

# MEDIA RELEASE

21 MAY 2009

## APRIL'S RECORD FIGHT BACK

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### Highlights (Median Fund)\*

The month of April 2009	▲ 3.06%
3 Months ending 30 April 2009	▲ 1.35%
Financial year to 30 April 2009	▼ 13.71%
12 months ended 30 April 2009	▼ 17.09%
Rolling 3 year return to 30 April 2009	▼ 2.66% pa
Rolling 5 year return to 30 April 2009	▲ 4.67% pa
Rolling 7 year return to 30 April 2009	▲ 4.78% pa
Rolling 10 year return to 30 April 2009	▲ 4.77% pa

\*Median Fund refers to "balanced" option with exposure to growth style assets of between 60% and 76%. Approximately 80% of Australians in our major super funds are invested in their fund's default investment option which in most cases is the balanced investment option. Returns are net of fees and tax.

Super funds staged a remarkable recovery in April with the SR50 Balanced Index posting the strongest 1 month return this millennium. Driven by a resurgent share market, the April result added to the positive month of March have dragged the financial year return back to -13.71% after reaching -18.32% at the end of February.

### "TIME-IN" IS NOT "TIMING"

The consecutive strong months reaffirm the risk for members in trying to time the market. When the investment market climate is uncertain, members may become nervous and simply switch into more conservative holdings, ignoring their long term investment goals. However it is important to take a long term view and the majority of members still have a good many years to claim their super. It has often been shown to be best to hold onto investments through periods of volatility and for those members that switched to Cash at the end of February, they have missed the 5%+ rebound. Further, in the case of the best performing option over the last 2 months, a staggering 12% would have been foregone.

With a little over a month left in the 2008/09 financial year, even a positive May and June will not prevent practically all superannuation members from incurring a second consecutive year of negative returns. However, as shown in the following tables, medium term results of super funds' key investment options remain sound with only International Share options recording a negative 5 year median result (-2.17% per annum). Australian Share options (+6.89% per annum); Growth options (+3.72% per annum) and Balanced options (+4.67% per annum) all recorded results which, given the current economic climate, could be considered as reasonable.

The best performing funds over the last 5 years are as follows:

## TOP 10 BALANCED INVESTMENT OPTIONS\* OVER LAST 5 YEARS

Fund and Option Description	5 years to 30 April 2009 per annum compound returns
1 Buss(Q) - Balanced Growth	+ 7.2 %
2 Catholic Super – Balanced	+ 6.5 %
3 HOSTPLUS – Balanced	+ 6.4 %
4 Cbus - Core Strategy	+ 6.2 %
5 MTAA Super – Balanced ^	+ 6.2 %
6 CareSuper – Balanced ^	+ 6.1 %
7 AustralianSuper - Balanced Option	+ 6.0 %
8 OSF Super – Mix 70	+ 6.0 %
9 Club Plus Super - Balanced Option	+ 6.0 %
10 UniSuper Accum (1) – Balanced	+ 5.7 %
Top Quartile	+ 5.4%
SuperRatings' Median Index	+ 4.7%
Bottom Quartile	+ 3.1%

\*Balanced Fund Options with between 60% and 76% of assets in growth style investments.  
All results are net of fees and tax. ^Interim Rate Returns.



## TOP 10 GROWTH INVESTMENT OPTIONS\* OVER LAST 5 YEARS

<b>Fund and Option Description</b>	<b>5 years to 30 April 2009 per annum compound returns</b>
1 HOSTPLUS – Shares Plus	+ 6.2 %
2 OSF Super – Mix 90	+ 6.2 %
3 UniSuper Accum (1) – Growth	+ 5.9 %
4 Catholic Super – Moderately Aggressive	+ 5.9 %
5 REST – Diversified	+ 5.8 %
6 REST – Core Strategy	+ 5.8 %
7 CareSuper – Growth ^	+ 5.1 %
8 ESI Super - Growth Option	+ 5.0 %
9 AustralianSuper – High Growth	+ 5.0 %
10 Media Super – Growth	+ 5.0 %
Top Quartile	+ 4.8 %
SuperRatings' Median Index	+ 3.7 %
Bottom Quartile	+ 2.1 %

\*Growth Fund Options with between 77% and 90% of assets in growth style investments.  
All results are net of fees and tax. ^Interim Rate Returns.



## TOP 10 AUSTRALIAN SHARES INVESTMENT OPTIONS\* OVER LAST 5 YEARS

<b>Fund and Option Description</b>	<b>5 years to 30 April 2009 per annum compound returns</b>
1 HOSTPLUS – Australian Shares	+ 8.6 %
2 REST – Australian Shares	+ 8.6 %
3 Catholic Super – Australian Shares	+ 8.3 %
4 Westscheme – Australian Shares	+ 8.0 %
5 Telstra Super Corp Plus – Australian Shares	+ 7.9 %
6 Mercer Super Trust – Mercer Australian Shares	+ 7.8 %
7 Intrust Core Super – Australian Shares	+ 7.7 %
8 AUSCOAL Super - Australian Shares	+ 7.7 %
9 CareSuper – Australian Shares ^	+ 7.6 %
10 ING Corp – ING Australian Shares	+ 7.6 %
Top Quartile	+ 7.5 %
SuperRatings' Median Index	+ 6.9 %
Bottom Quartile	+ 5.9 %

\* All results are net of fees and tax.



## TOP 10 INTERNATIONAL SHARES INVESTMENT OPTIONS\* OVER LAST 5 YEARS

<b>Fund and Option Description</b>	<b>5 years to 30 April 2009 per annum compound returns</b>
1 Hunter Hall - International Equity Portfolio	+ 2.4 %
2 NGS – International Shares	+ 1.5 %
3 HOSTPLUS – International Shares	+ 1.4 %
4 Catholic Super – Overseas Shares	+ 1.4 %
5 Telstra Super Corp Plus – International Shares	+ 1.4 %
6 REST – Overseas Shares	+ 0.8 %
7 CareSuper – Overseas Shares <sup>^</sup>	+ 0.6 %
8 AustralianSuper – International Shares	- 0.5 %
9 equisuper Corp - Overseas Shares	- 1.0 %
10 ESI Super - International Equities	- 1.2 %
Top Quartile	- 1.1%
SuperRatings' Median Index	- 2.2%
Bottom Quartile	- 3.4%

\* All results are net of fees and tax. <sup>^</sup>Interim Rate Returns.



The key issue for consumers is to not only understand why these differentials are occurring, but also to importantly understand the relativity of their own fund's returns. Or in short, understand how their fund's return compares against the comparable broader market. The table below reflects the effects of not only asset allocation but the range of returns for similar allocations within each option type by showing the highest and lowest results for the 12 months ended 30 April 2009 (taken from the respective SR Universe for each option):

Option Type	Highest	Top Quartile	Median	Bottom Quartile	Lowest
Balanced (60%-76% Growth)	- 11.5%	- 14.4%	- 17.1%	- 19.2%	- 24.9%
Growth (77%-90% Growth)	- 11.5%	- 18.1%	- 21.3%	- 24.5%	- 28.1%
Australian Shares	- 19.0%	- 23.1%	- 24.6%	- 26.0%	- 30.4%
International Shares	- 17.4%	- 22.0%	- 24.4%	- 28.8%	- 34.1%
Capital Stable	- 0.5%	- 3.9%	- 6.0%	- 8.4%	- 15.4%
Property	1.1%	- 9.8%	- 38.5%	- 48.6%	- 54.2%
Cash	7.0%	5.3%	4.7%	3.8%	1.5%

**Other key results in respect of the rolling three year results to 30 April 2009 include:**

Growth Options SuperRatings Index	- 5.0% p.a.
Australian Share Options SuperRatings Index	- 5.3% p.a.
International Share Options SuperRatings Index	- 11.1% p.a.
Property Options SuperRatings Index	- 10.9% p.a.
Capital Stable Options SuperRatings Index	+ 0.9% p.a.
Cash Options SuperRatings Index	+ 4.9% p.a.

**Other key results in respect of the rolling five year results to 30 April 2009 include:**

Growth Option SuperRatings Index	+ 3.7% p.a.
Australian Share Option SuperRatings Index	+ 6.9% p.a.
International Share Option SuperRatings Index	- 2.2% p.a.
Property Option SuperRatings Index	- 2.8% p.a.
Capital Stable Option SuperRatings Index	+ 4.5% p.a.
Cash Option SuperRatings Index	+ 4.8% p.a.

## 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	

RELEASE ENDS

## 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](http://www.superratings.com.au)

Click on "Latest Investment Returns" to view the various tables. The website will be updated with all 30 April results this week. 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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