

# Inspire – Australian Equities Fund

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



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

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The Inspire Australian Equities Fund is an actively managed fund with a focus on Australian and New Zealand listed equities managed investment option. The Investment Manager seeks to invest in companies that are considered to have positive social and environmental impact and uses a positive screening process.

## Ethical Concerns

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### Investments

- ✘ There are no investments of concern to most ethical investors within the portfolio.

### Other concerns

- ✘ Voting history is publicly available on the manager's website. However, their voting approach is described as "...in support of management except where specific impact and ESG issues arise", resulting in only three votes since 2019.
- ✘ According to the PDS "The Investment Manager takes into account social and environmental considerations for the purposes of selecting, retaining or realising investments, but does not generally take labour standards or ethical considerations into account."

## Good Points

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- ✓ The fund manager has provided a full listing of their portfolio holdings on their website.
- ✓ The fund provides a detailed policy outlining the investment selection process.
- ✓ The fund excludes; fossil fuel production, alcohol, gambling, pornography, weapons, old growth logging, pornography, predatory lending, tobacco, and nuclear.
- ✓ The fund does not invest in companies that are involved with human rights abuses, labour rights abuse, environmental degradation, and anti-corruption, under the UN Global Compact.
- ✓ The fund preferences companies with a positive social and environmental impact, selecting companies from several positive industries including renewables, care and support, education, affordable housing, financial inclusion, lifestyle and healthy living, land and resource management, well-being including medical devices, health care and pharmaceuticals.
- ✓ The manager is a UNPRI signatory under parent company, Liverpool Partners.
- ✓ Inspire Australian Equities is RIAA certified.
- ✓ The Fund's investment choices typically demonstrate a connection with UN Sustainable Development Goals including Good Health and Well-Being, Quality Education, Affordable and Clean Energy, and Sustainable Cities and Communities.
- ✓ In line with industry peak bodies such as the Global Impact Investing Network, a genuine impact investment must not only create a financial return alongside any environmental or social return, it must also directly contribute to a solution through additionality and intentionality. The manager has a clear dedication to impact investment that includes additionality and intentionality and provides an annual report which measures the impact achieved through the fund's investment holdings.
- ✓ Voting record is publicly available. Manager has consistently voted against poor ESG practice.
- ✓ Inspire Impact specialises in impact and ethical investments.

## 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 26<sup>th</sup> September 2021*