

Suncorp Superannuation



Understanding Investment Risk

Issued 21 February 2020

The information in this document forms part of the Suncorp Everyday Super Product Disclosure Statement issued 21 February 2020.

Investing in super carries various levels of risk. The level of investment risk varies for each person depending on things like their age, how long they plan to keep their investment for, what other investments they may have, and their own tolerance for risk.

As a general rule, investment options with higher exposure to risk will provide higher potential returns. By the same token, investment options with lower exposure to risk will provide lower potential returns.

What's important is to understand that:

- The value of your investments (and thus your super account balance) may go up or down.
- Investment performance is not guaranteed, which means you could lose some or all of your money.
- Investment returns will vary. Just because an investment has done well in the past doesn't necessarily mean it will do well in future.
- Laws affecting super (such as superannuation, taxation and social security laws) may change.
- Different strategies may carry different levels of risk, depending on the assets (such as cash, fixed interest, shares etc) that make up the strategy.

There are several ways you can learn about and manage investment risk:

- **Reduce risk via diversification.** The most common way to reduce your risk is by diversification, or 'not putting all your eggs in one basket'.
- Take a look at the **Product Guide** which goes into more detail on risk. Or if you prefer, you can give us a call to discuss.
- Check out the latest **Standard Risk Measures** in this flyer which help you compare the riskiness of each of our investment options.

What is the Standard Risk Measure?

The Standard Risk Measure (SRM) is a calculation based on industry guidance that will let you compare investment options that are expected to deliver a similar number of negative annual returns over any 20-year period. But to keep things simple, we then give each investment option a risk band (1 being the lowest risk and 7 being the highest) and label.

The SRM is just one way of measuring risk and is not a complete assessment of all types of risk. For example, it doesn't measure what the size of a negative return could be, or the impact of fees or tax. Nor does it take into account the impact of the administration fee or any part of the management fee that is not paid to an investment manager. You should still ensure you're comfortable with the risks and potential losses associated with your chosen investment option(s) before you make a decision.

This next table shows the different SRMs:

Risk band	Risk label	Estimated number of negative annual returns over any 20-year period
1	Very Low	Less than 0.5
2	Low	0.5 to less than 1
3	Low to medium	1 to less than 2
4	Medium	2 to less than 3
5	Medium to high	3 to less than 4
6	High	4 to less than 6
7	Very high	6 or greater

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Standard Risk Measure calculation methodology

We calculate our SRMs by forecasting long-term investment class return, risk (**volatility**) and correlations (correlation just means how different things relate to each other). This is technically termed a 'mean-variance model'.

Using the returns, risk and correlation measures for each individual investment class, as well as the strategic asset allocation (that's its long-term target investment mix) of each investment option, we can forecast the investment option's total risk and return characteristics. We can then model the risk of each investment option having a negative return over a 20-year period.

This next table shows the SRM for each investment option.

Investment option	Risk band	Risk label	Estimated number of negative annual returns over any 20-year period
Suncorp Lifestage Funds			
Suncorp Lifestage Fund 1949 or earlier*	4	Medium	2 to less than 3
Suncorp Lifestage Fund 1950-1954 *	4	Medium	2 to less than 3
Suncorp Lifestage Fund 1955-1959*	4	Medium	2 to less than 3
Suncorp Lifestage Fund 1960-1964 *	5	Medium to high	3 to less than 4
Suncorp Lifestage Fund 1965-1969*	5	Medium to high	3 to less than 4
Suncorp Lifestage Fund 1970-1974*	5	Medium to high	3 to less than 4
Suncorp Lifestage Fund 1975-1979*	6	High	4 to less than 6
Suncorp Lifestage Fund 1980-1984*	6	High	4 to less than 6
Suncorp Lifestage Fund 1985-1989*	6	High	4 to less than 6
Suncorp Lifestage Fund 1990-1994*	6	High	4 to less than 6
Suncorp Lifestage Fund 1995-1999*	6	High	4 to less than 6
Suncorp Lifestage Fund 2000-2009*	6	High	4 to less than 6
Diversified Investment Options			
Cash			
Suncorp Cash Fund	1	Very Low	Less than 0.5
Australian fixed interest			
Suncorp Australian Fixed Interest Fund	5	Medium to high	3 to less than 4
International property			
Suncorp Global Property Index Fund*	6	High	4 to less than 6
Australian shares			
Suncorp Australian Shares Index Fund	6	High	4 to less than 6
International shares			
Suncorp International Shares Fund*	6	High	4 to less than 6

* The SRM for this investment option was provided by the investment manager.

[We're always happy to help](#)

If there's anything else you'd like to know, our contact details are below. We'll be happy to help.

[How to contact us](#)

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This flyer, prepared on 21 February 2020 provides a summary of the key Standard Risk Measure information you need to make a decision. It includes references to additional information that is part of the relevant Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) which is material incorporated by reference.

The information in this flyer is general information only and doesn't take into account your personal objectives, financial situation or needs. Before making a decision, you should consider the information in the PDS and should obtain financial advice tailored to your personal circumstances. 31105 21/02/20 A