

1.1 About Mason Stevens Asset Management

MSAM is the investment management arm of the Mason Stevens Group. MSAM was established to provide investors with the opportunity to access professionally managed investment strategies and funds that are typically reserved for institutions and professional investors. MSAM works with a range of clients including financial advisers, financial intermediaries, family offices and selected wholesale investors in the delivery of tailored investment solutions. MSAM's management team has many years of senior management and transactional experience in the banking, finance and investment sectors, spanning multiple business cycles and across a range of asset classes, combined with a track record of successfully managing their own wealth. For information on the Mason Stevens' investment management team, please visit the Mason Stevens website at masonstevens.com.au/about-us/meet-the-investment-specialists/



2.1 Investment Philosophy

The investment philosophy for the strategy is founded on the following principles:

- » Evidence-based Decision Making: Utilise a rigorous, data-driven, and systematic approach to identify and evaluate investment opportunities across asset classes, geographies, and industries. Seeking to limit behavioural biases in decision making to increase the likelihood of success.
- » Diversification: Diversifying investments across private and public markets, geographies, and asset classes remains a constant in high quality portfolio construction. Ensuring true diversification on a lookthrough basis is a specific focus in their portfolio analytics.
- » Wisdom of Crowds: MSAM believe that a combination of multiple, educated, and independent judgments is more accurate than using a single, individual expert. This is not to advocate for following the crowd, but rather that getting a diversity of high-quality views will statistically reduce their risk of forecast error.
- » Active and Passive Management: MSAM believe both active and passive managers can play a significant role in how they implement portfolios. They will only use active managers where they have been able to identify a manager's clear competitive advantage and evidence of the ability to produce superior riskadjusted alpha over time.
- » Portfolio construction and risk management: MSAM use a modular approach when constructing portfolios. Risk management principles are embedded in all aspects of active management. The investment process starts with a robust Strategic Asset Allocation construction methodology utilising MSAM's Wisdom of Crowds approach in deriving MSAM's Capital Market Assumptions (CMA). This continues with a robust Dynamic Asset Allocation process which considers the state of the business cycle, valuation, and sentiment/technical indicators. Within asset classes, MSAM's manager selection process involves proprietary quantitative and qualitative assessments for each candidate investment opportunity. Finally, MSAM's portfolios are carefully structured to ensure diversification and consistency with the probabilities associated with their macro-economic outlook.
- » Responsible Investing: MSAM believe it is important to consider Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) factors as key components of the investment process, through the lens of risk management. Where an ESG approach maintains a high degree of diversification, it has been shown to reduce risk and enhance returns over the longer term.

2.2 Investment process

a) Strategic Asset Allocation

The SAA process has been built by MSAM, and begins with the formulation of Capital Market Assumptions which are then used to develop the long-term SAA weights.

A Wisdom of Crowds approach is taken to generate expected return and volatility forecasts. MSAM will leverage the following external providers to obtain their capital market assumptions which will form a basis for MSAM's SAA model, the list of asset managers is not exhaustive:

- » Lonsec
- » Blackrock
- » JP Morgan Asset Management
- » AQR
- » Callan
- » PGIM
- » Northern Trust
- » State Street
- » Invesco

The forecasts of the external providers are combined by taking the median of the forecast values. This is done for both the expected returns and the volatilities. For asset correlations MSAM use long-run (10-year) estimates sourced from Lonsec.

The SAA portfolio construction process uses a constrained mean-variance optimisation model to produce model portfolio weights across the range of available asset classes. The objective of the portfolio construction process is to produce a portfolio with a maximised return/ risk trade-off, subject to a set of constraints including a global constraint defining how much of the model portfolio exposure is allocated to growth assets and asset class constraints that provide a lower bound for cash, and the ratio of Australian to International Fixed Income exposure.

The complete list of constraints is:

- » Exposures must add to 100% (no leverage).
- » No short selling (long-only portfolio).
- » Growth asset exposure constrained (progressively) from 0% to 98% of the model portfolio. This produces an efficient frontier of models that can be mapped to various risk appetites.



- » Individual asset class minimum weight constraints are included in the model construction process to ensure final models are investable, e.g., the minimum exposure to Cash equals 2% of each portfolio, and for models with allocations to growth assets of 50% and above, MSAM set a minimum exposure of 5% to Infrastructure and Property. For the Fixed Income assets, MSAM set a constraint that ensures Australian Fixed Income assets represent a minimum of 40% of the exposure to Fixed Income assets overall. The construction process generates the following efficient frontier.
- » Ongoing Review: All DAA positions are reviewed weekly by the Investment Management team and formally monthly via MSAM's Investment Committee.

b) Dynamic Asset Allocation

MSAM's Dynamic Asset Allocation process is utilised when returns and/or risk in markets or a particular asset class are materially different than long-run expectations. These shorter-term views are typically expected to play out over a 6-month – 2-year time horizon. The key pillars of our DAA process are:

- » **Market Regime:** The direction of both inflation and growth have a material influence on how asset classes and sectors perform over the short-medium term. In identifying which inflation and growth regime the market is moving into MSAM look to increase/decrease the overall growth/defensive allocation as well as exposures to particular asset classes.
- » **Valuation:** Identifying extremes in valuations further refines MSAM's asset allocation. Considering a range of valuations metrics from both a relative and absolute level informs overweight and underweight positioning.
- » **Technicals and Sentiment:** MSAM consider a range of technical and sentiment indicators to better understand short-term market dynamics and precision with their trade implementation.

c) Manager Selection

The manager selection process seeks to identify high quality active managers with strong track records of alpha generation and/or risk mitigation. This process also looks to identify suitable ETF managers to help implement the best investment outcome possible.

Due diligence process for manager selection will have 3 main components:

1. External research house screen
2. Quant screen for performance and risk metrics
3. Manager meeting:

Managers will receive an aggregated score based on these 3 main components which will be used to determine whether the MSAM will buy, sell or hold. Any manager that is put forward for consideration to be added into the portfolio will need to be agreed upon by the MSAM Investment Committee. A full research note will be prepared and presented to the MSAM Investment Committee when this occurs.

d) Portfolio construction

Within each asset class the investment goal is to maximise risk-adjusted return against the relevant benchmark. For each investment that will be considered for addition into the portfolio, MSAM will produce forecasted return and volatility figures, which will then be used as inputs into the optimisation process to arrive at the final portfolio weights.

Important Information on Derivatives

You should be aware that the Investment Sub-Adviser may use an investment strategy that utilises derivatives within one or more of the Managed Portfolios outlined below. If you are a retail client as defined by the Corporations Act you must be given a Statement of Advice from your financial adviser which covers the features, costs and risks of investing in products that may use derivatives. Please refer to the Investment Risks section of this document for further information on derivatives and margining risks.

Where ASX-listed Exchange Traded Options (ETOs) are used you should read the Product Disclosure Document (PDS) issued by the relevant broker or clearing house. The PDS is an important document that is designed to assist you in deciding whether the use of ETOs are appropriate to your circumstances and further highlights the potential risks associated with investing. The MDA Provider is not the issuer of the PDS and a copy of the PDS can be obtained from your financial adviser. Additional information on ASX-listed derivatives, including warrants, can be found on the ASX website at www.asx.com.au. For derivatives listed on international exchanges or Over-the-Counter (OTC) products please consult your financial adviser for copies of any relevant disclosure documentation.



2.4 Portfolio Parameters

Mason Stevens Foundation ETF Conservative Managed Portfolios

Feature	Description																											
Portfolio Name	Mason Stevens Foundation ETF Conservative Managed Portfolios																											
Investment Sub-Advisor	Mason Stevens Asset Management																											
Inception Date	September 2023																											
Investment objective	Focus on capital preservation and reducing downside risk.																											
Investment Strategy and Approach	To achieve the stated investment objective through diversified exposure to a mix growth and defensive assets.																											
Benchmark Return	RBA Cash Rate + 2%																											
Target Return	RBA Cash Rate + 2%																											
Minimum number of securities	5																											
Maximum number of securities	30																											
Asset Allocation	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Allocation range</th> <th>Target</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Australian Equities</td> <td>4% - 34%</td> <td>19%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>International Equities</td> <td>0% - 30%</td> <td>15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Australian Fixed Income</td> <td>17% - 47%</td> <td>32%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>International Fixed Income</td> <td>11% - 41%</td> <td>26%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alternatives</td> <td>0% - 10%</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Property</td> <td>0% - 15%</td> <td>0%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Infrastructure</td> <td>0% - 21%</td> <td>6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cash (minimum 2% cash)</td> <td>2% - 17%</td> <td>2%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Allocation range	Target	Australian Equities	4% - 34%	19%	International Equities	0% - 30%	15%	Australian Fixed Income	17% - 47%	32%	International Fixed Income	11% - 41%	26%	Alternatives	0% - 10%	0%	Property	0% - 15%	0%	Infrastructure	0% - 21%	6%	Cash (minimum 2% cash)	2% - 17%	2%
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Alternatives	0% - 10%	0%																										
Property	0% - 15%	0%																										
Infrastructure	0% - 21%	6%																										
Cash (minimum 2% cash)	2% - 17%	2%																										
Investment universe	ETFs, Listed Managed Funds, Cash																											
Maximum single security or fund weighting	30%																											
Minimum suggested timeframe	2 years+																											
Minimum initial investment \$	\$25,000																											
Minimum additional investment \$	\$10,000																											
Minimum withdrawal	\$10,000																											
Rebalance frequency	Investment Sub-Advisor discretion																											
Investment manager fee	0.15%																											
Indirect Cost Ratio	Up to 0.30%																											
Performance fee	Nil																											



Mason Stevens Foundation ETF Balanced Managed Portfolio

Feature	Description																											
Portfolio Name	Mason Stevens Foundation ETF Balanced Managed Portfolio																											
Investment Sub-Advisor	Mason Stevens Asset Management																											
Inception Date	September 2023																											
Investment objective	Focus on capital growth potential.																											
Investment Strategy and Approach	To achieve the stated investment objective through diversified exposure to a mix growth and defensive assets.																											
Benchmark Return	RBA Cash Rate + 2.5%																											
Target Return	RBA Cash Rate + 2.5%																											
Minimum number of securities	5																											
Maximum number of securities	30																											
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Infrastructure	0% - 21%	6%																										
Cash (minimum 2% cash)	2% - 17%	2%																										
Investment universe	ETFs, Listed Managed Funds, Cash																											
Maximum single security or fund weighting	30%																											
Minimum suggested timeframe	3 years+																											
Minimum initial investment \$	\$25,000																											
Minimum additional investment \$	\$10,000																											
Minimum withdrawal	\$10,000																											
Rebalance frequency	Investment Sub-Advisor discretion																											
Investment manager fee	0.15%																											
Indirect Cost Ratio	Up to 0.30%																											
Performance fee	Nil																											



Mason Stevens Foundation ETF Growth Managed Portfolio

Feature	Description																											
Portfolio Name	Mason Stevens Foundation ETF Growth Managed Portfolio																											
Investment Sub-Advisor	Mason Stevens Asset Management																											
Inception Date	September 2023																											
Investment objective	Focus on capital growth with emphasis on identifying and taking advantage of emerging sector thematic.																											
Investment Strategy and Approach	To achieve the stated investment objective through diversified exposure to a mix growth and defensive assets.																											
Benchmark Return	RBA Cash Rate + 3.5%																											
Target Return	RBA Cash Rate + 3.5%																											
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Before you make an investment decision, it is important that you understand the risks that can affect your investment. You must be prepared for the risk that your investment does not meet your investment objectives or you lose money on your investment.

Specific investment risks apply to all investments that may have an effect on the value of your Investment Option. The risks of investing in the Investment Options may include, but are not limited to, the following factors:

- » Market Risk – Unexpected conditions (i.e. economic, technological or political) can have a negative impact on the returns of all investments within a particular market. General movements in local and international stock markets, prevailing and anticipated economic conditions, investor sentiment, interest rates and exchange rates could all affect the value of listed securities and the investment returns.
- » Company or security specific risk – Risks which could affect the value of a specific security, such as a fall in the profit performance of a company, may impact adversely on its share price and may also affect the interest rate it has to pay to borrow funds, which in turn, can affect the value of its debt securities.
- » Currency risk – If any international assets held by the Investment Options are unhedged, a rise in the Australian dollar relative to other currencies will negatively impact investment values and returns. Currency markets can be extremely volatile and are subject to a range of unpredictable forces.
- » Derivatives risk – A derivative is a financial instrument which has characteristics derived from an underlying asset or index. Typically the derivatives are either cash settled or are realised by being closed out with a derivative of the opposite nature. Derivatives may be used by investment managers or managed funds to protect against changes in market value of existing investments, to simulate an investment position without purchasing or selling the underlying asset, to partially or substantially manage against various risks such as credit and interest rate risks or to gear an investment or a portfolio. The use of derivatives brings additional risks. These risks include the failure of the value of derivatives to move in line with the underlying asset, a derivative position may be costly to reverse, the parties/counterparties associated with the derivative contract do not fulfil their obligations, and derivatives may be impacted by market liquidity. Derivatives which are a leveraged investment can increase your potential losses and gains in relation to movements in the price of the underlying assets. Exchange traded derivatives, including the ETOs available for the Investment Option, do not remove all of the general risks of derivatives, and may have their own risks. Before investing in any derivatives instrument you must fully understand and accept the risks involved.
- » Sophisticated product risk – The use of sophisticated financial products, such as derivatives including ETOs has the potential to cause losses that are large in proportion to the money invested in them. Such products may also have embedded leverage thereby potentially magnifying further losses. The cost of using such financial products may also reduce returns. The Investment Option may also invest in the above products and their use has the potential to cause losses that are large in proportion to the money invested in them or even unlimited losses. Before investing in any derivatives instrument you must fully understand and accept the risks involved.
- » Custody and margining risk – Mason Stevens is custodian for derivatives held for all of its clients, including for accounts which do not include these Investment Options. While Mason Stevens allocates derivatives to its clients in its records, as with other investment, the derivatives may be aggregated in the accounts of sub-custodians and clearing participants of exchanges. This can lead to derivative assets which are beneficially held for a client being available to meet the margin or other exchange obligations arising due to other derivatives held for Mason Stevens in the same account. This can expose a client's assets to being lost, due to meeting those other obligations (i.e., without any default by the client).

Other risks of investment include:

- » Interest rate risk – Changes in interest rates can influence the value and returns of investment in the Investment Option.
- » Credit risk – Any change in the market perception of the creditworthiness of a security or the credit rating of the issuer of the security may affect the security's value.
- » Investment Sub-Adviser risk – This is the risk that the Investment Sub-Adviser may not achieve their stated investment objectives or that changes in the investment team may impact on the performance of the Investment Sub-Adviser.



- » Liquidity risk – The risk that the Investment Option may experience difficulty in realising its assets.
- » Time horizon risk – There is no assurance that in any time period, particularly in the short term, a Investment Option will achieve its investment objectives. Many of the underlying assets may be volatile particularly over the short term. The Investment Option is suitable for long term investors and is not designed for short term investment.
- » Income risk – The level of income generated on the Investment Option's investments can fall as well as rise and the tax status of such income can change.
- » Asset risk – Asset risk is the risk that a particular asset or asset class in which the Investment Option invests may fall in value, which may have an impact on the value of the Investment Option.
- » Diversification/Concentration risk – If your Investment Option is concentrated into one investment or sector, a fall in that investment or sector may have a significant adverse effect on your total Investment Option. Diversification is used as a strategy aimed at reducing the impact that volatility in one investment or sector will have on the performance of your overall Investment Option. The Investment Option will have a relatively higher concentration over time of listed securities but it is not possible to advise in advance the levels of concentration or diversification of issuers, types of investments or industry sectors.
- » Inflation risk – Your investment may not keep pace with inflation. Broadly, this could mean that prices may increase more than the value of your investments in the Investment Option and if this risk eventuates, you would not be able to buy as much with the value of your investments in the future as you could now.
- » Investment risk – All investments have an inherent level of risk. The general expectation is that a high risk investment offers a higher expected return on investment. Investment risk may result in performance less than you expect or the loss of all of the capital invested or reduction in or no income and possible delays in repayment. Whilst it is the intention of the Investment Sub-Adviser to implement strategies designed to minimise potential losses, there can be no assurance that these strategies will be successful.
- » Specific portfolio risk – The Investment Sub-Adviser's investment approach may result in a Investment Option that differs substantially from an industry benchmark and hence the Investment Option's investment returns may also differ substantially from industry benchmark returns.
- » Third party risk – The MDA Provider uses information and services provided by third parties such as sub-custodians and other service providers. Procedures are in place to address risks associated with outsourcing, such as having comprehensive service agreements with service providers. If a service provider advises of an error, it is corrected and if material, it will generally be communicated to you or your advisor (or both).
- » Systems and technology risk – The MDA Provider relies on the integrity and reliability of the Investment Option trading and administration systems used to manage your managed account. To minimise potential risks, established systems operated by experienced system providers are used. The system providers must have back-up arrangements and business continuity plans. In the event that the systems fail there may be delays in processing transactions or in accessing your investment capital and investment returns may differ from those that would have been achieved.

Please note that the risks identified are not meant to be exhaustive as it is not possible to identify every risk factor associated with investing. The appropriate level of risk for you will depend on various factors including your age, investment timeframe, other investments you may hold, and your level of risk tolerance. Investors who have concerns regarding any of the above risk factors, or any other applicable risks, are encouraged to contact their financial adviser.

