



MEMBER UPDATE
SASMOA SUPERANNUATION SURVEY RESULTS
6 January 2021

Late last year SASMOA surveyed our Members regarding their superannuation investment preferences.

The context for the survey was:

- employees in the South Australian public sector currently have restrictions when it comes to where and how they can invest their superannuation, with choices limited to options offered by Super SA
- a group of doctors (Doctors for the Environment, South Australia) is seeking that Super SA create a genuine “Environmentally and Socially Responsible” fund option which would improve on the poorly subscribed option currently available.

Such a fund would focus on certain investment areas and actively avoid others, looking to deliver both competitive returns and positive change for society and the environment. Other superannuation providers already provide such options.

SASMOA agreed to survey our Members to gather an expanded evidence base to provide to Super SA regarding the potential for such a product, and what it may look like.

The questions were based on a survey already conducted by DEA SA and the data gathered in the voluntary survey was collated anonymously so as to not identify any individuals or their views/preferences.

The results of the survey (with comments omitted) can be found [here](#).

As a voluntary, self-selecting, high-level survey, the results should not be interpreted to accurately reflect the preferences of the entire SASMOA membership; they do however indicate an appetite from the respondents to consider such a product.

In summary:

- There were 234 respondents (just over 10% of SASMOA membership)
- The age of respondents skewed older (almost 48% were aged 50 or over)
- 77% of respondents would invest in an option that considered social, ethical and environmental issues, if returns were comparable to returns from other options (with most of the additional 11% who commented also favourable)
- In terms of the most favourable areas of investment to target, the leading selections were sustainable agriculture, renewable energy generation & storage, green property & energy efficiency, and reduction and management of water use. These came ahead of education and aged care.
- For areas of investment to avoid, companies that use child labour and third world exploitation was the top answer, followed by avoiding tobacco, gambling, mining/logging with negative environmental impacts, and fossil fuel use. Interestingly, there was markedly less support for avoiding companies involved in uranium mining and use.

Respondents also wanted to avoid animal cruelty but saw a role for animal testing, and were split about avoiding companies involved in alcohol and products that contribute to obesity, diabetes and

other sugar related diseases. These latter results would be interesting topics for detailed research, and likely reflect thinking about the difference between use and abuse, and also personal choice.

SASMOA will now provide the survey data to DEA SA and to Super SA.

Bernadette Mulholland
Chief Industrial Officer