



MEDIA RELEASE

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BEST AUSTRALIAN SUPER FUNDS ANNOUNCED

After analysing more than 300 superannuation products and over 150 pension products, Australia's leading independent super research firm, SuperRatings, has announced the top Australian funds for both people trying to accumulate their super and for those already in retirement.

Despite being faced with ongoing challenges, including government reform and uncertain investment markets, SuperRatings concluded from its research that the majority of funds continue to improve their range of services and their overall value for money, resulting in a gradual but definitely improving financial position for Australians when it comes to retirement adequacy. The research is the most comprehensive undertaken each year, reviewing super funds with over \$900 billion in assets and affecting over 22 million members' accounts.

As a result of the research, conducted over the past five months, SuperRatings has named REST Industry Super as the best value for money fund in Australia. In naming REST as the best fund, SuperRatings looked for a fund that offered the strongest end-to-end solution, covering both the accumulation and pension phases. Areas reviewed included in-depth analysis of funds' Investments, Fees, Insurance, Administration, Advice and Governance.

SuperRatings' CEO Nathan MacPhee said "Whilst many funds continue to improve their offerings, REST Industry Super stood out as a fund that had provided its almost 1.9 million members with extremely strong long term investment returns and competitive fees. This was well supported by additional services including solid administration and governance, complemented by strong education and advice strategies, which are helping to increase knowledge and engagement amongst its membership base of mainly younger Australians."

Having introduced the rating of super funds to the industry some 11 years ago, SuperRatings' founder, Jeff Bresnahan, commented "The good news for Australians is that super funds continue to improve their offerings to members. In the past twelve months we have seen average fees reduce and the third highest investment return since the introduction of compulsory super way back in 1992. Mainstream superannuation funds are, more than ever, delivering better value for money to everyday Australians who rely on them to accumulate their retirement benefits".

The research also isolated the best funds for the accumulation of superannuation assets and those for the drawdown of monies in the retirement phase. SuperRatings top rated fund in each of the three key segments were:

Best Overall Fund: **REST Industry Super**

One of Australia's largest not for profit funds with over 1.9 million members and over \$27 billion in assets

Best Fund for Accumulation phase: **Telstra Super Fund** (see top 10 on page 2)

Australia's largest corporate super fund with over 100,000 members and \$13.5bn in funds under management

Best Fund for Retirement/Pension phase: **REST Industry Super** (see top 10 on page 2)

One of Australia's largest not for profit funds with over 1.9 million members and over \$27 billion in assets

The top 10 funds for the accumulation phase, reviewed from a universe of some 300 products were:

Top 10 Funds Accumulation (alphabetical order)
AustralianSuper
CareSuper
Catholic Super
First State Super
HESTA Super
HOSTPLUS
QSuper
REST Industry Super
Sunsuper
Telstra Super – highest rated

The top 10 funds for the retirement/pension phase, reviewed from a universe of some 150 products were:

Top 10 Funds Retirement/Pension (alphabetical order)
AUSCOAL Super
AustralianSuper
BUSSQ
Catholic Super
Club Plus
HOSTPLUS
QSuper
REST Allocated Pension – highest rated
Russell Private Active Pension
Sunsuper Pension



Best New Product – SUNCORP EVERYDAY SUPER

In what confirms SuperRatings' view that the industry continues to evolve, a large number of new and innovative products were brought to market in the past year. **Suncorp Everyday Super** was named as the most innovative product, providing a suite of lifestage investment options, strong member education and advice tools, stapled with seamless online banking integration. **CBA Essential Super**, **MTAA Super RetireSafe** and **QSuper's Guaranteed Term Annuity** were also highly commended for their innovation and value.

Most Improvements/Rising Star – RETIREMENT BENEFITS FUND

SuperRatings research also identified funds that had done the most to improve value for money delivered to members over the past year, but who sit outside the top 10 funds in terms of overall value.

Retirement Benefits Fund was rated as the leading fund in this assessment, with improvements in member value driven by reduced fees, improved insurance costs and structures and reviewed administration arrangements. **Kinetic Super**, **Qantas Super** and **VicSuper** were also highly commended for the improvements made to their funds.

Fast Mover – ING DIRECT LIVING SUPER

The fund which recorded the largest natural increase in Funds Under Management (FUM) over the last twelve months was **ING DIRECT's Living Super**. Since its launch in August 2012, ING DIRECT Living Super has attracted over 17,000 members and almost \$500 million in FUM. This early success is a testament to ING DIRECT's unique value proposition and strong engagement with members.

SuperRatings' 10 Year Platinum Award Winners

SuperRatings also acknowledged those funds that have achieved and maintained our highest Platinum rating for 10 consecutive years. Four funds achieved this status last year, with **CareSuper**, **Equip Super**, **HOSTPLUS** and **UniSuper** added to this exclusive group in 2014. Only 5% of funds SuperRatings reviews have held a Platinum rating for 10 consecutive years.

RELEASE ENDS

For more information please call

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About SuperRatings

SuperRatings Pty Ltd ABN: 95 100 192 283 AFSL 311800 (SuperRatings) is a superannuation research house with specialist areas of expertise, that was originally established in 2002. From 1 July 2011, SuperRatings became a fully owned subsidiary of the entity currently registered as Lonsec Fiscal Holdings Pty Ltd, a privately owned and independent entity with a multi-brand strategy of providing leading financial services research and investment execution.

SuperRatings believes that professional financial advisers need informed opinions on the best superannuation and pension financial products to provide real value for their clients. To meet this need, SuperRatings has in place an experienced research team, which draws on a robust research process to undertake in-depth assessment of superannuation financial products. No fee is paid by superannuation and pension funds to SuperRatings for reviewing and rating superannuation and pension financial products.

Jeff Bresnahan, Founder

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