

SUPERSAVVY ROAD TEST

"A big, solid and remarkably economic fund that sticks to the middle lane. It won't dazzle in good times, but won't disappoint when the going gets tough"



PERFORMANCE - PERFORMS WELL IN SLIPPERY CONDITIONS

Not exactly wind in the hair stuff here, but it cruises along quite nicely in good conditions. It's when things get hairy (such as when the GFC hit) that First State Super really shines - which might account for the fund being voted by Savvy members in October 2009 as the first winner of The One Award.

RUNNING COST - NOBODY IS CHEAPER

The cheapest fund around. You'd think that this might hinder the fund. After all, it's hard to pack in the niceties when you're building to a price. So, the big question: Does low cost = poor quality?

BUILD QUALITY - SUPRISINGLY WELL EQUIPPED

Surprise, surprise. Despite price, quality is pleasingly very high. There are no glaring emissions. Members will find pretty much everything the could need - BUT...

HANDLING - IT WORKS BUT COULD BE MORE USER FRIENDLY

The website doesn't feel intuitive. However if you spend enough time, you'll eventually find what you're looking for. Purely subjective, but we'd drop the cliché photo of the grey-haired couple. And the apples. There's a regular suite of investment choices, nothing innovative. Solid info and newsletters, if a bit dry for our tastes.

MEMBER COMFORT - LOTS OF HAPPY, COMFORTABLE MEMBERS

The superannuation Snuggie. It's big and it makes you feel safe and warm. Absence of product innovation is probably comforting to most members. Keenly interested in member feedback and engagement.

PRACTICALITY - IT'S WHITE WITH 4 DOORS

We miss the transactional functions offered by some funds. We'd like to be able to change investment options online. Daily pricing updates are a nice touch for those unprepared to wait the usual month.

COOL FACTOR - NOT THE LAST WORD IN FUNCTIONALITY

Look elsewhere for razzamatazz. It's a sheep in sheep's clothing - and that no doubt perfectly suits its members. A white Camry - and thousands of people have bought those.

SUPERSIZE INDEX - PERFORMANCE TO FEE RATIO KEEPS IMPROVING

A pretty good bet to supersize your super. Really, it's cheap as chips for what you get. It's safe, it offers good performance, but it's low on frills.

www.firststatesuper.com.au

