# Portfolio construction checklist



#### LOOK FOR FUND MANAGERS THAT HAVE STOOD THE TEST OF TIME

In a market fixated with short-term performance, look for reputable managers that have had sustained success over multiple investment cycles.

#### COMPARE FUNDS ON MULTI-DECADE PERFORMANCE

Some investors focus too much on one- and three-year returns, and not enough on annualised 10- and 20-year returns. Wealth accumulators who have a multi-decade horizon, such as Self-Managed Superannuation Fund (SMSF) trustees, should choose funds that deliver attractive multi-decade returns, provided the fund has consistency in style, process and portfolio management.

#### CHOOSE ACTIVE RATHER THAN PASSIVE MANAGEMENT

Investing in an index fund, such as an Exchange Traded Fund, means putting your money into a fund that buys and sells shares regardless of asset valuations. Active managed funds that assess company valuations are the key to building sustainable long-term wealth.

#### EMBRACE TRUE 'LONG-TERM' INVESTING

Too many investment experts regard long-term investing as "3-5 years", sometimes less. It can take up to a decade for an investment theme to play out, and for companies within that theme to move from bottom-quartile valuations to top-quartile. Patience is a trait of successful investors.

#### **BE SCEPTICAL OF THE 'CONSENSUS' VIEW**

Sustained wealth creation requires independent thinking, not the consensus view. Basing investment decisions primarily on 'top-down' views of industry or economic matters – such as central bank comments on inflation and interest rates – can destroy wealth.

#### **GO GLOBAL**

It makes no sense that Australian investors allocate a large proportion of their portfolio to domestic stocks when the Australian sharemarket comprises 2% of global equity markets. Do not ignore better-value opportunities that might be found overseas.

#### **AVOID SHORT-TERM NOISE**

Avoid kneejerk reactions to your investment strategy based on short-term market noise. Remain focused on long-term valuations.

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