

# Christian Super

Ethical Survey, as voted by members of the Ethical Advisers Co-Op



**Disappointing**

Poor | Disappointing | Average | Appealing | Excellent

As voted by Ethical Adviser Co-op members. Find a specialised ethical adviser near you: [www.ethicaladviserscoop.org/find-an-adviser.html](http://www.ethicaladviserscoop.org/find-an-adviser.html)

## Fund Overview

This considers all multi-asset investment options available within Christian Super fund. These have negative and positive filters.

## Ethical Concerns

### Investments

- ✖ A number of investments in the Fund can be problematic for ethical investors:
  - Significant exposure to mining (coal, oil, gas, minerals) and energy production (nuclear, coal, oil, gas). A brief, noncomprehensive list of mining and energy holdings includes AGL, BHP Billiton, Beach Energy, Oil Search, Origin Energy, Oz Minerals, Wesfarmers, Exxon Mobil Corp, Devon Energy, Diamondback Energy Inc, Electric Power Development Company, Encana Corp, EOG Resources Inc, Entergy Corp, Firstenergy Corp, First Quantum Minerals Ltd.
  - Uranium mining exposure (Toro Energy through Oz Minerals).
  - Significant, concerning exposure to oil sands through debt with Cenovus Energy. This has since been removed from the portfolio.
  - Exposure to 'Big Four' Banks and Macquarie.

### Other concerns

- ✖ Christian Super incorporates Christian beliefs and values into its ethical investment policy, so some opinions or exclusions may be surprising to some ethical investors' values, and in line for others. For example, Christian Super excludes investment in companies involved with certain types of (abortifacient like) contraceptives.
- ✖ Potential failure of Christian Super's policy to avoid companies exporting material amounts of uranium to states who have not signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Toro Energy is believed to be [exporting uranium to India](#), who have not signed the nuclear weapons NPT. Christian Super have since changed their filters wording, rather than holdings, to address this feedback.
- ✖ Holdings indicate fossil fuel filter on "exploration and development of oil sands" has failed. Cenovus is involved in both oil sands development and extraction. [Page 18 of Cenovus annual reports](#) show 41.8% of their reportable revenue comes from oil sand operations.
- ✖ Invests in companies named by [Market Forces](#) as undermining efforts to meet the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

## Good Points

- ✓ Fund excludes abortion drugs and some forms of contraception, alcohol, fast food, specific fossil fuels, gambling, international controversies, labour issues, sex industry, unnecessary or cruel animal testing, embryonic stem cells, tobacco, specific weapons.
- ✓ Additional weakly worded filters, or case by case assessment, on companies involved with; specific high risk countries, genetic engineering, labour issues, improper marketing, climate change, consumer debt, child labour, bribery and corruption, uranium, waste and water stewardship.
- ✓ Some commitment to transparency by being [UNPRI](#) signatory, but not [RIAA](#) certified.
- ✓ Positive screen to invest in companies with "[strong sustainability performance](#)".
- ✓ Aim to invest in microfinance companies which protect from exploitation.
- ✓ Quickly corrected an error where their fund disclosures were on their website, but were not available publicly, when notified.
- ✓ Christian Super only specialise in ethical investments.

*This survey, and the information contained in this document, consider **ethics only** and do not include ANY analysis of fees, performance of financial suitability. It is **general advice only**. The ethical score is subjective and benchmarked to each adviser's average ethical client. Your ethics may differ. We recommend you speak to an experienced ethical financial adviser for personalised advice before making any decisions.*

## About the 'Ethical Survey'

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### About the Ethical Advisers Co-Op

The Ethical Advisers Co-op is a group of 35 financial advisers who are passionate about ethics and finance. The Co-op was established as a not-for-profit over 10 years ago to enable likeminded financial advisers to work together to represent the voice of the consumer. We work to shift the super and investment industry into being more ethically aligned with their clients' objectives. The Co-op's nationwide membership of ethical financial advisers help over 3,300 Australians make financial decisions and invest in line with their ethical values.

### How the Leaf-System Works

The ethical rating is voted by Australian financial advisers who specialise in ethical investments (Co-op members). The advisers assess if fund ethics suit their average ethical client, and if it matches with the average client's expectations and objectives. The advisers consider how successful the fund is at; 1) removing industries and stocks harmful to the environment and society 2) including companies with environmental or social benefits, and 3) providing evidence of actions from the fund which benefit society and/or the environment. The quality of information the fund provides on its ethical policies, companies invested in, and proxy voting is important in assessing if a fund is as ethical as claimed. The final rating is an average of these votes.

Financial advisers are voluntarily participating to help ethical consumers gain a quick understanding of how the clients of a group of industry professionals view the ethics of each fund. The Co-op and the advisers do not receive any form of remuneration or reward for participating.

### Further Research

#### *Does your fund walk the talk?*

The Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility (ACCR) – a not-for-profit shareholder advocacy organisation – pushes for transparency around whether your super fund 'walks the talk' on issues such as climate and human rights. You can find details on your super fund [here](#).

#### *Is your fund investing in fossil fuels?*

Market Forces is a not-for-profit delivering transparency on fossil fuel lending, insuring and investing within super funds, banks and insurance companies. You can see how exposed your super fund, bank or insurance company is to the fossil fuel industry [here](#).

#### *If the fund is certified by the Responsible Investment Association Australasia (RIAA)*

You can find more ethical and investment information for certified funds [here](#).

#### *More information on this fund*

For exact details of the fund's claimed ethics, costs and legal details see the fund's Product Disclosure Statement - available on their website.

*Vote based on information last updated 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019*