

Absolutelysuper

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An article from your super fund

NGS placed in top ten super funds

SuperRatings, an independent rating agency, conducts regular reviews of Australian super funds to determine their strengths, weaknesses and value for money for members.

It encourages super fund members to use their website to see how a fund is performing in relation to its peers.

The criteria used for assessing funds include investments, fees, insurance delivery, member education, financial planning facilities, employer support and fund governance.

As the industry fund which specialises in providing superannuation for employees in the non-government education sector, NGS Super was named in the top 10 funds this year for the first time. The Managing Director of SuperRatings, Jeff Bresnahan, said that in spite of the fact that all funds suffered negative returns over the past two years that "whilst it is never good to see super funds suffer the losses they have over recent times, some funds have performed significantly better than others through the various investment cycles of the past five years. This strong relative performance, which in some cases reflects a differential of over 6% per annum between funds, combined with competitive fees and services, has led consumers in the named funds enjoying results far ahead of many other

funds. At this point industry funds continue to dominate our best value for money fund list. Clearly there are a number of retail funds that offer good value, however many funds, including some not-for-profit funds, have done little to assist Australians' retirement savings during these turbulent times". Let's face it, 6% is a considerable difference in fund performance.

By now most Australian workers recognise what an industry fund is and the value they offer due to their not-for-profit ethos and low fee structure. The SuperRatings results confirm that in general members in industry funds enjoy solid investment returns and low fee structures leaving more in their accounts. After all, building an adequate retirement nest egg is what superannuation is all about.

In awarding NGS Super the Platinum Rating, which represents the top 15% of super funds in terms of value for money, SuperRatings also determined a rating of 110 to the Fund for investment and 110 for insurance. This rating equates to "premium performer in this area – well above benchmark". It is a strong vote of confidence in the investment selection and governance used by NGS Super in its fiduciary capacity of managing and growing members' money. It is also pleasing to note the high rating achieved by NGS insurance, an area which many members only consider at point of need. Enhanced life and income protection insurance provide members with a measure of financial security for relatively low premiums.

If you would like to obtain further information as to how your current fund rates against its peers, go to www.superratings.com.au and have a look at their results. The top 10 performers can also be found at this site. You may also wish to check out the industry funds website at www.industrysuperfunds.com.au to see which industry funds support the current campaign.

Now is a good time to re-evaluate your superannuation direction by seeking information and making informed choices about your preferred fund, investment options and insurance. It's a matter of taking control of your super and making decisions based on your tolerance for risk. And of course, seek professional advice if you are not clear about any aspects of the comparison.



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*Source: Superratings media release, 15 September 2009.

Important information

The information in this article is general information only and does not take into account your objectives, financial situation or needs. Before making a financial decision, please assess the appropriateness to the information to your individual circumstances and consider seeking independent advice from a licensed or appropriately authorised financial advisor.

