

Weekly Market Performance and Commentary to Thursday 9th April 2020

Market Performance

- All asset classes except Australian bonds was up for the week to Thursday 9th April. Markets continue to be volatile but less volatile than it was in March.
- Over the week we saw the markets perform in the following way:
 - Australian equities **up 6.4%**
 - US equities **up 7.0%**
 - International equities (local currency) **up 5.2%**
 - International equities (\$A hedged) **up 9.9%**
 - Australian bonds **down 0.7%**
 - International Bonds (\$A hedged) **up 0.3%**
 - Australian Cash with a flat return of 0.0%
- All NESS Options had positive returns for the week driven by positive performance in equity markets globally and in Australia.
- Options which have more exposure to equities such as High Growth, MySuper, Aggressive and Assertive did better than Options which have more exposure towards bonds and cash.
- Over the week, several stimulus measures were announced around the world:
 - the US Federal Reserve announced more programs that could add \$2.3trillion of stimulus to the US economy.
 - European finance ministers agreed to a \$500billion euro package.
 - The Japanese government announced a fiscal stimulus package equal to 20% of gross domestic product.
- In Australia, signs of the Coronavirus being contained are appearing as the number of new daily infections for the past three days have fallen to single digits and shows containment measures to flatten the curve are having an effect.
- Globally, the United States took over Italy in having the highest coronavirus-related death toll in the world (over 23,000). Reports are saying that the Coronavirus outbreak in the United States could peak this week but this remains to be seen. A further 6.6million people filed for unemployment in the United States in the past week and indicative numbers suggest the unemployment rate may be around 15%.

	Week to 9 April*	Month to Date	Calendar Year to Date
Australian Equities	6.4%	6.2%	-19.6%
US Equities	7.0%	3.4%	-17.6%
International Equities (local currency)	5.2%	3.0%	-7.0%
International Equities (\$A Hedged)	9.9%	5.9%	-16.2%
Australian Bonds	-0.7%	-0.7%	2.3%
International Bonds	0.3%	0.5%	1.7%
Australian Cash	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%

* Week to 9 April covers the 4 days from Monday 6th April to Thursday 9th April