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AustralianSuper members see another year of strong returns

Balanced Option produces its ninth consecutive year of positive returns -
fifth year in six of double digit returns

AustralianSuper's Balanced Option has returned 11.08% for the 2017-18 financial year and 9.3% per annum over three years.

Strong returns across the Fund's diversified portfolio resulted in the Balanced Option, where 90 per cent of members invest their money, producing its ninth consecutive year of positive returns. It is the fifth year in six that AustralianSuper has delivered double digit returns for members.

The result of 11.08% compares favourably with projections that the median return will be 9.2% for the year.* AustralianSuper's Balanced Option has returned 10.51% pa over five years and 9.3% pa over three years.

Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Investment Officer, Mark Delaney, said the drivers of performance for the Balanced Option were a high allocation to listed equity markets, along with an underweight allocation to the lower returning defensive asset classes such as fixed income and cash.

'Stable global growth has supported markets across asset classes and as a result AustralianSuper members have seen another year of very impressive returns,' Mr Delaney said.

However, Mr Delaney cautioned that members should always be focused on longer-term results as fluctuations in returns are expected.

'The Fund has seen a prolonged period of very strong growth but we know that at some point in the future markets will be more subdued,' he said.

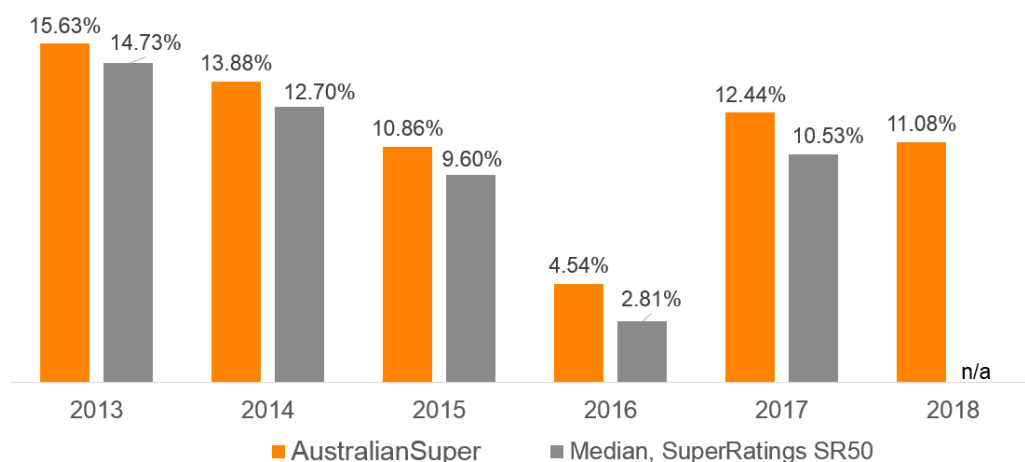
'We will be keeping an eye on key policy makers, particularly the US Federal Reserve in relation to interest rates while also monitoring any action in relation to tariffs or other measures which may affect global trade.

'AustralianSuper's aim will continue to be maintaining a widely diversified portfolio and actively managing it in order to provide stable long-term returns for members.'

Mr Delaney said the prolonged resilience of global markets has gone against what may have been expected.

'In a similar scenario to last year, global political uncertainty and increased trade protectionism did not have a sustained negative affect on markets.'

AustralianSuper Balanced option returns since 2013



Source: AustralianSuper, Superannuation investment returns for financial years to 30 June.

About AustralianSuper

AustralianSuper manages around \$140 billion of members' retirement savings on behalf of more than 2.2 million members from around 270,000 businesses. One in 10 working Australians is a member of AustralianSuper, the nation's largest superannuation fund.

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* AustralianSuper investment returns are net of investment related fees and costs and taxes, but do not include the impact of administration fees that are deducted from member's account balances. The Chant West projection is for the median growth fund (61-80%).

Investment returns are not guaranteed. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future returns.

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