

# Pro-D High Growth Fund

Fund Update  
30 September 2023

The Pro-D High Growth Fund is a cost-effective and diversified investment solution with a strategic asset allocation of 95% Growth assets and 5% Defensive assets. Combining the expertise of Farrelly Research & Management and Australian Unity, the Fund seeks to improve the tax-effectiveness of returns by investing across a range of active and indexed investment strategies. The Fund aims to deliver post-fee returns in excess of inflation plus 4.25% per annum over rolling five-year periods.

## Performance as at 30 September 2023

	1 mth %	3 mths %	1 yr %	3 yrs % p.a.	5 yrs % p.a.	7 yrs % p.a.	10 yrs % p.a.	Since inception % p.a.
Distribution return	0.00	0.00	5.98	7.60	6.08	7.18	7.39	7.32
Growth return	(3.11)	(0.99)	7.07	0.92	(0.35)	0.39	0.19	1.01
Fund total return	(3.11)	(0.99)	13.05	8.52	5.73	7.57	7.58	8.33
Target return	0.62	1.88	9.22	9.32	7.98	7.65	7.36	7.39
Excess return	(3.73)	(2.87)	3.83	(0.80)	(2.25)	(0.08)	0.22	0.94

Returns are calculated after fees and expenses and assume the reinvestment of distributions.

The target return objective is the Consumer Price Index, all groups, weighted average of 8 capital cities plus 5% p.a., until 31 March 2020 and 4.25% p.a. from 1 April 2020, and is an estimate only. It is based on the most recently released quarterly data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics, which typically lags by up to three months. No guarantee or assurance is provided as to the achievement of this target. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance.

Inception date for performance calculations is 31 December 2012.

## Fund returns

Share markets declined in September as investors digested the potential inflationary implications of a surging crude oil price (+6.9% for the month), along with brinkmanship from US lawmakers regarding the Government's funding bill. The European Central Bank raised rates by 0.25% to 4.0% while other major global central banks including the Reserve Bank of Australia kept rates on hold during the month.

The Australian share market declined (-2.9%) in September: the Healthcare and Technology sectors slumped while Energy stocks saw gains, buoyed by higher oil prices. A-REITs declined sharply (-8.7%) for the month. Currency-hedged international equities fell (-3.8%) and currency-unhedged international equities returned (-4.0%) as the Australian dollar gained against the Euro and Yen but fell against the US dollar.

The Australian 10-year government bond yield jumped by 0.46% to 4.49% pa and the US 10-year government bond yield rose by 0.46% to close at 4.57% pa.

Against this backdrop, the Fund declined (-3.1%) for the month. Most investment exposures declined in value, with only the AU Healthcare Property Trust and the Fund's defensive assets achieving positive returns for the month. The Fund's one-year return sits at +13.1%, with double-digit gains on its Australian and international share exposures the key contributors to returns.

The Fund has achieved solid returns over longer periods. The return since inception is a comfortably above objective (currently inflation + 4.25% pa), despite the impacts of COVID's emergence in 2020 and share and bond market losses which preceded central

bank rate rises to counter high inflation. Over the past five years the Fund's strongest contributors include the Australian Unity Healthcare Property Trust at +15.2% pa, iShares Indexed International Equity Fund (Unhedged) at +10.1% pa, and the Antipodes Global Fund at +7.7% pa.

## Fund portfolio management

The Fund trimmed its direct property and international equity exposures during the month, using a portion of the sales proceeds to pay client redemptions.

At month-end, the Fund's positioning can be summarised as:

**Australian shares** – The Fund expects to achieve a solid return premium versus risk-free assets over the medium-to-long term, bolstered by franking credits. We maintain a slight overweight exposure, holding a blend of underlying managers that provide diversification across company size, industry exposure and investment styles, to improve the consistency of returns.

**International shares** – We believe most global share markets offer strong long-term returns for the risk being adopted. US equities remain the exception – we see the largest companies (in particular) as expensive and at risk of poor performance in coming years, and therefore maintain an underweight exposure to this market.

**Real assets** – The different return drivers for real assets versus listed equities provide diversification benefits for investors. We currently prefer listed assets, as these currently trade at discount to direct/unlisted assets and have greater liquidity.

**Defensive assets** – Credit spreads offer adequate compensation for the risk being assumed. Accordingly, the Fund holds a range of international credit managers.

**Outlook**

Investors are keenly focused on global central banks' efforts to control inflation through tighter monetary policy without sending economies and vulnerable industries into recession. We believe most central banks are nearing the end of the current tightening cycle given signs of moderating inflation in recent months.

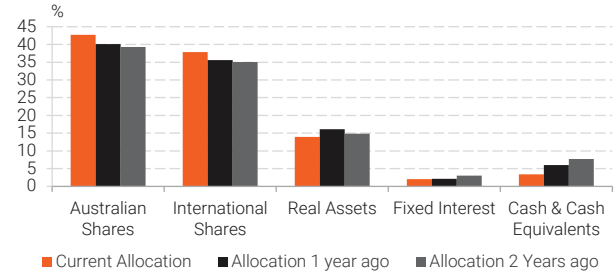
On a medium- to long term view most growth assets (with the notable exception of US shares) continue to offer an attractive return premium versus risk-free assets, leading the Fund to adopt a "neutral" overall risk position.

**Fund snapshot**

APIR code	AUS0064AU
Funds under management	\$19.81m
Distribution frequency	Half yearly
Minimum initial investment	\$5,000
Entry/exit fee	Nil
Management fee*	0.75%
Buy/Sell spread	0.10%/0.10%
Advice fee	Available

\*Refer to the Fund's Product Disclosure Statement for more details on the Fund's management costs which also include recoverable expenses and indirect costs. Total management costs may vary.

**Asset allocation over time**



**Manager allocation**

Fund Manager	Range %	Approach	%
<b>Growth</b>	<b>0-100</b>		<b>94.51</b>
<b>Australian Shares</b>	<b>0-100</b>		<b>42.70</b>
iShares		Index	28.83
Investors Mutual		Small Caps	4.24
Lennox		Small Caps	4.07
Tyndall		Large Value	3.78
Platypus		Large/Mid Growth	1.78
<b>International Shares</b>	<b>0-100</b>		<b>37.83</b>
iShares		Index Global	12.04
Vanguard		Index excl. USA	11.22
iShares		Index Unhedged	10.00
Antipodes		Concentrated	2.34
State Street		Value / Quality	2.22
<b>Real Assets</b>	<b>0-100</b>		<b>13.98</b>
iShares		Index Global Infra.	5.89
Australian Unity		Healthcare Property	3.46
iShares		Index A-REITS	3.20
Australian Unity		Hybrid Property	1.44
<b>Defensive</b>	<b>0-100</b>		<b>5.49</b>
<b>Fixed Interest</b>	<b>0-100</b>		<b>2.09</b>
Barings		Global Non-Govt IG	0.84
Pimco		Global Non-Govt IG	0.64
Bentham		Global High Yield Loans	0.61
<b>Cash &amp; Cash Equivalents</b>	<b>0-100</b>		<b>3.40</b>
Australian Unity		Cash	3.40

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**Important Information**

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