydatid disease is a potentially fatal condition that causes cysts to form in vital organs such as the liver, and NCC is a disease of the nervous system that produces seizures and is the main cause of acquired epilepsy in adults. “The diseases are transmitted by livestock—sheep (Hydatid disease) and pigs (neurocysticercosis),” explains Professor Lightowlers. “They are mainly problems in developing countries where there is little money available to develop new treatments for humans.”

Working with international collaborators, Professor Lightowlers and his team have focused on developing an effective vaccine for animals as it’s a lot cheaper to vaccinate animals than humans. Testing the vaccine sometimes takes Professor Lightowlers away from his computer—where he typically spends his days applying for grants and writing grant reports and articles for publication—and to exotic locations that include Cameroon, Tanzania, Peru and Argentina.

The results of Professor Lightowlers’ field trials in these countries have been overwhelmingly positive. “The vaccines are the most effective of all existing vaccines for any parasite infections,” he says. “In a field test of our vaccine in Cameroon, it completely eliminated transmission of the disease.”

In 1998 Professor Lightowlers was awarded the Bancroft-Mackerras Medal of The Australian Society for Parasitology for “an outstanding contribution to the science of parasitology.” With results like these, it won’t be long before this award-winning scientist starts looking for a new challenge.
Our new paper stock

You may have noticed something different about this issue of Super Informed—that’s because it’s been printed on different paper.

We decided to change the paper we use following a review of the options available. We know that looking after the environment is very important to you, as it is to us, so environmental impact was a key factor in our decision. When we included cost and quality, a paper stock called ‘ecoStar Silk’ was the clear winner.

ecoStar Silk is made of 100% recycled post-consumer waste. As well as being an economical alternative and providing a superior finish, our new paper comes with impressive environmental credentials and is FSC certified.