

2 February 2006

COLONIAL FIRST STATE EXPANDS FIRSTCHOICE PLATFORM

Colonial First State has expanded Australia's fastest growing^o, \$20 billion platform with more choice on the FirstChoice menu[^] from 6 March 2006, including the addition of a new multi-manager option and access to Acadian Australia.

Expanded choice for investors and advisers

John Pearce, CEO of Colonial First State said the FirstChoice menu has been expanded and for the first time it has added Acadian Australia funds to the platform.

"Investors and advisers can now invest in the Acadian Australian Equity and Acadian Australian Equity Long Short funds exclusively through our platform," Mr Pearce said.

"We've included a new multi-manager option: FirstChoice Global Share – Hedged, which is aimed at providing long term capital growth from a diversified portfolio of global shares.

"Our multi-sector FirstChoice portfolios – Conservative, Moderate and Growth - will now include an allocation to global infrastructure securities, for further diversification," Mr Pearce said.

Other additions to the platform include the Colonial First State Index Global Share Hedged option, Challenger Select Australian Share option, Challenger High Yield option, ING Tax Effective Income option and PM Capital Absolute Performance option.

More flexibility for investors approaching retirement

The new release of FirstChoice also incorporates upgrades that allow investors to take advantage of recent legislative changes.

"Pre-retirement pension schemes that allow investors to access their superannuation once they have reached their preservation age, regardless of their employment status, is a big plus for those transitioning to retirement," Mr Pearce said.

"We've incorporated these changes, including super contributions splitting, into the new product disclosure statements so our investors can benefit from them as soon as possible," Mr Pearce said.

From 6 March 2006, FirstChoice Pension and FirstChoice Wholesale Pension will offer pre-retirement (non-commutable) pension streams for both allocated pensions and term allocated pensions.

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Additional information

Details of the new options on FirstChoice:

- **Acadian Australian Equity Fund**
This fund aims to maximise risk-adjusted, long-term returns, by investing in stocks listed on the Australian Stock Exchange (the option can include up to 10% of its portfolio in securities listed on the New Zealand Stock Exchange) while carefully controlling portfolio risk and transaction costs.
- **Acadian Australian Equity Long Short Fund**
This fund aims to maximise risk-adjusted, long-term returns, by investing in undervalued stocks and short selling overvalued stocks listed on the Australian Stock Exchange (the option can include up to 10% of its portfolio in securities listed on the New Zealand Stock Exchange) while carefully controlling portfolio risk and transaction costs.
- **Colonial First State Index Global Share-Hedged**
This option aims to closely track the MSCI World (ex Australia) Index, hedged to Australian dollars with the aim of generating returns (before tax and fees and assuming income is reinvested) comparable to the world share markets as measured by that benchmark (hedged).
- **FirstChoice Global Share – Hedged***
This option's objective is to provide long-term capital growth from a diversified portfolio of global shares.
- **Challenger Select Australian Share ***
This option aims to outperform the S&P/ASX 200 Accumulation Index over rolling five-year periods.
- **Challenger High Yield**
This option's objective is to outperform both the UBS Australia Bank Bill Index and the UBS Australia Composite Bond Index (All Maturities) over any 12-month period.
- **ING Tax Effective Income**
This option aims to provide income and achieve returns (before fees, charges and taxes) that on average exceed inflation by at least 5% per annum, over periods of five years or more.
- **PM Capital Absolute Performance**
This option aims to provide positive investment returns over a three-year plus investment horizon by investing in a concentrated portfolio of undervalued equities listed on global stock exchanges. The goal of the option is not to replicate the standard industry benchmarks such as the MSCI and it is likely to have varied outcomes from those of a traditional index benchmarked option.

° Source: Plan for Life Sept 2005 data, released 5 December 2005

^ These enhancements will be added to the Colonial First State FirstChoice range of products from 6 March 2006 except that in the case of FirstChoice Employer Super only the options marked with an * will be added. Colonial First State FirstChoice Investments, FirstChoice Personal Super, FirstChoice Employer Super, FirstChoice Pension, FirstChoice Wholesale Investments, FirstChoice Wholesale Personal Super and FirstChoice Wholesale Pension are issued by Colonial First State Investments Limited ABN 98 002 348 352 AFS Licence Number 232468. Product Disclosure Statements (PDSs) describing the features and fees for the new options will be available at colonialfirststate.com.au or by calling us on 13 18 36 from 6 March 2006. This is not financial product advice and does not take into account any person's individual needs, financial circumstances or objectives. You should read the relevant PDS and consider talking with a financial adviser before deciding whether to acquire or continue to hold options in FirstChoice.

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