

## **ASX: PIA**

# PENGANA INTERNATIONAL EQUITIES LIMITED

### The largest International Ethical LIC on the ASX

Targeting fully franked dividends, paid quarterly

**ASX ANNOUNCEMENT** 

## PIA DECEMBER 2024 INTERIM REPORT CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Fellow Shareholders,

Pengana International Equities Limited released its results for the half year to 31 December 2024 to the ASX on 17 February 2025.

#### Highlights

- Net Profit after tax of \$26.9 million, a significant increase on the \$8.9 million recorded for the previous corresponding period.
- Earnings per share were 10.5 cents per share, up on the 3.5 cents per share recorded for the previous corresponding period.
- First fully franked quarterly dividend for FY25 of 1.35 cps was paid on 16 December 2024
- Second fully franked quarterly dividend of 1.35 cps will be paid on 17 March 2025
- Net tangible assets after tax on unrealised gains were \$1.37 per share, up 6.2% over 6 months.

#### Performance for the half year to 31 December 2024

The Total Portfolio Return<sup>i</sup> (TPR), which comprises the dividends paid and the increase in value of the NTA before provision for tax on unrealised gains was 11.0%.

The Total Shareholder Return (TSR)<sup>ii</sup>, which combines dividends paid with changes in the share value, was 9.9%. The TSR increases to 10.9% if the value of franking credits is taken into account.

#### Financial Position

The Company is in a sound financial position with the value of its global listed investments at 31 December 2024 being \$370 million and cash of \$11 million. The Company has no borrowings.

### Capital Management

The dividend reinvestment plan (DRP) enables shareholders to reinvest their dividends into PIA shares without incurring any other transaction costs such as brokerage. This may result in shares being issued at a discount to NTA.

It is the Board's intention to buyback shares on market to minimise the dilutive effect of issuing DRP shares at a discount to NTA.

In the half year to 31 December 2024, a total of 487,588 shares were purchased on-market, representing 100% of the DRP shares issued in the period.

#### Investment Manager's Outlook

Inflation continues to drift slowly back to central bank targets, enabling further gradual interest rate reductions over the coming months. While this should lend support to the global economy and corporate earnings growth over the rest of the financial year, geo-political uncertainty remains elevated.

Nonetheless, election cycles and even major political events often have a limited long-term impact on corporate earnings growth and share prices.

While adhering to a long-term investment horizon may seem daunting in the current environment, high quality companies with enduring competitive advantages, pricing power, sound balance sheets and led by capable management teams can outperform in times of greater uncertainty. Harding Loevner will continue to identify such companies, pursuing growth opportunities wherever they may be found.

We thank you for your interest and ongoing support of PIA.

Yours sincerely,

**Frank Gooch** 

**Independent Chair** 

Sydney

17 February 2025

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> TPR refers to "Total Portfolio Return" TPR for periods greater than 12 months are annualised. TPR figures refer to the movement in net assets per share, reversing out the impact of option exercises and payments of dividends, before tax paid or accrued on realised and unrealised gains. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance, the value of investments can go up and down.

<sup>&</sup>quot;TSR refers to "Total Shareholder Return" TSR for periods greater than 12 months are annualised. TSR figures refer to the movement in closing share prices as quoted in the ASX, assuming the reinvestment of dividends. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance, the value of investments can go up and down.



## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION & DISCLOSURES**



This report has been prepared by Pengana Investment Management Ltd (ABN 69 063 081 612, Australian Financial Services Licence No. 219462) ("Pengana"). This report does not contain any investment recommendation or investment advice and has been prepared without taking account of any person's objectives, financial situation or needs. Therefore, before acting on the information in this report a person should consider the appropriateness of the information, having regard to their objectives, financial situation and needs. None of Pengana International Equities Limited ("PIA"), Pengana Investment Management Limited (ABN 69 063 081 612, AFSL 219462) nor any of their related entities guarantees the repayment of capital or any particular rate of return from PIA. Performance figures refer to the movement in net assets per share, reversing out the impact of option exercises and payments of dividends, before tax paid or accrued on realised and unrealised gains. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance, the value of investments can go up and down. This document has been prepared by PIA and does not take into account a reader's investment objectives, particular needs or financial situation. It is general information only and should not be considered investment advice and should not be relied on as an investment recommendation.

Pengana is the manager for Pengana International Equities Limited (ACN 107 462 966, ASX: PIA) ("PIA"). Pengana has appointed Harding Loevner LP ("Harding Loevner") as the sub-investment manager for PIA.

None of Pengana, Harding Loevner, nor any of their related entities, directors, partners or officers guarantees the performance of, or the repayment of capital, or income invested in PIA. An investment in PIA is subject to investment risk including a possible delay in repayment and loss of income and principal invested. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance, the value of investments can go up and down.

Pengana has appointed Harding Loevner as Pengana's corporate authorised representative under Pengana's AFSL.

While care has been taken in the preparation of this information, neither Pengana nor Harding Loevner make any representation or warranty as to the accuracy, currency or completeness of any statement, data or value. To the maximum extent permitted by law, Pengana and Harding Loevner expressly disclaim any liability which may arise out of the provision to, or use by, any person of this information.

Pengana International Equities Limited has been certified by the Responsible Investment Association Australasia (RIAA) according to the strict operational and disclosure practices required under the Responsible Investment Certification Program. See <a href="https://www.responsiblereturns.com.au">www.responsiblereturns.com.au</a> for details. RIAA's RI Certification Symbol signifies that a product or service offers an investment style that takes into account environmental, social, governance, or ethical considerations. The Symbol also signifies that Pengana International Equities Limited adheres to the strict operational and disclosure practices required under the Responsible Investment Certification Program for the category of Product. The Certification Symbol is a Registered Trademark of the Responsible Investment Association Australasia (RIAA). Detailed information about RIAA, the Symbol and Pengana International Equities Limited's methodology, performance, and stock holdings can be found at <a href="https://www.responsiblereturns.com.au">www.responsiblereturns.com.au</a>, together with details about other responsible investment or that returns are guaranteed. Appropriate professional advice should be sought prior to making an investment decision. RIAA does not hold an Australian Financial Services Licence.



#### **AGENDA**

- Corporate overview
- Highlights for the half-year ending 31 December 2024
- Portfolio update from Harding Loevner
- Harding Loevner overview

## **CORPORATE OVERVIEW**



#### RESPONSIBLE INVESTING - CAPITAL GROWTH - RELIABLE INCOME

### PIA's objective is to provide shareholders with:

- capital growth from investing in an ethically screened and actively managed portfolio of international businesses, and
- regular, reliable and fully franked dividends, paid quarterly.

PIA is managed by Pengana Capital Group (PCG), a listed diversified funds management group, offering distinct investment strategies, that aim to deliver superior long-term risk-adjusted returns to investors, with a focus on capital preservation.

Harding Loevner, a highly regarded global institutional fund manager, is the investment team responsible for the investment of PIA's portfolio.

PIA is certified by the Responsible Investment Association of Australasia.

## **RESPONSIBLE INVESTING:**





### **Ethical Screens**

- Pre trade application of Pengana's Ethical Screens that seek to avoid investment in companies that derive operating revenues from direct and material business involvement<sup>1</sup> in the following:
  - Adult content, alcohol, non-regulatory testing on animals, fossil fuels, gambling, GMOs in agriculture, human right abuses, mining, nuclear, severe impact on ecosystems, tobacco, weapons



## **Sustainable Investing**

- ESG risks and opportunities examined in each stage of our investment process.
- ESG scorecard considers consequences of ESG-related concerns for business's sustainability.



## **Responsible Engagement**

- Engage regularly with company management over the potential impact of ESG risks on long-term returns.
- Encourage adoption of practices that foster sustainable growth.

THE LARGEST INTERNATIONAL ETHICAL LIC ON THE ASX

Promote high standards of behavior and disclosure in every proxy vote.



## **Responsible Investment**

- PIA has been continuously certified by Responsible Investment Association of Australasia ('RIAA') since 2006
- Harding Loevner is a signatory to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment ('UNPRI') and the UK Stewardship Code
- Pengana Capital Group is a signatory to the UNPRI and member of RIAA

<sup>1. \*</sup>Material business involvement is generally considered to be over 5% of production of, or 15% aggregate revenue from, the production, distribution and retail of the screened product/service. For thresholds on each specific screen please refer to the Responsible Investment Policy located here.



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#### FOR THE HALF-YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2024

Next quarter dividend	1.35 cps to be paid on 17 March 2025, fully franked at 30% tax rate	Annual dividend <sup>1</sup>	5.4 cps paid quarterly, yield of 4.3% or 6.2% grossed up for franking
Net Assets 31 December 2024	\$353 million or \$1.37 per share (post-tax)	Net Assets 7 February 2025	\$358 million or \$1.39 per share (post-tax)
Net profit after tax	\$26.9 million	Earnings per share	10.5 cents per share
Total Shareholder <sup>2</sup> Return 6 months to 31 December 2024	9.9%	Annualised Portfolio Return <sup>3</sup> 20 years to 31 December 2024	8.3%
Profit reserves	\$228 million equivalent to a dividend of 88.7 cps	Franking reserves <sup>4</sup>	\$16.1 million, equivalent to a fully franked dividend of 14.6 cps, franked at 30%
Buy back	100% of the DRP shares issued in the period bought back		

<sup>1.</sup> Based on \$1.25 share price at 14 February 2024 and a 30% company tax rate 2. Source: Pengana Capital. TSR figures refer to the movement in closing share prices as quoted in the ASX, assuming the reinvestment of dividends 3. Source: Pengana Capital. Performance figures refer to the movement in net assets per share, reversing out the impact of movements in capital and payments of dividends, before tax paid or accrued on realised and unrealised gains. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance, the value of investments can go up and down 4. The Company expects to pay approximately \$15.6m in tax for the financial year 2023/2024, which will increase the franking account balance to \$16.1 million or 14.6 cents per share.

## SUSTAINABLE FULLY FRANKED DIVIDENDS



PIA's objective is to provide shareholders with capital growth from investing in an ethically screened and actively managed portfolio of global businesses, in addition to providing shareholders with regular, reliable and fully franked dividends



**Annual Dividend Target** 

## 5.4c per share

**Fully Franked** 

**Upcoming Quarterly Dividend** 

## 1.35c per share

Fully franked at 30% tax rate

#### Ex date:

28 February 2025

#### Record date:

3 March 2025

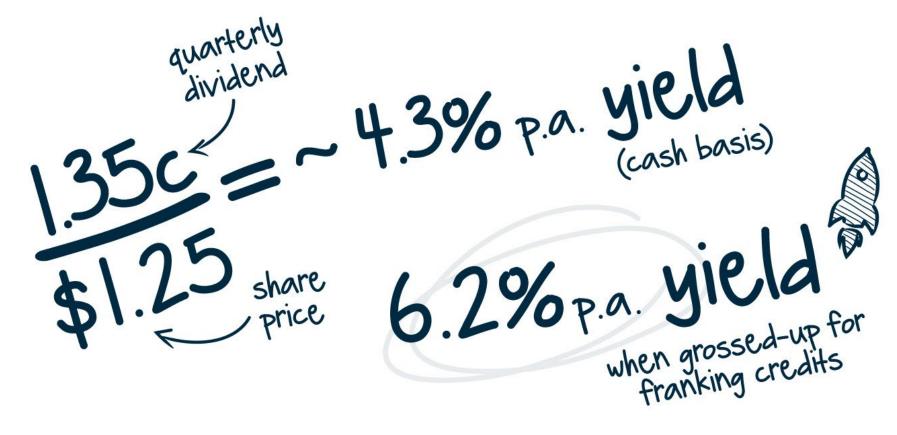
#### Payment date:

17 March 2025

## **DIVIDEND YIELD**



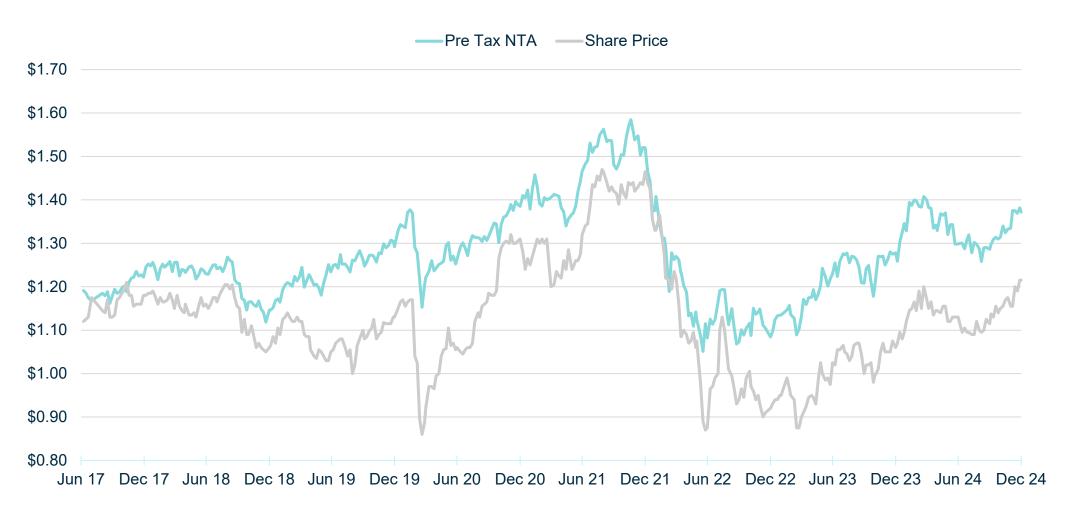
Quarterly Fully Franked Dividends



The current profit reserves & franking balance are able to sustain fully franked quarterly dividends into FY2027

## NTA AND SHARE PRICE MOVEMENTS 1 JULY 2017 TO 31 DECEMBER 2024





As at 18 August 2023. Source: Bloomberg and Pengana Capital. Performance figures refer to the movement in net assets per share, reversing out the impact of movements in capital and payments of dividends, before tax paid or accrued on realised and unrealised gains. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance, the value of investments can go up and down.



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## **TOP HOLDINGS**



**AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024** 



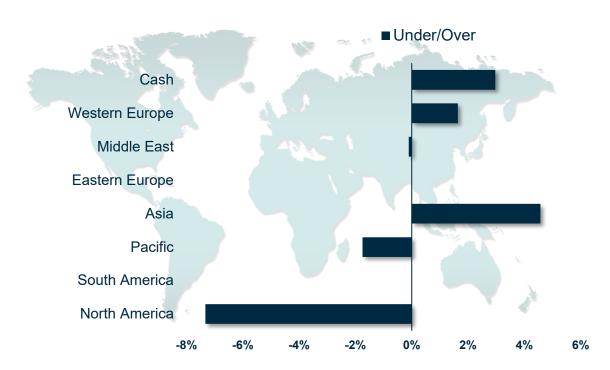
**Total number of portfolio holdings: 55** 

## **PORTFOLIO POSITIONING**

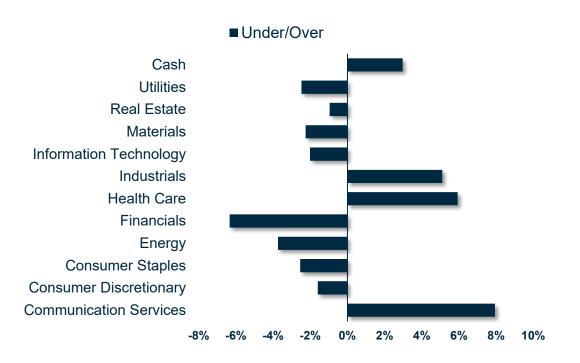


#### **EXPOSURES AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2024**

## **GEOGRAPHIC EXPOSURE**



### **SECTOR EXPOSURE**



## **QUALITY & GROWTH INVESTMENT PHILOSOPHY**



### WE BUILD DIVERSIFIED PORTFOLIOS OF HIGH-QUALITY, GROWING COMPANIES.



<sup>\*</sup> Standard deviation measures the volatility of returns, indicating how much an investment's value fluctuates, making it a common proxy for risk in listed equity investments. Lower standard deviation indicated less volatility.

## WHAT'S ON OUR MIND?

PENGANA
INTERNATIONAL
EQUITIES LIMITED

Continued volatility due to ongoing trade tensions, inflation concerns, and divergent central bank policies

## The current backdrop

Inflation continues to drift (slowly) back to central bank targets; unemployment remains low Interest rates will fall (further) but are unlikely to revisit pre-pandemic levels

Underlying conditions of global instability persist

## Geopolitical Risk

Higher tariffs threaten to disrupt global trade and integrated supply chains Elevated geopolitical risk will bring increased share market volatility

## What are we doing

Focussing on business fundamentals while being mindful of risk Investing in higher quality and lower valuations
Al innovation provides exciting-long-term opportunities, but investors should be very mindful of valuation levels

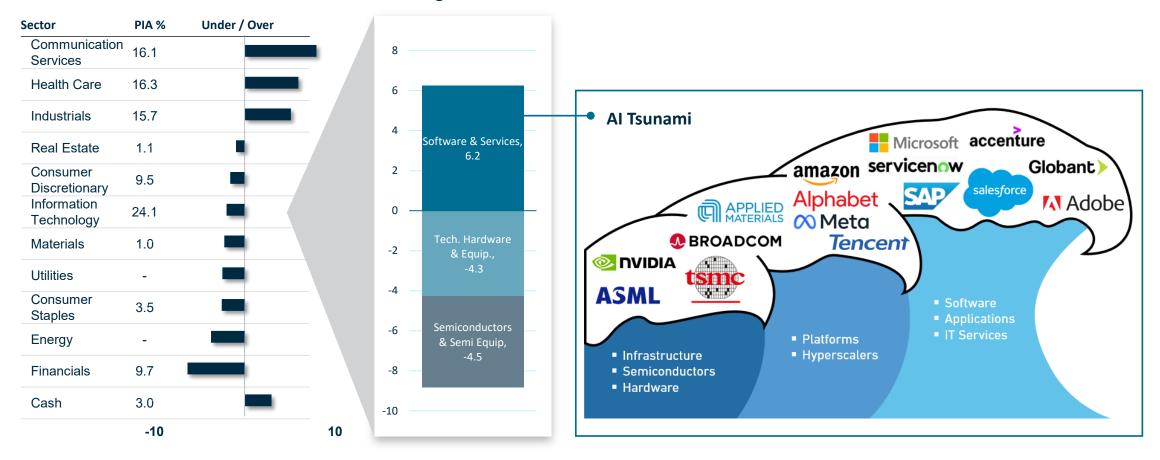


## **INFO TECH: BEYOND CHIPS & EQUIPMENT**



Al Tsunami moving from chips to platforms to software & services

#### **PIA Global Active Weights**

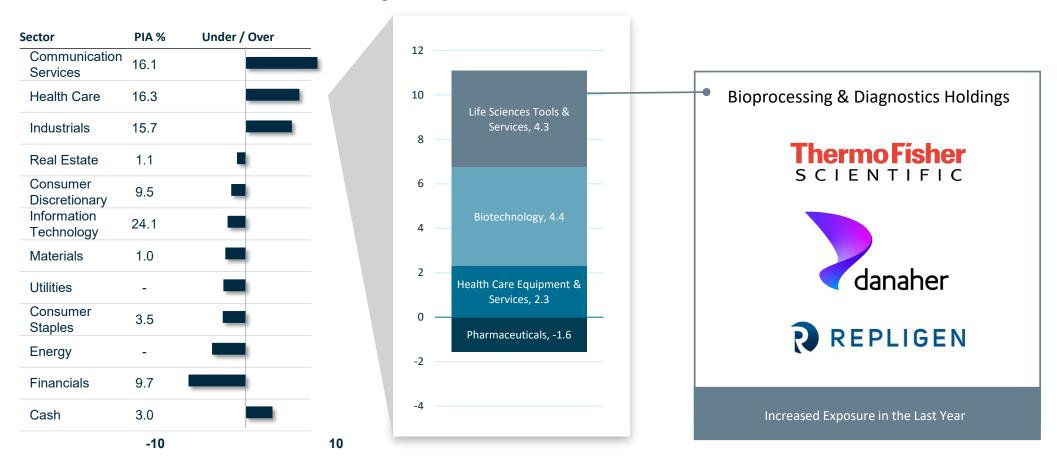


## **HEALTH CARE: BEYOND BIG PHARMA**



**Bioprocessing and Diagnostics: A Return to Robust Growth** 

#### **PIA Global Active Weights**

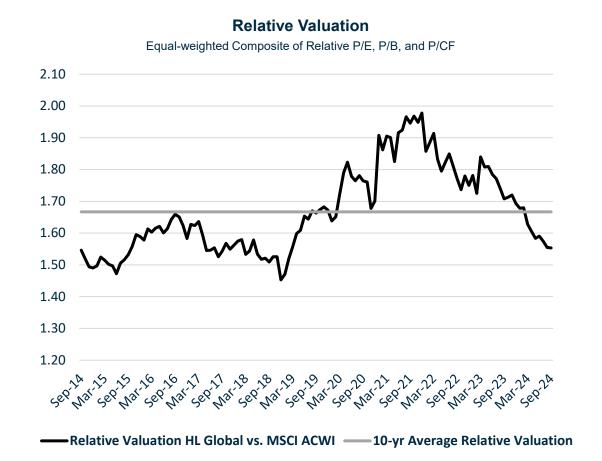


# RISING QUALITY STANCE AT LOWER VALUATIONS



We have maintained our quality and growth premium while lowering relative valuation

## **Quality + Growth Rank Profile** 2.00 Quality + Growth Ranks 1.00 0.00 HL Global QG ----MSCI ACWI QG





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## **INVESTMENT HYPOTHESIS**





Investing in high quality, growing businesses at reasonable prices leads to long term superior risk adjusted returns.

This "QUALITY GROWTH" Investment philosophy has been the foundation of our strategies since the firm was founded.



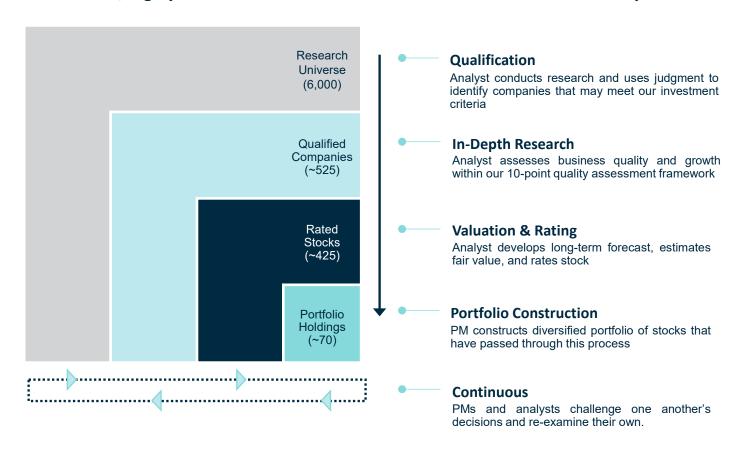
## **INVESTMENT PROCESS**



Analysts search the world for companies that meet high quality and sustainable growth criteria, conduct fundamental research, then value and rate their stocks to make them available to PMs for investment.

ESG issues are considered in each step of the process.

#### Collaborative, Highly Structured Process that Promotes Individual Accountability



### **Harding Loevner**

Circa US\$55 billion under management 33-year track record

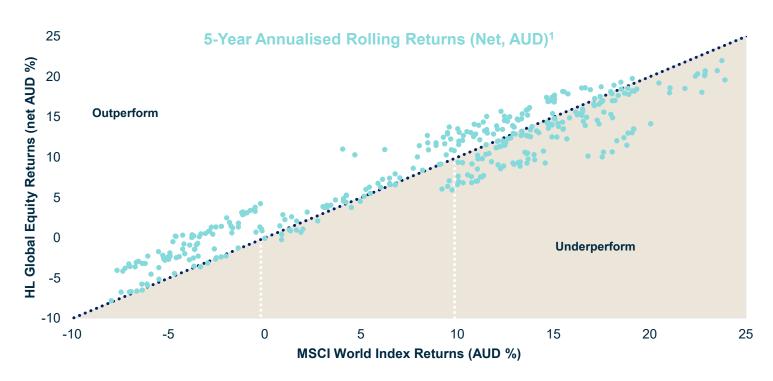
### **Investment Philosophy**

Quality growth
Distinct decision making
Behavioral finance
Patient & Disciplined

# HARDING LOEVNER'S CONSISTENT RESULTS FOR OUR CLIENTS



Our decision-making has produced a distinctive pattern of performance



Falling Markets	Moderate Markets	Strong Markets
MSCI < 0	0 < MSCI < 10	MSCI > 10
94%	54%	33%

	HL Global Equity*	MSCI*
Alpha	0.81%	
Beta	0.90	
R-Squared	0.83	
Standard Deviation	12.51%	12.71%
Tracking error	5.34%	
Information Ratio	0.15	
Sharpe Ratio	0.35	0.28
Upside Capture	94.43%	
Downside Capture	87.43%	

\*since inception on November 30, 1989

Prior to June 2021, the Harding Loevner Global Equity Strategy performance has been simulated by Pengana from the monthly gross returns of the Harding Loevner Global Equity strategy. This simulation was done by converting the USD gross returns to AUD, then applying a management fee of 0.974% p.a. (the Class B management fee). Net performance figures are after all fees and expenses and assume reinvestment of distributions. MSCI refers to the MSCI AC World Total Return Index (net, AUD) No allowance has been made for buy/sell spreads. Past performance is not a reliable indicator of future performance, the value of investments can go up and down



# FOR MORE INFORMATION

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