

Weekly Market Performance and Commentary to Thursday 2nd April 2020

Market Performance

- Over the week* to 2nd April, markets continued to be volatile and showed no clear direction with most markets rising one day only to fall again the next and back up again the day after that.
- Over the week we saw the markets perform in the following way:
 - Australian equities **up 6.4%**
 - US equities **down 0.5%**
 - International equities (local currency) **up 0.2%**
 - International equities (\$A hedged) **down 0.7%**
 - Australian bonds **up 0.8%**
 - International Bonds (\$A hedged) **up 0.2%**
 - Australian Cash with a flat return of 0.0%
- This means NESS Options like High Growth, MySuper, Australian Shares, Aggressive, Assertive and Moderate did well as Australian equities performed better than bonds and cash.
- Options which have more bond and cash assets such as Stable, Cautious and Conservative still had positive performed but did not do as well as the Options mentioned above.
- This week's crediting rate now includes performance up until the most recent Monday (30th March) which includes the positive returns we saw from markets last week.
- In Australia, there are early indications that containment measures (implemented by the government) are working and the government has indicated lockdown measures will continue to be in place until at least 30 June.
- To help Australians get through this difficult period, the Australian government announced a range of financial support measures over the week including a JobKeeper payment which will give \$1500 per fortnight to those individuals eligible and free childcare for eligible families (especially those in essential services).

	Week to 2 April*	Month to Date	Calendar Year to Date
Australian Equities	6.4%	1.5%	-23.2%
US Equities	-0.5%	-2.2%	-21.6%
International Equities (local currency)	0.2%	-1.3%	-11.9%
International Equities (\$A Hedged)	-0.7%	-2.3%	-23.4%
Australian Bonds	0.8%	0.1%	3.1%
International Bonds	0.2%	0.1%	1.3%
Australian Cash	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%

*The week to 2nd April covers the period from Monday 30th March to Thursday 2nd April (4 trading days)