



## Out of uncertainty comes opportunity

September 2009

There is no question that the Australian economy is experiencing hard times as a result of the Global Financial Crisis. Falling share and commodity prices, reduced economic activity and rising unemployment have all played a part as most of the global economies including our own face difficult financial circumstances.

However, while investment markets have suffered from low and negative returns in the past 12 months, it is important to remember that economies continually move in cycles.

Periods of market uncertainty are often followed by periods of opportunity, and in recent months we have begun to see the first emerging signs of recovery in both domestic & international share markets.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has stated that the slowdown in Australia has been relatively mild compared with other developed countries and now forecasts only a modest contraction for Australia during 2009/10. The IMF also expects a sharp rebound in 2010 due to Government spending and reductions in debt by households and businesses.

Share markets commonly experience reasonable recoveries in the initial 12 months and then subsequent years following the bottoming out of an economic cycle. The Australian sharemarket has begun to show signs of potential growth since reaching its lowest point in early March 2009. Whilst it may appear that both growth and earnings are likely to be tentative for some time, these early signs could be seen by many as the first positive indication that the worst of the Global Financial Crisis may be over.

As a result, it may be the perfect time to ask your self the question *"Is now the time to look at other investment options – am I positioned to take advantage of any potential growth in 2009/10 and beyond?"*

Depending on your financial goals and timeframes, managed funds may be an attractive investment alternative as the economy slowly recovers and gathers pace.

Whether you are looking to grow your assets, to build your financial wealth, or want to maximise your savings outside of superannuation, now may be a good time to consider the opportunities managed funds offer.

**For more information on ME Investment Funds and their product features or to obtain a copy of the Product Disclosure Statement please see below:**

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