



SelectingSuper MEDIA Release

MTAA Super is Fund of the Year 2008

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Winners and finalists for Australia's best super funds and retirement products

KEY POINTS

1. MTAA Super has been awarded SelectingSuper Fund of the Year 2008.
2. In the Workplace division, MTAA Super also won value-choice super fund of the year while Host-Plus was awarded deluxe-choice super fund of the year and Netwealth Super Wrap for Employers was awarded premium-choice super fund of the year.
3. In the Personal division, Statewide Super Trust won value-choice super fund of the year, AustralianSuper was awarded deluxe-choice super fund of the year and Asgard Super was awarded premium-choice super fund of the year.
4. First State Super NSW was awarded SelectingSuper retirement fund of the year in the value-choice category, and AustralianSuper the deluxe-choice award.
5. Cavendish was awarded the SelectingSuper Self-Managed Super Fund administrator of the year for 2008.

MTAA Super, Host-Plus, netwealth, Statewide Super Trust, Asgard, First State Super, SERF and Cavendish have taken out the top SelectingSuper awards for Australia's best super and retirement funds and self-managed super fund (SMSF) administrator for 2008.

Finalists included 26 of Australia's leading super funds offered by 17 separate superannuation and wealth management organisations. To be eligible for the SelectingSuper awards, funds must first be assessed by SelectingSuper as AAA.

"As superannuation members go through one of their toughest periods, it is more important than ever that they find the best funds they can to guide them through the turmoil," said Alex Dunnin, Rainmaker's director of research.

"Sure it's true that superannuation is the centre piece for how every Australian now saves for their retirement and builds their wealth, but you still need to be confident the fund you have chosen is among the best that is available. This means choosing a quality fund is now just as important as when markets are booming."

The awards are segmented into the divisions of overall winner, Workplace, Personal, Retirement and the categories of value-choice, deluxe-choice and premium-choice.

"The fundamental way to differentiate between super funds is to group them according to the extent of choice and flexibility they offer you. At SelectingSuper we do this by categorising funds as value-choice if they have less than 12 investment choices and limited advice support, deluxe-choice if they have between 13 and 80 choices, and premium-choice super funds if they have more than 80 choices and comprehensive advice support," said Dunnin.

Dunnin said the more choice and flexibility a super fund offers, the more important it is to work with your financial adviser even if it comes at a higher price. In times like this, this extra level of advice can really pay for itself if it leads to improved investor confidence and better strategic service and support, he said.

Workplace super funds are those that employees can join through their employer, Personal super funds are funds they can join individually, and Retirement funds are those that offer allocated pension or post-retirement income stream pension payments. SMSF administrators are groups that help administer Australia's growing self-managed super fund segment.

"The list of finalists this year includes a very strong mix of both retail and not-for-profit super funds, reflecting how competitive superannuation has become. This shows that what your fund offers you, how it performs and how good its features are is much more important than what segment of the market it originates from. It is also not about finding the cheapest fund, but the best fund for your needs," said Dunnin.



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In this year when long term performance has never been more crucial for members being buttressed from pillar to post by turbulent investment conditions, the super fund for stevedoring and waterside employees was awarded the accolade of best Long Term Performance Excellence acknowledging the top performing super fund over the past twenty years.

Rainmaker has been researching and assessing super funds in Australia since 1992 and is one of Australia's leading financial services research companies.

The full list of all award winners and finalists is detailed in the following table.

SelectingSuper Fund of the Year award winners for 2008

Division	Category	Winner	Other finalists
	Super Fund of the Year	MTAA Superannuation Fund	AustralianSuper CBUS Industry Super HESTA Super Fund Host-Plus
Workplace	Value-choice	MTAA Superannuation Fund	CBUS Industry Super Health Super Fund REST Sunsuper
	Deluxe-choice	HOSTPlus	AMP Signature Super AustralianSuper AXA Super Directions for Business HESTA Super Fund MLC Masterkey Business Super
	Premium-choice	netwealth Super Wrap	ASGARD Employee Super
Personal	Value-choice	Statewide Superannuation Trust	AGEST Super First State Super REST
	Deluxe-choice	AustralianSuper Personal Plan	FuturePlus HESTA Super Fund
	Premium-choice	ASGARD Superannuation Account	AMP Flexible Lifetime Super netwealth Super Wrap
Retirement	Value-choice	First State Super - Income Stream	AGEST
	Deluxe-choice	AustralianSuper Pension	AMP Flexible Lifetime
	SMSF provier of the year	Cavendish Superannuation	Dixon Advisory Super Concepts
	Long Term Performance Excellence	SERF	BUSS Q CareSuper LUCRF Westscheme

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