

MEDIA RELEASE

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AUSTRALIA'S BEST SUPER AND PENSION FUNDS NAMED

SuperRatings has completed its 2009 review of the Australian superannuation fund market and is pleased to advise of the top 10 super funds and the top 5 pension funds in the country as measured across over 400 different criteria. These lists were compiled after closely scrutinising over 300 of Australia's leading public sector, retail, industry and corporate superannuation funds and divisions. The top 10 super funds (in alphabetical order) are:

- AustralianSuper
- Catholic Super
- First State Super
- HESTA
- HOSTPLUS
- NGS Super
- QSuper
- REST
- Sunsuper
- Telstra Super

The above features four new funds from last year's list, being First State Super, REST, Telstra Super and NGS Super. It is also the first time that First State Super and NGS Super have ever featured in the top 10 list. Funds are assessed on over 400 qualitative and quantitative criteria including: investments; fees; insurance; service delivery; member education; financial planning facilities; employer support; and fund governance.

Australia's Best Pension Funds also named

The top 5 pension funds have been named (in alphabetical order) as:

- BUSS(Q) Retirement Pension
- Catholic Super Allocated Pension
- First State Super Retirement Income Stream
- QSuper Pension Account
- Sunsuper Pension Option

Despite the Global Financial Crisis (“GFC”), it is interesting that the top 10 list continued to be dominated by industry funds, with the appearance this year of the state government based QSuper, the former government fund First State Super and the corporate fund Telstra Super also being named. Despite all funds suffering negative returns over the past two years, Managing Director of SuperRatings, Jeff Bresnahan said “whilst it is never good to see super funds suffer the losses they have over recent times, some funds have performed significantly better than others through the various investment cycles of the past five years. This strong relative investment performance, which in some cases reflects a differential of over 6% per annum between funds, combined with competitive fees and services, has led to consumers in the named funds enjoying results far ahead of many other funds. At this point industry funds continue to dominate our best value for money fund list. Clearly there are a number of retail funds that offer good value, however many funds, including some not-for-profit funds, have done little to assist Australians’ retirement savings during these turbulent times. It is interesting to note however, that the new product and most improved lists are in the majority, retail funds, which is indicative that the retail institutions continue to refine and develop their products in an attempt to claw back lost ground”.

Our additional reviews included looking at new product offerings to Australians and identifying those funds that had made material changes to their offerings to benefit consumers. Those funds identified in this part of the review were as follows:

Australia’s best new super products (alphabetical order)

- AMP Flexible Lifetime Super Easy
- Individuum
- Suncorp WealthSmart

Australia’s most improved funds during 2008/09 (alphabetical order)

- ASSET Super
- ESSSuper
- LGsuper
- MasterSuper
- OAMPS Super Fund

The total review itself covers over 450 different products, accounting for over \$500 billion and 15 million member accounts. It is the culmination of research that has been carried out every year over the past seven years to identify super funds that can deliver superior value for money to average Australians. The full list of results for all funds will be available next month.



All of the above mentioned funds make up the finalists for SuperRatings' major awards for 2010, the winners of which will be announced at SuperRatings 7th annual awards night, set down for October 13th in Melbourne. Aside from announcing the fund that has delivered the best value for money to members and hence allowing it to carry the prestigious SuperRatings' 2010 Fund of the Year award, this year SuperRatings will also name the Pension Fund of the Year in October, which has historically been announced at a later date. Like the SuperRatings Fund of the Year award, the SuperRatings Pension Fund of the Year rewards the fund that has provided the best value for money to its members across its investment performance, fee structure, features, functionality and flexibility. This change represents the rising importance of this sector of the retirement savings marketplace.

Some brief details on the other awards are as follows:

SuperRatings "Rising Star"

This award is provided to the fund that has demonstrated a clear commitment to improving the value of their offering to members over the past 12 months. All Australian superannuation funds are eligible irrespective of their current value proposition. The award is qualitatively based, using assessments of changes made to the fund over the past 12 months, predominately in the areas of service delivery, insurance benefits, fees and fund governance.

SuperRatings Best New Product

This award, introduced in 2005, is provided to the fund that has either entered the superannuation market for the first time or released a new product division. This qualitatively assessed award is given to the fund that has made a marked impact on the market through either innovation, fund inflows or simply by providing significantly better services to members than comparable funds within the industry. Products (or new divisions of existing funds) up to two years old are eligible.

RELEASE ENDS

ADDITIONAL RETURN AND DATABASE INFORMATION

We believe our database to be the largest in Australia dealing with multi-employer superannuation funds, where the great majority of Australians have their retirement benefits invested. We now update our website monthly to show the top 5 performing funds together with the medians over all time periods for the following investment options:

Balanced	Conservative Balanced
Growth	High Growth
Australian Shares	Secure
International Shares	Diversified Fixed Interest
Capital Stable	Cash
Property	

SUPERRATINGS

To encourage and where necessary create disclosure within the Superannuation industry.



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**More Info?? Simply go to our website
www.superratings.com.au**

Click on "Latest Investment Returns" to view the various tables. The "SuperRatings' Index" as shown in the tables is the median result of the largest funds. We welcome any Media enquiries regarding any of the information held on our database and where possible we will provide customised tables/graphs for your use.

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