



Australian Government

Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation

# Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme

ABN: 50 925 523 120

Financial report for the year ended 30 June 2024



Commonwealth  
Superannuation  
Corporation

# Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

For the financial year ended 30 June 2024

### DIRECTORS' REPORT

The Directors of Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC, the Trustee), as trustee for the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme (MSB, the Scheme), submit this financial report of the Scheme for the financial year ended 30 June 2024. In compliance with the provisions of the *Corporations Act 2001*, the Directors of the Trustee report as follows:

#### Principal activities

The Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme ('Scheme') is a hybrid accumulation-defined benefits scheme which provides benefits to its members under the *Military Superannuation and Benefits Act 1991*. The Scheme is operated for the purpose of providing members of the Australian Defence Force (and their dependants or beneficiaries) with lump sum and pension benefits upon retirement, termination of service, death or disablement. For the purposes of the Scheme, the Military Superannuation and Benefits Fund No. 1 (Fund) manages and invests the assets of the Scheme until such time as a benefit is paid. The Fund accepts employer contributions from the Department of Defence, other government contributions, members' contributions, transfers from other superannuation funds, and contributions made by members for the benefit of their spouse. The Scheme was closed to new members from 30 June 2016 and a new accumulation plan, Australian Defence Force Superannuation Scheme (ADF) was established for new members of the Australian Defence Force from 1 July 2016, together with a new invalidity scheme, Australian Defence Force Cover.

#### Review of operations

##### Investment performance

By diversifying our investments across high quality assets, including innovative businesses that are typically not accessible either easily, or cost effectively to smaller investors, we've been able to deliver our return objectives for our members, at different stages in their working lives:

- Our Aggressive option, designed for people earlier in their working life, generated a very strong 10.6% return this year.
- Our Balanced option, designed for our specific customer base, delivered a healthy 9.1% for the 2023-24 financial year.
- Our income-focused option, designed for those with a lower appetite for capital-value variation, delivered 5.7%, which is very high for an option of this type, outperforming many of its industry peers.
- And our Cash option underperformed against peer products because it is a pure cash option in accordance with APRA's guidelines for investment options labelled as 'cash', whereas the comparison group contains some 'cash-like' funds with higher risk.

CSC's primary investment objective is to maximise long-term, real (that is, above inflation) returns for customers, with a target of 3.5% real return per annum over rolling three-year periods for our default option, while keeping risk to an acceptable level (defined as a probability of loss in no more than five years out of 20). This investment objective is designed to provide adequacy in retirement for our average customer. 'Adequacy' is defined by the Australian Superannuation Fund Association (ASFA) as a 'comfortable standard' which accounts for post-retirement cost-of-living adjustments.

## Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme

### DIRECTORS' REPORT

For the financial year ended 30 June 2024

#### Review of operations (continued)

##### Investment returns<sup>1</sup> to 30 June 2024

Option	1 year (% pa)	3 years (% pa)	5 years (% pa)	7 years (% pa)	10 years (% pa)	15 years (% pa)
Cash	3.9	2.1	1.4	1.5	1.6	2.2
Income Focussed	5.7	3.2	4.1	4.9	5.3	4.9
Balanced (Default)	9.1	4.7	6.1	6.8	7.1	6.7
Aggressive	10.6	5.9	8.4	8.8	9.1	8.1
Australian inflation	3.8	5.3	3.9	3.3	2.7	2.7

<sup>1</sup> All returns are calculated as the annually compounded average rate of earnings after fees and taxes. Past performance is not indicative of future performance. CPI inflation shown to assist with comparison to objectives.

#### Membership

Membership	At 30 June 2024	At 30 June 2023	Difference	%
Contributors	27,954	30,745	-2,791	-9.1%
Preserved	122,466	122,310	156	0.1%
Pensioners	32,081	29,459	2,622	8.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>182,501</b>	<b>182,514</b>	<b>-13</b>	<b>0.0%</b>

#### Funds Under Management (FUM)

Option	At 30 June 2024 (\$m)	At 30 June 2023 (\$m)	Difference (\$m)	%
<b>MSBS</b>				
Cash	107.762	126.851	-19.089	-15.0%
Income Focussed	82.644	81.253	1.391	1.7%
Balanced	11,741.514	11,018.004	723.510	6.6%
Aggressive	1,979.799	1,621.747	358.052	22.1%
Operational Risk Reserve	49.009	49.455	-0.446	-0.9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,960.728</b>	<b>12,897.310</b>	<b>1,063.418</b>	<b>8.2%</b>

#### Changes in state of affairs

There have been no significant changes in the state of affairs of the Scheme during the financial year.

#### Subsequent events

There has not been any matter or circumstance occurring subsequent to the end of the financial year that has significantly affected, or may significantly affect, the operations of the Scheme, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Scheme in future financial years.

## Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme

### DIRECTORS' REPORT

For the financial year ended 30 June 2024

#### Future developments

##### Transformed customer operating model

The Trustee is currently implementing a transformation program across its customer servicing technologies and processes. The engagement platform and initial process redesign elements of the transformation program have been delivered. The next years of the transformation program focus on transitioning several legacy scheme administration platforms into one, modern scheme administration platform. The combined impact of the transformation program across technology, data, people and process is expected to support major uplifts in customer experience (through, for example, data driven and increasing personalised servicing) and improved operational efficiency (through redesigned processes, increased automation and effective eco-system integrations).

#### Environmental regulations

The Scheme is subject to prudential standards issued by APRA under *the Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993 (SIS Act)*. This includes 'SPS 530 Investment Governance', which contains a requirement for RSE's to consider Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) risks and opportunities as part of its Investment Governance framework. The Trustee believes it has sound practices in place to achieve long-term sustainable value and positive environmental and social impact across all customers' portfolios.

The Scheme is not subject to any other significant environmental regulations under the law of the Commonwealth or of a State or Territory of Australia.

#### Non-audit services

The Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) is the appointed auditor of the Scheme. Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu (Deloitte) is contracted by the ANAO to provide audit services on its behalf. Audit services provided during the period are included the financial statements audit as well as associated regulatory return and compliance audits.

There were no non-audit services provided by ANAO or Deloitte to the Scheme during the year.

#### Auditor's independence declaration

The auditor's independence declaration is included on page 13.

#### Rounding off of amounts

The Scheme is an entity of the kind referred to in *ASIC Corporations (Rounding in Financials/Directors' Reports) Instrument 2016/191*, and in accordance with that Corporations Instrument amounts in the Directors' report and the financial statements are rounded off to the nearest thousand dollars, unless otherwise indicated.

### REMUNERATION REPORT

This remuneration report, which forms part of the Directors' report, sets out information about the remuneration of the key management personnel of the Scheme for the financial year ended 30 June 2024. The term 'key management personnel' refers to those persons having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Scheme. The prescribed details for each person covered by this report are detailed under the following headings:

- Key management personnel
- Remuneration of key management personnel
- Key terms of employment contracts.

## Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme

### DIRECTORS' REPORT

For the financial year ended 30 June 2024

#### Key management personnel

The Directors of the Trustee and other key management personnel of the Trustee during or since the end of the financial year were:

##### Directors of the Trustee

Name	Nominated by	Member of the Scheme
Ariane Barker	Minister for Finance	No
Juliet Brown	Minister for Finance	No
Melissa Donnelly	President of the ACTU	No
Lee Goddard	Chief of the Defence Force	Yes
Andrea Hall	Minister for Finance	No
Jacqueline Hey	Minister for Finance	No
Garry Hounsell (Chair)	Minister for Finance	No
David Mulhall	Chief of the Defence Force	Yes
Alistair Waters	President of the ACTU	No

##### Other key management personnel

Name	Position	Member of the Scheme
Paul Abraham	Executive Manager, Investment Operations	No
Catharina Armitage	Executive Manager, People	No
Robert Firth	Chief Risk Officer	No
Phillip George	Executive Manager, Transformation and Technology Strategy and Advice	No
Damian Hill	Chief Executive Officer	No
Andrew Matuszczak	Chief Transformation and Information Officer	No
Adam Nettheim	Chief Customer Officer	No
Alana Scheiffers	General Counsel	Yes
Alison Tarditi	Chief Investment Officer	No
Andy Young	Chief Operating Officer	No

The terms and conditions of membership of the Scheme for any key management personnel are the same as for any other member who are not key management personnel.

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
**DIRECTORS' REPORT**  
**For the financial year ended 30 June 2024**

**Remuneration of key management personnel**

The figures below represent the total remuneration of key management personnel paid by CSC.

Directors of the Trustee

2023-24				Short-term benefits				Post-employment benefits	Long-term benefits		Total remuneration
Name	Position	Date commenced	Date ceased	Director fees	Variable remuneration – cash	Variable remuneration – deferred	Other benefits and allowances	Superannuation contributions	Long service leave	Termination benefits	
				\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Ariane Barker	Director	13 Sep 2016	N/A	71,990	-	-	-	7,929	-	-	79,919
Juliet Brown	Director	13 Sep 2021	N/A	82,900	-	-	-	9,130	-	-	92,030
Melissa Donnelly	Director	1 Jul 2020	N/A	80,720	-	-	-	12,431	-	-	93,151
Lee Goddard	Director	1 Jul 2022	N/A	79,140	-	-	-	8,715	-	-	87,855
Andrea Hall	Director	1 Jul 2023	N/A	87,260	-	-	-	9,611	-	-	96,871
Jacqueline Hey	Director	21 Oct 2021	N/A	71,990	-	-	-	7,929	-	-	79,919
Garry Hounsell	Chair	25 Jul 2021	N/A	150,490	-	-	-	16,574	-	-	167,064
David Mulhall	Director	2 May 2023	N/A	86,516	-	-	-	9,528	-	-	96,044
Alistair Waters	Director	25 Feb 2020	N/A	71,990	-	-	-	11,086	-	-	83,076
<b>Total</b>				<b>782,996</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>92,933</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>875,929</b>

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
**DIRECTORS' REPORT**  
For the financial year ended 30 June 2024

**Remuneration of key management personnel (continued)**

Other key management personnel

2023-24				Short-term employee benefits				Post-employment benefits	Long-term benefits		
Name	Position	Date commenced	Date ceased	Base Salary	Variable remuneration – cash	Variable remuneration – deferred	Other benefits and allowances <sup>1</sup>	Superannuation contributions	Long service leave	Termination benefits	Total remuneration
				\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Paul Abraham	Executive Manager, Investment Operations	21 Mar 2016	N/A	308,608	72,963	-	-	27,568	7,606	-	416,745
Catharina Armitage	Executive Manager, People	17 May 2019	N/A	331,220	71,858	-	-	27,568	11,001	-	441,647
Robert Firth	Chief Risk Officer	1 Jan 2017	N/A	345,883	82,285	-	-	27,568	10,292	-	466,028
Philip George	Executive Manager, Transformation and Technology Strategy and Advice <sup>2</sup>	3 Feb 2020	30 Jun 2024	367,254	71,879	-	-	6,806	10,393	-	456,332
Damian Hill	Chief Executive Officer	13 Jul 2020	N/A	842,458	69,660	89,501	81,224	27,568	19,622	-	1,130,033
Andrew Matuszczak	Chief Transformation and Information Officer	31 Aug 2020	N/A	459,703	96,984	-	-	27,568	12,221	-	596,476
Adam Nettheim	Chief Customer Officer <sup>3</sup>	1 Jan 2023	NA	400,341	80,303	-	-	27,568	9,399	-	517,611
Alana Scheiffers	General Counsel	1 Jul 2018	N/A	376,710	79,289	-	-	27,568	9,027	-	492,594
Alison Tarditi	Chief Investment Officer	1 Jul 2011	N/A	824,816	396,576	230,908	130,860	27,568	21,066	-	1,631,794
Andy Young	Chief Operating Officer	30 Jul 2012	N/A	469,561	104,271	-	-	27,568	13,366	-	614,766
<b>Total</b>				<b>4,726,554</b>	<b>1,126,068</b>	<b>320,409</b>	<b>212,084</b>	<b>254,918</b>	<b>123,993</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>6,764,026</b>

No key management personnel received share based compensation during the period. No key management personnel appointed during the period received a payment as part of their consideration for agreeing to hold the position.

<sup>1</sup> Other benefits and allowances include transitional payments for the performance period ended 30 June 2024 and carparking benefits.

<sup>2</sup> Previously Executive Manager, Transformation until 15 Apr 2024

<sup>3</sup> Previously Acting Chief Customer Officer until 9 Jul 2023

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
**DIRECTORS' REPORT**  
**For the financial year ended 30 June 2024**

**Remuneration of key management personnel (continued)**

The Scheme does not employ any staff; the Trustee provides management services to the Scheme. The key management personnel of the Trustee are the key management personnel of the Trust and for the superannuation schemes for which CSC is Trustee. Apportioned compensation in relation to the Scheme is a pro-rata apportionment of the overall compensation paid by the Trustee, based on the net assets of the entities under its trusteeship or actual control. The following tables outline apportioned compensation of the key management personnel of the Trustee in relation to the Scheme:

Directors of the Trustee

2023-24				Short-term benefits				Post-employment benefits	Long-term benefits		Total remuneration
Name	Position	Date commenced	Date ceased	Director fees	Variable remuneration – cash	Variable remuneration – deferred	Other benefits and allowances	Superannuation contributions	Long service leave	Termination benefits	
				\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Ariane Barker	Director	13 Sep 2016	N/A	6,351	0	0	0	699	0	0	7,050
Juliet Brown	Director	13 Sep 2021	N/A	7,313	0	0	0	805	0	0	8,118
Melissa Donnelly	Director	1 Jul 2020	N/A	7,121	0	0	0	1,097	0	0	8,218
Lee Goddard	Director	1 Jul 2022	N/A	6,982	0	0	0	769	0	0	7,751
Andrea Hall	Director	1 Jul 2023	N/A	7,698	0	0	0	848	0	0	8,546
Jacqueline Hey	Director	21 Oct 2021	N/A	6,351	0	0	0	699	0	0	7,050
Garry Hounsell	Chair	25 Jul 2021	N/A	13,276	0	0	0	1,462	0	0	14,738
David Mulhall	Director	2 May 2023	N/A	7,632	0	0	0	841	0	0	8,473
Alistair Waters	Director	25 Feb 2020	N/A	6,351	0	0	0	978	0	0	7,329
<b>Total</b>				<b>69,075</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8,198</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>77,273</b>



**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
**DIRECTORS' REPORT**  
**For the financial year ended 30 June 2024**

**Remuneration of key management personnel (continued)**

Other key management personnel

2023-24				Short-term employee benefits				Post-employment benefits	Long-term benefits		Total remuneration
Name	Position	Date commenced	Date ceased	Base Salary	Variable remuneration – cash	Variable remuneration – deferred	Other benefits and allowances <sup>1</sup>	Superannuation contributions	Long service leave	Termination benefits	Total remuneration
				\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Paul Abraham	Executive Manager, Investment Operations	21 Mar 2016	N/A	27,225	6,437	-	-	2,432	671	-	36,765
Catharina Armitage	Executive Manager, People	17 May 2019	N/A	29,220	6,339	-	-	2,432	971	-	38,962
Robert Firth	Chief Risk Officer	1 Jan 2017	N/A	30,514	7,259	-	-	2,432	908	-	41,113
Philip George	Executive Manager, Transformation and Technology Strategy and Advice <sup>2</sup>	3 Feb 2020	30 Jun 2024	32,399	6,341	-	-	600	917	-	40,257
Damian Hill	Chief Executive Officer	13 Jul 2020	N/A	74,321	6,145	7,896	7,166	2,432	1,731	-	99,691
Andrew Matuszczak	Chief Transformation and Information Officer	31 Aug 2020	N/A	40,555	8,556	-	-	2,432	1,078	-	52,621
Adam Nettheim	Chief Customer Officer <sup>3</sup>	1 Jan 2023	NA	35,318	7,084	-	-	2,432	829	-	45,663
Alana Scheiffers	General Counsel	1 Jul 2018	N/A	33,233	6,995	-	-	2,432	796	-	43,456
Alison Tarditi	Chief Investment Officer	1 Jul 2011	N/A	72,765	34,986	20,371	11,544	2,432	1,858	-	143,956
Andy Young	Chief Operating Officer	30 Jul 2012	N/A	41,425	9,199	-	-	2,432	1,179	-	54,235
<b>Total</b>				<b>416,975</b>	<b>99,341</b>	<b>28,267</b>	<b>18,710</b>	<b>22,488</b>	<b>10,938</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>596,719</b>

No key management personnel received share based compensation during the period. No key management personnel appointed during the period received a payment as part of their consideration for agreeing to hold the position.

<sup>1</sup> Other benefits and allowances include transitional payments for the performance period ended 30 June 2024 and carparking benefits.

<sup>2</sup> Previously Executive Manager, Transformation until 15 Apr 2024

<sup>3</sup> Previously Acting Chief Customer Officer until 9 Jul 2023

## Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme

### DIRECTORS' REPORT

For the financial year ended 30 June 2024

#### Variable remuneration granted during the 2023-24 financial year

Name	Individual short term performance variable remuneration outcomes						
	Maximum potential short term variable remuneration opportunity <sup>1</sup> \$	Individual variable remuneration outcome \$	% of maximum opportunity earned <sup>1</sup>	% of maximum opportunity forfeited <sup>1</sup>	Cash \$	Deferred \$	Present Value of Deferred \$ <sup>2</sup>
<b>Paul Abraham</b>	108,900	72,963	67%	33%	72,963	-	-
<b>Catharina Armitage</b>	107,250	71,858	67%	33%	71,858	-	-
<b>Robert Firth</b>	114,285	82,285	72%	28%	82,285	-	-
<b>Philip George</b>	112,192	71,879	64%	36%	71,879	-	-
<b>Damian Hill</b>	270,000	174,150	64%	36%	69,660	104,490	89,501
<b>Andrew Matuszczak</b>	134,700	96,984	72%	28%	96,984	-	-
<b>Adam Nettheim</b>	124,500	80,303	65%	35%	80,303	-	-
<b>Alana Scheiffers</b>	122,928	79,289	65%	35%	79,289	-	-
<b>Alison Tarditi</b>	918,000	660,960	72%	28%	396,576	264,384	230,908
<b>Andy Young</b>	155,628	104,271	67%	33%	104,271	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,168,383</b>	<b>1,494,942</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>1,126,068</b>	<b>368,874</b>	<b>320,409</b>

<sup>1</sup> The total variable remuneration opportunity for each member of key management personnel is based on the performance criteria outlined later in this report. These criteria may also include stretch targets in the Corporate and Individual performance components. As such the maximum potential variable remuneration opportunity does not reflect a threshold level of performance, and it is likely that for any given reporting period there will be a percentage of the total opportunity not awarded (forfeited).

<sup>2</sup> The deferred component is discounted to present value using the Reserve Bank of Australia bond rate for the period of deferral.

The cash variable remuneration disclosed above was granted on 22 August 2024 with regard to performance for the financial year ended 30 June 2024 and the amounts granted were paid in full (100%) on 26 September 2024.

#### Deferred variable remuneration

The CSC deferred variable remuneration policy (Deferral Policy) came into effect from 1 July 2023. Variable remuneration that has met the threshold for a portion to be deferred under APRA Prudential Standard *CPS 511 – Remuneration* (CPS511), is expected to be paid in instalments between four to six years into the future. The Board has discretion where appropriate to revise deferred amounts payable under the Deferral Policy. Part or all of any deferred remuneration may be forfeited in the event of misconduct, significant failures and/or significant adverse outcomes. The Deferral Policy sets out the circumstances in which, on cessation of employment the Board may decide to either pay all or part of the deferred variable remuneration up front, or for it to lapse either in part or in its entirety.

## Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme

### DIRECTORS' REPORT

For the financial year ended 30 June 2024

#### Transitional payments

The Chief Executive Officer, Chief Investment Officer and Chief Operating Officer may be eligible for 'transitional payments' to partially compensate for the requirement under *CPS 511* to defer the vesting of a portion of their variable remuneration in relation to any performance periods commencing post 1 July 2023. Future transitional payments are estimated to be as follows:

	Transitional payments		
Performance period ending	30 June 2025	30 June 2026	30 June 2027
Expected payment timing	September 2025	September 2026	September 2027
	\$	\$	\$
<b>Damian Hill</b>	108,000	108,000	54,000
<b>Alison Tarditi</b>	174,480	174,480	-
<b>Andy Young</b>	29,700	29,700	-

The Board has the discretion to revise any transitional payment upwards or downwards, or to not grant a transitional payment at all. The executive must also remain employed with CSC for the full duration of the relevant performance period to receive a transitional payment. Details of transitional payments made under this arrangement will be disclosed in the Remuneration Report for the relevant performance year.

## Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme

### DIRECTORS' REPORT

For the financial year ended 30 June 2024

#### Variable remuneration granted during the 2023-24 financial year (continued)

##### Nature of the variable remuneration granted

Individual employment contracts indicate the maximum percentage of the total fixed remuneration package (TRP) that the Board may determine to pay as a short-term cash variable remuneration each year, however variable remuneration payments are made entirely at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

##### Performance criteria

The performance criteria that the Board of Directors had regard to when determining the variable remuneration payments made during the financial year are disclosed in the table below.

Component	Measurement basis	Weighting
Investment performance	(a) 50% upon achievement of a 3.5% real investment return (i.e. after adjusting for inflation) for the default investment option (MySuper Balanced) over a rolling 3 year period; (b) If (a) is not achieved, 25% if the investment return of the default investment option (MySuper Balanced) exceeds the reference (passive) portfolio over a rolling 3 year period; (c) If both (a) and (b) not achieved, then 0%.	50%
Corporate performance	Directors' assessment of the achievement of the strategic and operational targets agreed by and reported to the Board of Directors.	20%
Individual performance	Achievement of key individual performance objectives agreed at the start of each financial year.	20%
Adherence to CSC values	Qualitative assessment of adherence to CSC values (Customer Driven, United, Accountable, Future Focused)	10%
Total		100%

To qualify to participate in the short-term variable remuneration scheme mentioned above, key management personnel are required to receive an 'adherence to CSC values' rating of "consistently" or above, receive an individual performance rating of 'fully effective' or above, and achieve a pre-determined risk objective. The Board has the discretion to 'clawback' variable remuneration paid to an employee in previous years in situations where new information is received that indicates misconduct, significant adverse member outcomes, significant failures or significant errors have occurred in a particular performance period.

## Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme

### DIRECTORS' REPORT

For the financial year ended 30 June 2024

#### Key terms of employment contracts

Details of employment contracts negotiated between the Trustee and members of key management personnel during the financial year ended 30 June 2024 are outlined below.

- An employment contract for Philip George (Executive Manager – Transformation and Technology Strategy and Advice) was negotiated in February 2024 to extend the term of his fixed term contract to 7 February 2025. There were no changes to the remuneration package as a result of this change.
- The employment contract for Adam Nettheim was negotiated in July 2023 when he was permanently appointed to the position of Chief Customer Officer. Remuneration was determined in line with CSC's Board-approved Remuneration Policy and Remuneration Framework. The base salary upon commencement was benchmarked against the Financial Institutions Remuneration Group's (FIRG) market surveys. Each year thereafter, the base salary is reviewed also using FIRG market surveys (as it is for all CSC employees). The contract includes variable remuneration in the range of 0 – 30% of gross fixed remuneration, consistent with the previous holder of this position and other Executive key management personnel. Details of the variable remuneration performance criteria are outlined above. The contract for services allows for compensation adjustments for adverse events, depending on the level of contribution to the event and actions taken to mitigate outcomes. No adverse events requiring compensation adjustments occurred during the financial year.

#### Directors' resolution

This Directors report is signed in accordance with a resolution of the Directors of the Trustee made pursuant to s.298(2) of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

On behalf of the Directors of the Trustee



Garry Hounsell

Chair

26 September 2024



Directors of the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation  
Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme  
7 London Circuit  
Canberra ACT 2601

**MILITARY SUPERANNUATION AND BENEFITS SCHEME FINANCIAL REPORT 2023–24**  
**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION**

In relation to my audit of the financial report of the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme for the year ended 30 June 2024, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*; and
- (ii) no contravention of any applicable code of professional conduct.

Australian National Audit Office

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Sean Benfield'.

Sean Benfield  
Senior Executive Director  
Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra  
26 September 2024

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme (ABN 50 925 523 120)**

**Statement by the Trustee of the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme ('Scheme')**

The Directors of the Trustee hereby state that in their opinion:

- (a) the accompanying financial statements of the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme are properly drawn up so as to present fairly the financial position of the Scheme as at 30 June 2024 and the financial performance, changes in equity, changes in member benefits and cash flows of the Scheme for the year ended on that date;
- (b) at the date of this statement there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Scheme will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due;
- (c) the financial statements are in a form agreed by the Minister for Finance and the Trustee in accordance with subsection 30(1)(d) of the *Governance of Australian Government Superannuation Schemes Act 2011* and have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and other mandatory professional reporting requirements, the *Corporations Act 2001* and *Corporations Regulations 2001*;
- (d) the financial statements have been prepared based on properly maintained financial records; and
- (e) the operations of the Scheme were conducted in accordance with the *Governance of Australian Government Superannuation Schemes Act 2011*, the *Military Superannuation and Benefits Act 1991*, the Trust Deed establishing the Scheme, the requirements of the *Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993* and regulations, and the relevant requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and regulations (to the extent applicable).

Signed this 26th day of September 2024 in accordance with a resolution of Directors of Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (ABN 48 882 817 243) as Trustee of the Scheme.



Garry Hounsell  
Chair



Andrea Hall  
Director

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
**As at 30 June 2024**

	Note	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents		25,474	21,252
Employer sponsor receivable		80,744,845	71,721,755
Other receivables	4	5,883	6,560
Investments in pooled superannuation trust	5	13,960,728	12,897,310
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>94,736,930</b>	<b>84,646,877</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Benefits payable		(7,903)	(8,730)
Income tax payable		(17,456)	(14,152)
Other payables		(548)	(514)
Deferred tax assets and liabilities	8(c)	(14)	(11)
<b>Total liabilities excluding member benefits</b>		<b>(25,921)</b>	<b>(23,407)</b>
<b>Net assets available for member benefits</b>		<b>94,711,009</b>	<b>84,623,470</b>
Member liabilities	9	(94,662,000)	(84,574,000)
<b>Net assets</b>		<b>49,009</b>	<b>49,470</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Operational risk reserve		(49,009)	(49,470)
<b>Total equity</b>		<b>(49,009)</b>	<b>(49,470)</b>



**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
**Income Statement**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2024**

	Note	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<b>Investment revenue</b>			
Interest		1,051	598
Changes in fair value of investments	6(c)	<u>1,179,493</u>	<u>1,094,404</u>
<b>Total revenue</b>		<u>1,180,544</u>	<u>1,095,002</u>
<b>Total expenses</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Operating results / (loss)</b>		<b>1,180,544</b>	1,095,002
Net change in member benefits from investing activities		<u>(1,176,030)</u>	<u>(1,091,021)</u>
<b>Operating result before income tax expense</b>		<u>4,514</u>	<u>3,981</u>
<b>Income tax expense</b>	8(a)	(158)	(90)
<b>Operating result after income tax</b>		<u>4,356</u>	<u>3,891</u>

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
**Statement of Changes in Member Benefits**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2024**

	Note	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<b>Opening balance of member benefits allocated at the beginning of the financial year</b>		<b>84,574,000</b>	76,360,000
<b>Contributions:</b>			
Member contributions	7(a)	<b>203,803</b>	208,920
Employer contributions	7(a)	<b>138,880</b>	150,469
Government co-contributions	7(a)	<b>141</b>	215
Low income superannuation tax offset	7(a)	<b>82</b>	89
Income tax on contributions	8(b)	<b>(20,869)</b>	(22,646)
<b>Net after tax contributions</b>		<b>322,037</b>	337,047
Net appropriation from Consolidated Revenue Fund	7(b)	<b>1,770,826</b>	1,573,902
Benefits to members	7(b)	<b>(2,208,800)</b>	(1,960,505)
Net change in member benefits from investing activities		<b>1,176,030</b>	1,091,021
Net change in member benefits to be funded by employers		<b>9,027,907</b>	7,172,535
<b>Closing balance of member benefits allocated at the end of the financial year</b>		<b>94,662,000</b>	84,574,000

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
**Statement of Changes in Equity**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2024**

	<b>Operational risk reserve \$'000</b>	<b>Total equity \$'000</b>
<b>Opening balance as at 1 July 2022</b>	43,066	43,066
Operating result	3,891	3,891
Net transfers to / (from) reserves	2,513	2,513
<b>Closing balance as at 30 June 2023</b>	<u>49,470</u>	<u>49,470</u>
<b>Opening balance as at 1 July 2023</b>	<b>49,470</b>	<b>49,470</b>
Operating result	<b>4,356</b>	<b>4,356</b>
Net transfers to / (from) reserves	<b>(4,817)</b>	<b>(4,817)</b>
<b>Closing balance as at 30 June 2024</b>	<u><b>49,009</b></u>	<u><b>49,009</b></u>

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
**Statement of Cash Flows**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2024**

	Note	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Interest received		1,031	532
Superannuation surcharge paid		34	14
Income tax (paid) / received		(80)	(1)
<b>Net cash inflows / (outflows) from operating activities</b>	10(b)	<u>985</u>	<u>545</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchase of investments		(322,000)	(337,019)
Proceeds from sale of investments		438,090	382,999
<b>Net cash inflows / (outflows) from investing activities</b>		<u>116,090</u>	<u>45,980</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Contributions received			
Employer contributions		138,880	150,469
Member contributions		203,803	208,920
Government co-contributions		141	215
Low income superannuation tax offset		82	89
Income tax paid on contributions		(17,640)	(22,338)
Benefits paid		(2,209,627)	(1,953,756)
Net appropriation from Consolidated Revenue Fund		1,771,508	1,570,752
<b>Net cash (outflows) / inflows from financing activities</b>		<u>(112,853)</u>	<u>(45,649)</u>
<b>Net increase / (decrease) in cash held</b>		<u>4,222</u>	<u>876</u>
Cash at the beginning of the financial year		21,252	20,376
<b>Cash at the end of the financial year</b>	10(a)	<u>25,474</u>	<u>21,252</u>

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2024**

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**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2024**

**1. DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHEME AND THE FUND**

The Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme ('Scheme') (ABN 50 925 523 120) is a hybrid accumulation-defined benefits scheme which provides benefits to its members under the Military Superannuation and Benefits Act 1991. The Trustee of the Scheme is Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC) (ABN 48 880 817 243).

The Scheme is operated for the purpose of providing members of the Australian Defence Force (and their dependants or beneficiaries) with lump sum and pension benefits upon retirement, termination of service, death or disablement. For the purposes of the Scheme, the Military Superannuation and Benefits Fund No. 1 (Fund) manages and invests the assets of the Scheme until such time as a benefit is paid. The Fund accepts employer contributions from the Department of Defence, other government contributions, members' contributions, transfers from other superannuation funds, and contributions made by members for the benefit of their spouse.

The principal place of business and registered office of the Trustee is 7 London Circuit, Canberra, ACT 2601.

The Scheme was closed to new members from 30 June 2016 and a new accumulation plan, Australian Defence Force Superannuation Scheme (ADF) was established for new members of the Australian Defence Force from 1 July 2016, together with a new invalidity scheme, Australian Defence Force Cover.

**2. BASIS OF PREPARATION**

**(a) Statement of compliance**

The financial report of the Scheme is a general purpose financial report which has been prepared in accordance with Accounting Standards and Interpretations, including AASB 1056 '*Superannuation Entities*', *the Corporations Act 2001 and Corporations Regulations 2001*. For the purposes of preparing financial statements the Scheme is a for profit for members entity.

The form of these financial statements has been agreed by the Minister for Finance and the Trustee in accordance with sub-section 30(1)(d) of the *Governance of Australian Government Superannuation Schemes Act 2011*.

The financial statements of the Scheme were authorised for issue by the Directors of the Trustee on 26 September 2024.

**New Accounting Standards**

There were no new or revised standards and/or interpretations issued before the sign-off date that had a material effect on the entity's financial statements for the current reporting period, nor are expected to have a material effect in the future.

No accounting standard has been adopted earlier than the application date as stated in the standard.

The *Treasury Laws Amendment (2022 Measures No. 4) Act 2023* introduced reforms to financial reporting and auditing requirements for registerable superannuation entities (RSEs) that has impacted the Scheme. With effect from the 2023-24 financial year, the Scheme has prepared an annual financial report including a Directors' Report, in addition to a Directors' Declaration, an Auditor's Independence Declaration and the audited financial statements. There has been no change to recognition, measurement or disclosure in the financial statements as a result of this change.

**(b) Functional and presentation currency**

The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars, which is the functional currency of the Scheme.

The Scheme is an entity of the kind referred to in *ASIC Corporations (Rounding in Financials/Directors' Reports) Instrument 2016/191*, and in accordance with that Corporations Instrument amounts in the Directors' report and the financial statements are rounded off to the nearest thousand dollars, unless otherwise indicated.

**(c) Use of judgements and estimates**

In the application of Accounting Standards, management is required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstance, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Judgements made by management in the application of Accounting Standards that have material effects on the financial statements and estimates with a material risk of material adjustments in the next year are disclosed, where applicable, in the relevant notes to the financial statements.

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2024**

**2. BASIS OF PREPARATION (CONTINUED)**

**(d) Going concern**

The financial report has been prepared on a going concern basis, which contemplates the continuation of normal business operations and the realisation of assets and settlement of liabilities in the normal course of business. In making this assessment, the Directors of the Trustee have considered future events and conditions including for the period of twelve months following the approval of these financial statements. The Trustee remains confident that the Scheme will be able to continue as a going concern as the Scheme's assets significantly outweigh its liabilities and it has sufficient liquidity to meet its debts as and when they fall due.

**3. SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

The accounting policies set out below have been applied in preparing the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024 and the comparative information presented in these financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023.

**(a) Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash at bank used to transact member and employer contributions, transfers to and from other funds, benefit payments and tax liabilities.

**(b) Financial assets**

Financial assets (being investments in a pooled superannuation trust, cash at bank and other receivables) are recognised on the date the Scheme becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the asset. Financial assets are recognised using trade date accounting. After initial measurement, any gains and losses from changes in fair value are recognised in the Income Statement.

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction in the principal (or most advantageous) market at the measurement date under current market conditions, regardless of whether that price is directly observable or estimated using another valuation technique.

Fair values have been determined as follows:

- (i) Units in a pooled superannuation trust are valued at the redemption price at close of business on the last business day of the reporting period as notified by the manager of the trust, reflecting the fair value of the underlying investments.
- (ii) Other receivables are recognised at nominal amounts due which approximate fair value. All amounts are unsecured and are subject to normal credit terms.

**(c) Employer sponsor receivable**

The Commonwealth Government is obliged under the *Military Superannuation and Benefits Act 1991* to meet any funding shortfall for the defined benefit member liabilities of the Scheme. The asset is measured at its 'intrinsic value' (i.e. the amount of the difference between member liability and the fair value of assets available to meet that liability). The value of the employer sponsor receivable will not necessarily be the same as the value of the corresponding liability in the accounts of the employer sponsor and the Australian Government Long Term Cost Report due to the application of different accounting standards which may result in different valuation assumptions from those set out in Note 9.

**(d) Foreign currency transactions**

The Scheme does not undertake transactions denominated in foreign currencies.

**(e) Payables**

Payables (being benefits payable and other payables) are recognised at their nominal value which is equivalent to fair value.

**Benefits payable**

Benefits payable to a member are recognised where a valid withdrawal notice has been received from the employer sponsor, and approved, but payment has not been made by reporting date.

**Other payables**

Other payables represent liabilities for services provided during the financial period and which are unpaid at reporting date. All amounts are unsecured. Creditors are subject to normal credit terms.

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2024**

**3. SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**(f) Member liabilities**

Defined benefit member liabilities are measured as the amount of a portfolio of investments that would be needed as at the reporting date to yield future net cash inflows that would be sufficient to meet accrued benefits as at that date when they are expected to fall due (Note 9).

The impact of the Scheme's default death and invalidity insurance arrangements have been considered in determining member liabilities. Balances and transactions in respect of these arrangements are presented in aggregate as part of member liabilities and the benefits paid/payable balances presented in the Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Changes in Member Benefits.

**(g) Contribution revenue and transfers from other funds**

Employer and member contributions, superannuation co-contributions, low income superannuation tax offsets from the Commonwealth Government and transfers from other funds are recognised when control of the contribution or transfer has passed to the Scheme.

**(h) Operational risk reserve**

The purpose of the operational risk reserve (ORR) is to provide adequate financial resources to address potential losses arising from an operational risk event. The ORR is operated in accordance with an ORR policy. The level of the reserve is determined by the Trustee Directors and reviewed annually, based on an assessment of the risks faced by the Scheme. The transferred assets underlying the ORR are held in a separate balanced option of the ARIA Investments Trust ('the AIT') and income earned on these assets is recognised in the reserve.

**(i) Derivatives**

The Scheme does not directly enter into derivative financial instruments.

**(j) Revenue**

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the entity and the revenue can be reliably measured. Specific revenues are recognised as follows:

**Investment revenue**

Interest revenue is recognised on an accrual basis.

Changes in the fair value of investments are recognised as income and are determined as the difference between the fair value at year end or consideration received (if sold during the year) and the fair value as at the prior year end or cost (if the investment was acquired during the period).

**(k) Expenses**

Expenses are recognised on an accruals basis and, if not paid at reporting date, are reflected in the Statement of Financial Position as an accrual or payable depending upon whether or not the expense has been billed.

**(l) Income tax**

Income tax is recognised in the Income Statement and the Statement of Changes in Member Benefits. As the Scheme invests in the AIT, which is a pooled superannuation trust, tax on this investment revenue is paid by the AIT.

**Current tax**

Current tax is calculated by reference to the amount of income taxes payable or recoverable in respect of the taxable profit or loss for the period. It is calculated using tax rates and tax laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by reporting date. Current tax for the current and prior periods is recognised as a liability (or asset) to the extent that it is unpaid (or refundable).

**Deferred tax**

Deferred tax is accounted for using the comprehensive balance sheet liability method in respect of temporary differences between the carrying amount of assets and liabilities in the financial statements and the corresponding tax base of those items.

In principle, deferred tax liabilities are recognised for all taxable temporary differences. Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that sufficient taxable amounts will be available against which deductible temporary differences or unused tax losses and tax offsets can be utilised. However, deferred tax assets and liabilities are not recognised if the temporary differences giving rise to them arise from the initial recognition of assets and liabilities (other than as a result of a business combination) which affects neither taxable income nor accounting profit.



**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2024**

**3. SUMMARY OF MATERIAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)**

**(l) Income tax (Continued)**

**Current and deferred tax for the period**

Current and deferred tax for the period is recognised as an expense or benefit in the Income Statement, except for tax on contributions, which is recognised in the Statement of Changes in Member Benefits.

**(m) Goods and services tax ('GST')**

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax ('GST') recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) as a reduced input tax credit. Where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the ATO, it is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or as an expense item.

Receivables and payables are recognised inclusive of GST.

The net amount of GST recoverable from, or payable to, the ATO is included as an asset or liability in the Statement of Financial Position.

Cash flows are included in the Statement of Cash Flows on a gross basis. The GST component of cash flows arising from investing and financing activities which is recoverable from, or payable to, the taxation authority is classified within operating cash flows.

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2024**

**4. OTHER RECEIVABLES**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Receivable from the ARIA Investments Trust	-	15
Interest receivable	<b>96</b>	76
Amount to be appropriated from Consolidated Revenue Fund	<b>5,787</b>	6,469
	<b>5,883</b>	6,560

There are no receivables that are past due or impaired. (2023: Nil)

**5. INVESTMENTS**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Pooled superannuation trust - ARIA Investments Trust	<b>13,960,728</b>	12,897,310
	<b>13,960,728</b>	12,897,310

**6. CHANGES IN FAIR VALUE OF INVESTMENTS**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>(a) Investments held at 30 June:</b>		
Pooled superannuation trust - ARIA Investments Trust	<b>1,162,427</b>	1,078,998
<b>(b) Investments realised during the year:</b>		
Pooled superannuation trust - ARIA Investments Trust	<b>17,066</b>	15,406
<b>(c) Total changes in fair value of investments</b>	<b>1,179,493</b>	1,094,404

**7. FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS**

**(a) Contributions**

**Member Contributions**

Members contribute to the Scheme each fortnight at optional rates ranging from a minimum of 5% of salary, to a maximum of 10% of salary. The contribution rates were the same in the prior year.

**Employer Contributions**

The Department of Defence contributes to the Scheme each fortnight in respect of each member at the rate of 3% of the member's salary. The contribution rates were the same in the prior year. Employers may also make salary sacrifice contributions (before tax) and Ordinary Time Earnings top up contributions to the Scheme on behalf of members.

**Transferring Superannuation from Other Funds**

Money invested in other superannuation funds can be rolled over to the Scheme.

**Government Co-Contributions**

For the financial years ended 30 June 2023 and 30 June 2024, the Commonwealth Government contributed \$0.50 (2023: \$0.50) for every \$1.00 of eligible personal after-tax member contributions paid to the Scheme up to a maximum of \$500 per member.

**Low Income Superannuation Tax Offset**

The low income superannuation tax offset (LISTO) is a Commonwealth Government superannuation payment of up to \$500. LISTO payments are recognised as revenue when received.

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2024**

**7. FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**(b) Benefits**

The benefits payable from the Scheme comprise a lump sum of accumulated member contributions and a defined benefit financed by the employer and calculated on the basis of the member's final average salary and length of service. The defined benefit may be taken as a lump sum or as a pension or as a combination of lump sum and pension. The defined benefit consists of a funded component (the accumulated value of contributions made to the Fund by the Department of Defence) and an unfunded component (the balance of the defined benefit).

In general, when a benefit becomes payable to a member, the accumulated member and employer contributions held in the Scheme in respect of the member are transferred to the Consolidated Revenue Fund (CRF) which pays out the total benefit (both funded and unfunded components).

Appropriation refers to the total amount paid from the CRF. The appropriation from CRF shown in the Statement of Changes in Member Benefits is the net amount after taking into account transfers from the Scheme to the CRF.

Of the total benefits payable as at 30 June 2024, \$2.4 million (2023: \$3.4 million) is payable by the Consolidated Revenue Fund. The Commonwealth is the corresponding debtor for this amount in accordance with the funding arrangements described above.

Benefits paid and payable by the Scheme and the Consolidated Revenue Fund during the year are as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Gross Appropriation from Consolidated Revenue Fund	<b>2,052,330</b>	1,833,251
less: Transfers from Fund to Consolidated Revenue Fund	<u><b>(281,504)</b></u>	<u>(259,349)</u>
<b>Net Appropriation</b>	<u><b>1,770,826</b></u>	<u>1,573,902</u>
<b>Consolidated Revenue Fund</b>		
Lump-sum benefits	<b>270,399</b>	249,575
Pensions	<u><b>1,781,931</b></u>	<u>1,583,676</u>
	<u><b>2,052,330</b></u>	<u>1,833,251</u>
<b>Military Superannuation &amp; Benefits Fund</b>		
Lump-sum benefits	<u><b>156,470</b></u>	<u>127,254</u>
<b>Total benefits paid and payable</b>	<u><b>2,208,800</b></u>	<u>1,960,505</u>

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2024**

**7. FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**(c) Cost of managing, investing and administering the scheme**

Costs of and incidental to the management of the Scheme and the investment of its money are charged against the assets of the AIT that are referable to the Scheme. Transactions in respect of these costs have been brought to account in the financial statements of the AIT.

Expenses met by the AIT and referable to the Fund are as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Investment</b>		
Investment manager fees	<b>20,232</b>	19,958
Custodian fees	<b>1,343</b>	1,298
Investment consultant and other service provider fees	<b>2,001</b>	2,041
Other investment expenses	<b>1,010</b>	963
<b>Total direct investment expenses</b>	<b>24,586</b>	24,260
Regulatory fees	<b>1,444</b>	1,101
Other operating expenses	<b>16,944</b>	17,705
<b>Total costs</b>	<b>42,974</b>	43,066

Administrative fees are paid to CSC by the Department of Defence to meet costs other than those incurred in managing and investing Fund assets. The sponsoring employer has contributed further administration funding of \$23.82 million (2023: \$22.45 million). Transactions in respect of the receipt of these fees and the costs of administration have been brought to account in the financial statements of the Trustee.

**8. INCOME TAX**

**(a) Income tax recognised in operating results**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Tax expense comprises:</b>		
Current tax expense	<b>155</b>	81
Deferred tax expense relating to the origination and reversal of temporary differences	<b>3</b>	9
<b>Total tax expense</b>	<b>158</b>	90

The prima facie income tax benefit on the operating result before income tax reconciles to the income tax benefit in the Income Statement as follows:

<b>Operating result before income tax expense</b>	<b>4,514</b>	3,981
Income tax expense calculated at 15%	<b>677</b>	597
Net benefits allocated to members during the year	<b>176,405</b>	163,654
Changes in fair value of investment already taxed	<b>(176,924)</b>	(164,161)
<b>Total tax expense</b>	<b>158</b>	90

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2024**

**8. INCOME TAX (CONTINUED)**

**(b) Income tax recognised in Statement of Changes in Member Benefits**

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<b>Contributions received:</b>		
Member contributions	203,803	208,920
Employer contributions	138,880	150,469
Government co-contributions	141	215
Low income superannuation tax offset	82	89
<b>Total contributions received</b>	<b>342,906</b>	<b>359,693</b>
<b>Contributions tax calculated at 15%</b>	<b>51,436</b>	<b>53,954</b>
Member contributions not subject to tax	(30,570)	(31,338)
Government co-contributions not subject to tax	(21)	(32)
Low income superannuation tax offset not subject to tax	(12)	(13)
Rollovers in subject to tax	38	35
Under / (over) relating to the prior year	(2)	40
<b>Total contributions tax expense</b>	<b>20,869</b>	<b>22,646</b>

**(c) Deferred tax balances**

	2024 \$'000	2023 \$'000
<b>Deferred tax liabilities:</b>		
Temporary differences	14	11
	<b>14</b>	<b>11</b>

Taxable and deductible temporary differences arise from the following:

2024	Opening balance \$'000	Charged to income \$'000	Closing balance \$'000
<b>Gross deferred tax liabilities:</b>			
Interest receivable	11	3	14
	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>
2023	Opening balance \$'000	Charged to income \$'000	Closing balance \$'000
<b>Gross deferred tax assets liabilities:</b>			
Interest receivable	2	9	11
	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
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**9. MEMBER LIABILITIES**

The Scheme engages qualified actuaries on an annual basis to measure defined benefit liabilities. The value of the member liabilities will not necessarily be the same as the value presented in the accounts of the employer sponsor and the Australian Government Long Term Cost Report due to the application of different accounting standards which may result in different valuation assumptions. The liabilities change from year to year as a result of contributions, benefit payments, interest costs and investment returns relative to the actuarial assumptions adopted.

The Scheme uses sensitivity analysis to monitor the potential impact of key changes to key variables about which the assumptions need to be made. The Scheme has identified five assumptions (being the mortality rates, the discount rate/investment returns, the rate of salary adjustment, the inflation rate and the invalidity pension commencements) for which changes are reasonably possible that would have a material impact on the amount of the defined benefit member liabilities:

- The current mortality assumptions adopted are scheme specific based on the experience observed. The actuaries have updated these assumptions from the prior year based on analysis of the Scheme's actual experience.
- The assumed discount rate has been determined by reference to the target investment returns expected on the investment portfolio, which reflect the opportunities reasonably available to the Scheme in the investment markets. There has been no change to this assumption from the prior year.
- The assumed annual salary adjustment of 3.7% nominal for 2023-24 (4% for 2022-23) has been determined by historical observations over a long term period and in consultation with the employer sponsor. This assumption has reduced from 4.0% in the prior year.
- The assumed inflation rate has been determined based on the mid-point of the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) inflation target. There has been no change to this assumption from the prior year.
- The current invalidity pension commencement assumptions adopted are scheme specific based on the experience observed. They relate to two different forms of pension commencement. The first form is via future direct exit of serving members of the ADF on to an invalidity pension. The second relates to existing preserved members who, at some stage in the future, will have their mode of exit from the ADF changed retrospectively to being a medical discharge that results in the retrospective commencement of an invalidity pension. The actuaries have updated these assumptions from the prior year based on analysis of the Scheme's actual experience, to reflect a higher anticipated number of retrospective invalidities.

Other variables about which assumptions have been made in measuring defined benefit member liabilities and for which changes are not considered reasonably possible, or for which reasonably possible changes would not be expected to have a material effect, include resignation rates.

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
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**9. MEMBER LIABILITIES (CONTINUED)**

The following are sensitivity calculations on a univariate basis for the mortality rates, the rate of invalidity pensions, the discount rate/investment returns, the rate of salary adjustment and the inflation rate assumptions for the Scheme.

Key assumptions	Assumed at reporting date	Reasonably Possible Change	(Increase)/Decrease in member liabilities (\$'000)
<b>30 June 2024</b>			
Discount rate / investment returns	6.0%	+ 1% - 1%	13,049,000 (16,674,000)
Salary adjustment rate	3.7%	+ 1% - 1%	(1,376,000) 1,233,000
Inflation rate	2.5%	+ 1% - 1%	(14,849,000) 11,995,000
Mortality rates	A scale developed by the Scheme actuary with allowance for mortality improvements	5.0% higher mortality* - 5.0% lower mortality*	453,000 (464,000)
Invalidity pensions	A scale developed by the Scheme actuary	40% higher retrospective invalidity pensions and contributor invalidity exit rates -40% lower retrospective invalidity pensions and contributor invalidity exit rates	(5,412,000) 5,819,000
<b>30 June 2023</b>			
Discount rate / investment returns	6.0%	+ 1% - 1%	11,934,000 (15,842,000)
Salary adjustment rate	4.0%	+ 1% - 1%	(1,769,000) 1,590,000
Inflation rate	2.5%	+ 1% - 1%	(13,583,000) 10,592,000
Mortality rates	A scale developed by the Scheme actuary with allowance for mortality improvements	5.0% higher mortality* - 5.0% lower mortality*	403,000 (419,000)
Invalidity pensions	A scale developed by the Scheme actuary	40% higher retrospective invalidity pensions and contributor invalidity exit rates -40% lower retrospective invalidity pensions and contributor invalidity exit rates	(4,129,000) 4,373,000

\* For example, if the base probability of death of 3.0%, the higher rate is 3.15% and the lower rate is 2.85%.

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
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**9. MEMBER LIABILITIES (CONTINUED)**

Vested benefits are benefits which are not conditional upon continued membership of the Scheme (or any other factor other than resignation from the Scheme) and include benefits which members were entitled to receive had they terminated their Scheme membership as at the reporting date.

An actuarial estimate of vested benefits at 30 June 2024 is \$78.5 billion (2023: \$72.1 billion). The value of vested benefits represents the liability that would have fallen on the Scheme if all members had ceased service on 30 June 2024 and elected the option which maximised their benefit entitlement.

The vested benefits have been calculated on the basis of current legislative arrangements as at the reporting date.

**10. CASH FLOW INFORMATION**

**(a) Reconciliation of Cash**

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash represents cash at bank. Cash at the end of the reporting period as shown in the Statement of Cash Flows is reconciled to the related items in the Statement of Financial Position as follows:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Cash at bank	<u><b>25,474</b></u>	<u>21,252</u>

**(b) Reconciliation of operating result after income tax to net cash inflows / (outflows) from operating activities**

Operating result after income tax expense	<b>4,356</b>	3,891
Net change in member benefits from investing activities	<b>1,176,030</b>	1,091,021
Changes in fair value of investments	<b>(1,179,493)</b>	(1,094,404)
(Increase)/decrease in interest receivable	<b>(20)</b>	(66)
Increase/(decrease) in other payables	<b>34</b>	14
Increase/(decrease) in tax payables	<b>78</b>	89
<b>Net cash inflows / (outflows) from operating activities</b>	<u><b>985</b></u>	<u>545</u>

**11. AUDITOR'S REMUNERATION**

Amounts paid or payable to the Australian National Audit Office for audit services:

Financial statements	<b>70,459</b>	48,225
Regulatory returns and compliance	<b>18,070</b>	32,400
<b>Total</b>	<u><b>88,529</b></u>	<u>80,625</u>

The audits were provided by the Australian National Audit Office. The audit fees will be charged against the assets of the ARIA Investments Trust that are referable to the Scheme.

Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu have been contracted by the Australian National Audit Office to provide audit services on its behalf. Fees for those services are included in the above.

No other services were provided by the Australian National Audit Office or Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu to the Scheme during the reporting period.



**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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## **12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS**

### **(a) Financial instruments management**

A financial instrument is any contract that gives rise to a financial asset of one entity and a financial liability or equity instrument of another entity.

The investments of the Scheme (other than cash held for managing contribution receipts, benefit payments and tax payments) comprise units in the AIT. The AIT is a pooled superannuation trust which is also governed by the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation as Trustee. This type of investment has been determined by the Trustee to be appropriate for the Scheme and is in accordance with the Scheme's published investment strategy. The Trustee applies strategies to manage risk relating to the investment activities of the AIT. The investments of the AIT are managed on behalf of the Trustee by specialist external investment managers who are required to invest the assets in accordance with contractual investment mandates.

### **(b) Material accounting policies**

Details of the material accounting policies and methods adopted, including the criteria for recognition, the basis of measurement and the basis on which income and expenses are recognised in respect of each class of financial asset and financial liability are disclosed in Note 3 to the financial statements.

### **(c) Capital risk management**

The Registerable Superannuation Entity ('RSE') licence of the Trustee of the Scheme requires the Trustee to maintain adequate financial resources to address losses arising from operational risks that may affect registrable superannuation entities within its business operations in the form of operational risk reserve(s), operational risk trustee capital or a combination thereof to meet the target amount of financial resources that the RSE licensee determines is necessary to respond to these losses. The Trustee of the Scheme was in compliance with this requirement throughout the reporting period.

### **(d) Categories of financial instruments**

The financial assets and liabilities of the Scheme are recognised at fair value as at the reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in the Income Statement and the Statement of Changes in Member Benefits.

### **(e) Financial risk management objectives**

The Scheme is exposed to a variety of financial risks as a result of its pooled investment in the AIT. These risks include market risk (including currency risk, fair value interest rate risk and price risk), credit risk, liquidity risk and cash flow interest rate risk. The Scheme's risk management and investment policies, approved by the Trustee, seek to minimise the potential adverse effects of these risks on the Scheme's financial performance. These policies may include the use of financial derivative instruments.

The Trustee is responsible for ensuring that there is an effective risk management control framework in place for the Scheme. Consistent with regulatory requirements, the Trustee has developed, implemented and maintains a Risk Management Framework to identify the policies, procedures, processes and controls that comprise its risk management and control systems for the Scheme and for the Scheme's investments through the AIT. The overall investment strategy of the Scheme is set out in the Trustee's approved investment policies which address the investment strategy and objectives and risk mitigation strategies including risk mitigation relating to the use of derivatives.

The Trustee's internal investment team monitors and manages the financial risks relating to the Scheme's investments. Derivative Risk Statements set out the strict parameters for the Trustee's investment managers authorised to use derivatives. In essence, derivatives cannot be used to raise the level of risk above the level it would otherwise have been, and derivatives cannot be used to leverage the investments.

The Scheme's investments are managed on behalf of the Trustee by specialist external investment managers who invest their respective fund allocation in accordance with the terms of a written investment mandate or disclosure document. The Trustee has determined that the appointment of these managers is appropriate for the Scheme and is in accordance with its investment strategy.

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
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**12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**(f) Credit risk**

Credit risk refers to the risk that a counterparty will default on its contractual obligations resulting in financial loss to the Scheme. In its capacity as trustee of the AIT, the Trustee has adopted a policy of spreading the aggregate value of transactions across approved creditworthy counterparties as a means of mitigating the risk of financial loss. The Scheme's exposure to its counterparties are continuously monitored by the Trustee.

The largest exposure to a single counterparty is to cash held by the investment master custodian Northern Trust. Credit risk relating to the master custodian is mitigated through contract indemnity provisions. Other than the master custodian, no individual exposure within the AIT exceeded 5% of net assets of that trust at 30 June 2024 or 30 June 2023.

The credit risk on the Scheme's directly held cash and cash equivalents and interest receivable is limited because the counterparty is the Reserve Bank of Australia.

The table below shows the maximum exposure of financial assets to credit risk at the reporting date:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
<b>Investments</b>		
Pooled Superannuation Trust - ARIA Investments Trust	<b>13,960,728</b>	12,897,310
<b>Other financial assets</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	<b>25,474</b>	21,252
Receivables	<b>5,883</b>	6,560
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>13,992,085</b>	12,925,122

There has been no change to the Scheme's exposure to credit risk or the manner in which it manages and measures that risk during the reporting period.

**(g) Liquidity risk**

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Scheme will encounter difficulty in either realising assets or otherwise raising sufficient funds to meet its liabilities and/or member benefit payments or tax liabilities.

The Trustee's approach to managing liquidity is to ensure that the Scheme will always have sufficient liquidity to meet its liabilities and member benefit payments. The Scheme allows members to withdraw benefits, and it is therefore exposed to the liquidity risk of meeting member withdrawals at any time. The Trustee undertakes forecasting and scenario testing of the cashflow requirements of the Scheme to ensure timely access to sufficient cash and holds actively-traded, highly-liquid investments to meet anticipated funding requirements.

As a further risk mitigation strategy, it is the Trustee's policy that the target asset allocation to illiquid assets is limited to around 25% of the investments of the AIT (with a plus or minus 10 percentage point rebalancing range around that target). Regular scenario testing is performed to confirm the validity of the strategy.

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
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**12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**(g) Liquidity risk (Continued)**

The following tables summarise the maturity profile of the Scheme's financial liabilities. The tables have been drawn up based on the discounted cash flows of financial liabilities based on the earliest date on which the Scheme expects pay. The tables include both interest and principal cash flows.

Financial Liabilities maturity profile:

	Less than 3 months \$'000	3 months to 1 year \$'000	1-5 years \$'000	Over 5 years \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>30 June 2024</b>					
Other payables	548	-	-	-	548
Benefits payable	7,903	-	-	-	7,903
Member liabilities	632,000	1,897,000	10,429,000	81,704,000	94,662,000
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>	<b>640,451</b>	<b>1,897,000</b>	<b>10,429,000</b>	<b>81,704,000</b>	<b>94,670,451</b>
<b>30 June 2023</b>					
Other payables	514	-	-	-	514
Benefits payable	8,730	-	-	-	8,730
Member liabilities	541,000	1,664,000	9,677,000	72,692,000	84,574,000
<b>Total financial liabilities</b>	<b>550,244</b>	<b>1,664,000</b>	<b>9,677,000</b>	<b>72,692,000</b>	<b>84,583,244</b>

There has been no change to the Scheme's exposure to liquidity risk or the manner in which it manages and measures that risk during the reporting period.

**(h) Market risk**

Market risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices. Market risk comprises three types of risk: foreign currency risk, interest rate risk and other market price risk. The policies and procedures put in place to mitigate the exposure to market risk are detailed in the Trustee's investment policies and the Risk Management Framework.

There has been no change to the Scheme's exposure to market risk or the manner in which it manages and measures that risk during the reporting period.

**Foreign currency risk**

Foreign currency risk is the risk that the fair value of future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates.

The Scheme does not undertake any transactions in foreign currency and is therefore not directly exposed to foreign currency risk. However, the Scheme is indirectly exposed to foreign currency risk from the international assets held in the AIT, and it is managed in accordance with the Trustee's approved investment strategy. The AIT enters into forward foreign exchange contracts to hedge into Australian dollars some of the currency exposure arising from its investments denominated in developed markets foreign currencies. These contracts neutralise some of the gains and losses from currency fluctuation. A small part of the investments of the AIT, relating to emerging markets, remain unhedged due to lack of suitable currency instruments for hedging.

**Interest rate risk**

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates.

The Scheme is directly exposed to interest rate risk on cash and cash equivalents held with the Reserve Bank of Australia to meet benefits and taxation payments. All holdings at 30 June 2024 and 30 June 2023 had a maturity profile of less than one month.

The Scheme is indirectly exposed to interest rate risk through its investments in the AIT. The Trustee manages interest rate risk through its investment strategy including diversification of asset allocation and the use of a diversity of specialist investment sector managers.

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**(h) Market risk (Continued)**

**Interest rate risk (Continued)**

The following table illustrates the Scheme's sensitivity to a 0.5% p.a. (2023: 0.5%) increase or decrease in interest rates, based on cash balances directly held at reporting date. This represents an assessment of the reasonably possible change in interest rates as at that date. Had interest rates been lower or higher by 0.5% (2023: 0.5%) at reporting date, and all other variables were held constant, the financial result would have improved / (deteriorated) as demonstrated:

	Carrying amount \$'000	Interest rate risk \$'000			
		Operating Result Before Tax	Net Assets Available to Pay Benefits	Operating Result Before Tax	Net Assets Available to Pay Benefits
<b>2024</b>		<b>-0.50%</b>		<b>+0.50%</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	<b>25,474</b>	<b>(127)</b>	<b>(127)</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>127</b>
<b>2023</b>		<b>-0.50%</b>		<b>+0.50%</b>	
Cash and cash equivalents	21,252	(106)	(106)	106	106

In the Trustee's opinion, the sensitivity analysis at reporting date approximates the direct interest rate exposures of the Scheme during the financial year.

**Other price risk**

Other price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices (other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk), whether caused by factors specific to an individual investment, its issuer or factors affecting all similar financial instruments traded in the market.

The Scheme's investment in the AIT is exposed to market price risk in respect of the latter's holdings of equity securities and unit trusts. As the investment in the AIT is carried at fair value through profit or loss, all changes in market conditions will directly affect the Scheme's net investment income.

In its capacity as trustee of the AIT, the Trustee manages the market price risk arising from these investments by diversifying the portfolio in accordance with its investment strategy.

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**(h) Market risk (Continued)**

**Other price risk (Continued)**

The following table illustrates the Scheme's sensitivity to a reasonably possible change in the value of its investment in the AIT, based on risk exposures at reporting date. The volatility factor of 5.5% (2023: 5.50%) represents the volatility in the default option unit price of the Schemes Investment in the AIT and is reflective of market conditions as at reporting date. Had the unit price been higher or lower by the volatility factor at reporting date, and all other variables were held constant, the financial result would have improved/(deteriorated) as follows:

Financial Assets	Change in price	Carrying amount \$'000	Price risk \$'000			
			Net Assets		Net Assets	
			Operating Result Before Tax	Available to Pay Benefits	Operating Result Before Tax	Available to Pay Benefits
ARIA Investments Trust:			(Lower price)		Higher price	
<b>2024</b>						
Balanced option	-/+5.50%	11,741,514	(645,783)	(645,783)	645,783	645,783
Cash option	-/+0.14%	107,762	(151)	(151)	151	151
Income focused option	-/+2.60%	82,644	(2,149)	(2,149)	2,149	2,149
Aggressive option	-/+6.40%	1,979,799	(126,707)	(126,707)	126,707	126,707
Operational risk reserve	-/+5.50%	49,009	(2,695)	(2,695)	2,695	2,695
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,960,728</b>	<b>(777,485)</b>	<b>(777,485)</b>	<b>777,485</b>	<b>777,485</b>

Financial Assets	Change in price	Carrying amount \$'000	Price risk \$'000			
			Net Assets		Net Assets	
			Operating Result Before Tax	Available to Pay Benefits	Operating Result Before Tax	Available to Pay Benefits
ARIA Investments Trust:			(Lower price)		Higher price	
<b>2023</b>						
Balanced option	-/+5.50%	11,018,004	(605,990)	(605,990)	605,990	605,990
Cash option	-/+0.10%	126,851	(127)	(127)	127	127
Income focused option	-/+2.50%	81,253	(2,031)	(2,031)	2,031	2,031
Aggressive option	-/+6.40%	1,621,747	(103,792)	(103,792)	103,792	103,792
Operational risk reserve	-/+5.50%	49,455	(2,720)	(2,720)	2,720	2,720
<b>Total</b>		<b>12,897,310</b>	<b>(714,660)</b>	<b>(714,660)</b>	<b>714,660</b>	<b>714,660</b>

In the Trustee's opinion, the sensitivity analysis at reporting date is representative of the other market price exposures during the financial year.

**(i) Fair value measurements**

The Scheme's financial instruments are included in the Statement of Financial Position at fair value. The fair value is determined per the accounting policies in Note 3.

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
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**12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**(i) Fair value measurements (Continued)**

**Fair value measurements recognised in the Statement of Financial Position**

The following table provides an analysis of the Scheme's financial instruments whereby the assets and liabilities are each grouped into one of three categories based on the degree to which their method of valuation is observable.

**Level 1:** fair value measurements are those derived from quoted prices in active markets.

**Level 2:** fair value measurements are those derived from inputs (other than quoted prices included within Level 1) that are observable such as prices or derived from prices.

**Level 3:** fair value measurements are those derived from valuation techniques that include inputs that are not based on observable market data.

	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>2024</b>				
<b>Financial Assets</b>				
Pooled superannuation trust	-	13,960,728	-	13,960,728
<b>2023</b>				
<b>Financial Assets</b>				
Pooled superannuation trust	-	12,897,310	-	12,897,310

There were no transfers between Level 1 and 2 in the period (2023: Nil).

Units in the pooled superannuation trust are valued daily based on the latest listed and unlisted market prices and values of the underlying investments, less any tax and expenses.

**Reconciliation of Level 3 fair value measurements**

There were no Level 3 financial assets or liabilities (2023: Nil).

**Fair value measurements of the underlying investments**

The funded components of the Schemes for which CSC is the Trustee are co-invested in a pooled superannuation trust. The following table provides an analysis of the underlying pooled superannuation trust's investments grouped into levels 1 to 3 of the fair value hierarchy based on the degree to which their fair value is observable. The table has been prepared on a look-through basis and therefore discloses investments held in the subsidiary trusts of the PST for which the Trustee or ARIA Co Pty Ltd are also Trustee, as if they are direct investments of the pooled superannuation trust.

	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>2024</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	3,620,687	-	-	3,620,687
Money market investments	5,843,652	-	-	5,843,652
Fixed interest investments	6,563,744	6,141	410,090	6,979,975
Equity investments	34,160,551	5,007,098	13,264,215	52,431,864
Property investments	734,165	-	3,233,610	3,967,775
Derivatives contracts (net)	(17,762)	353,482	-	335,720
<b>Total</b>	<b>50,905,037</b>	<b>5,366,721</b>	<b>16,907,915</b>	<b>73,179,673</b>
<b>2023</b>				
Cash and cash equivalents	4,407,012	-	-	4,407,012
Money market investments	5,623,693	-	-	5,623,693
Fixed interest investments	3,808,492	6,120	456,410	4,271,022
Equity investments	27,897,992	5,397,455	13,058,362	46,353,809
Property investments	474,916	-	3,687,041	4,161,957
Derivatives contracts (net)	5,095	(74,951)	-	(69,856)
<b>Total</b>	<b>42,217,200</b>	<b>5,328,624</b>	<b>17,201,813</b>	<b>64,747,637</b>

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
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**For the year ended 30 June 2024**

**12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**(i) Fair value measurements (Continued)**

**Fair value measurements of the underlying investments (Continued)**

The fair values of the pooled superannuation trust's investments are determined as follows:

*Public Market Investments*

Money market investments are valued at the market closing price on the last business day of the reporting period and include accrued interest.

- Fixed interest investments are valued at their market value at close of business on the last business day of the reporting period. Interest is accrued over the period and is recorded in the Statement of Financial Position.
- Futures contracts are valued at market closing prices quoted on the last business day of the reporting period.
- Forward currency contracts and swaps are valued using prices obtained from independent providers as at the last business day of the reporting period (or alternatively from counterparties or fund managers where a provider does not supply a price).
- Equity securities and listed trusts are valued at the last sale price at close of business on the last business day of the reporting period.
- Exchange traded options are valued as the premium payable or receivable to close out the contracts at the last buy price at close of business on the last business day of the reporting period.

Across Public Market investments, the Trustee relies on the Custodian's independent pricing process which includes obtaining at least two prices from separate vendors on a daily basis; tolerance checks; and applying prices based on a vendor "Provider Hierarchy" that is formulated and regularly reviewed by the Custodian's pricing specialist group.

*Private Market Investments*

- Private equity funds are valued according to the most recent valuation obtainable from the Investment Manager. Each Investment Manager determines the valuations with reference to the valuation of the underlying portfolio companies. Investment Managers comply with the relevant valuation guidelines and/or accounting standards applicable in their jurisdictions. Where valuation standards for relevant jurisdictions are not consistent with Australian Accounting Standards, CSC will implement procedures to ensure fair value prices are received for investments.
- Direct Property and Infrastructure valuations are appraisal-based from appropriately qualified independent valuers on a quarterly basis. For smaller direct investments below the materiality threshold, independent external valuations may be conducted less frequently than quarterly but at a minimum annually.
- Indirect Property and Infrastructure valuations are either appraisal-based from appropriately qualified independent valuers; or administered by each Investment Manager with reference to the valuation of the underlying holdings in accordance with the constituent documents of that respective investment.
- Other unlisted trusts (including hedge funds) are valued by an administrator appointed by the Investment Manager who will apply independent pricing through a pricing vendor or service to the investments.

Across Private Market investments, to the extent such information is accessible, the Trustee reviews material inputs used by external Investment Managers in forming their private asset valuations; and seeks to confirm that known events in broad financial markets, as well as at the specific company / investment level, have been taken into account in forming the valuation.

*Fair value in an inactive or unquoted market*

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities that are not traded in an active market is determined using valuation techniques. These include but are not limited to the use of recent arm's length market transactions, reference to the current fair value of a substantially similar instrument, discounted cash flow techniques, option pricing models or any other valuation technique that provides a reliable estimate of prices obtained in actual market transactions.

*Valuation adjustments to unlisted investments*

Where there is a delay in the timely receipt of valuation for unlisted investments from the investment managers, the Trustee applies a systematic quarterly valuation adjustment. This adjustment is based on the performance of a comparable public market index over the relevant period and a relevant adjustment factor representing an estimate of the change in value implied by past relationships to the selected comparable public market index.

**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2024**

**12. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)**

**(i) Fair value measurements (Continued)**

**Fair value measurements of the underlying investments (Continued)**

This adjustment aims to assist in preserving equitable member outcomes from the impact of delays in receipt of valuations from primarily international investment managers. A special situation valuation adjustment is able to be made when, in management's judgment an unlisted valuation does not represent fair value and is required to preserve equitable member outcomes.

As at 30 June 2024, a systematic quarterly valuation adjustment was applied to the most recently available investment manager valuations of unlisted Australian controlled entities of \$68.8m (\$139.5m in 2023), unlisted international trusts of \$0.4m (-\$0.3m in 2023) and unlisted Australian trusts of \$0.5m (\$1.2m in 2023), representing 0.5%, 0.0% and 0.0% of the unlisted Australian controlled entities, international trusts and Australian trust portfolios respectively (0.8%, 0.0% and 0.0% in 2023).

**13. RELATED PARTIES**

**(a) Trustee**

Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation (CSC) was the Trustee throughout the reporting period. No fees were charged by CSC for acting as Trustee of the Scheme during the reporting period.

**(b) Key Management Personnel**

The Directors of CSC throughout the year ended 30 June 2024 and to the date of this report were:

Ariane Barker	Jacqueline Hey
Juliet Brown	Garry Hounsell (Chair)
Melissa Donnelly	David Mulhall
Lee Goddard	Alistair Waters
Andrea Hall (Appointed 1 July 2023)	

In addition to the Directors, the following Executives of CSC had authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Scheme throughout the year ended 30 June 2024 and until the date of this report:

Paul Abraham	Executive Manager, Investment Operations
Catharina Armitage	Executive Manager, People
Robert Firth	Chief Risk Officer
Philip George	Executive Manager, Transformation and Technology Strategy and Advice until 30 June 2024 (Previously Executive Manager, Transformation until 15 April 2024)
Damian Hill	Chief Executive Officer
Andrew Matuszczak	Chief Transformation and Information Officer
Adam Nettheim	Chief Customer Officer (Previously Acting Chief Customer Officer until 9 July 2023)
Alana Scheiffers	General Counsel
Alison Tarditi	Chief Investment Officer
Andy Young	Chief Operating Officer

Alana Scheiffers, Lee Goddard and David Mulhall are members of the Scheme. The terms and conditions of their memberships, or those of any related parties, is the same as for any other member who is not part of the key management personnel of the Scheme.



**Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme**  
**NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2024**

**13. RELATED PARTIES (CONTINUED)**

**(c) Key Management Personnel Compensation**

The aggregate compensation of the key management personnel in relation to the Scheme is set out below:

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Short-term employee benefits	<b>632</b>	604
Post-employment benefits	<b>31</b>	33
Other long-term employee benefits	<b>11</b>	14
Termination benefits	<b>-</b>	9
	<b>674</b>	660

Aggregate compensation in relation to the Scheme is a pro-rata apportionment of the overall compensation paid by the Trustee, based on the net assets of the entities under its trusteeship or actual control.

The compensation of key management personnel (including Directors) related to investment management is charged against the assets of the AIT that are referable to the Scheme.

The Scheme has not made, guaranteed or secured, directly or indirectly, any loans to key management personnel or their personally-related entities at any time during the year.

**(d) Investing entities**

Throughout the year ended 30 June 2024, the Scheme's only investment consisted of units in the AIT, which was established to provide a cost-effective means of gaining exposure to a broad range of listed and unlisted securities across various asset classes.

The other investors in the AIT throughout the year were the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme, the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme, the Public Sector Superannuation Accumulation Plan and the Australian Defence Force Superannuation Scheme. All investing transactions are conducted under normal industry terms and conditions.

The Trustee of the Scheme, Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation, is the trustee of the following regulated superannuation schemes: Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme, the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme, the Public Sector Superannuation Accumulation Plan, the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme and the Australian Defence Force Superannuation Scheme.

The Trustee pays costs of and incidental to the management of the Scheme and the investment of its money from the assets of the AIT that are referable to the Scheme (see Note 7(c)).

The Scheme held the following investments in related parties at 30 June:

	<b>Fair Value of</b>	<b>Fair Value of</b>	<b>Changes in Fair</b>	<b>Changes in Fair</b>
	<b>Investment</b>	<b>Investment</b>	<b>Value of</b>	<b>Value of</b>
	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>Investments</b>	<b>Investments</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
ARIA Investments Trust	<b>13,960,728</b>	12,897,310	<b>1,179,493</b>	1,094,404
	<b>13,960,728</b>	12,897,310	<b>1,179,493</b>	1,094,404

**14. COMMITMENTS, CONTINGENT LIABILITIES AND CONTINGENT ASSETS**

The Scheme had no capital or other expenditure commitments at 30 June 2024 (2023: \$Nil).

In the normal course of business, requests are made by members and former members for the review of decisions relating to benefit entitlements of the Scheme which could result in additional benefits becoming payable in the future. Each request is considered on its merits prior to any benefit becoming payable. In the opinion of the Trustee, these requests do not represent a material liability on the Scheme.

There were no other contingent liabilities or contingent assets for the Scheme at 30 June 2024 (2023: \$Nil).

**15. SUBSEQUENT EVENTS**

No matters have arisen since 30 June 2024 that have materially affected, or may materially affect, the operations of the Scheme, the results of those operations, or the financial position of the Scheme in future financial years.



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

### To the Minister for Finance and Members of the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme

#### Opinion

In my opinion, the financial report of the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme (the RSE) for the year ended 30 June 2024 is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the RSE's financial position as at 30 June 2024 and of its performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the Corporations Regulations 2001.

The financial report of the RSE, which I have audited, comprises the following as at 30 June 2024 and for the year then ended:

- Statement by the Trustee of the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme ('Scheme');
- Statement of Financial Position;
- Income Statement;
- Statement of Changes in Member Benefits;
- Statement of Changes in Equity;
- Statement of Cash Flows; and
- Notes to and forming part of the financial statements, comprising material accounting policy information and other explanatory information;

#### Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the RSE in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* and the relevant ethical requirements for financial report audits conducted by the Auditor-General and their delegates. These include the relevant independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) to the extent that they are not in conflict with the *Auditor-General Act 1997*. I have also fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

I confirm that the independence declaration required by the *Corporations Act 2001*, which has been given to the Directors of the RSE Licensee ("the Directors"), would be in the same terms if given to the Directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

#### Other information

The Directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024, but does not include the financial report and my auditor's report thereon.

My opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial report, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

### **Directors' responsibility for the financial report**

The Directors of the RSE are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Corporations Act 2001* and the form agreed with the Minister for Finance and the requirements of the Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act 1993 (SIS Act) and the Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Regulations 1994 (SIS Regulations). The Directors also have responsibility for such internal control as the Directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the Directors are responsible for assessing the ability of the RSE to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Directors either intend to liquidate the RSE or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

### **Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements**

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control;
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Director;
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Director's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the entity to cease to continue as a going concern; and
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Director regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

## **Report on the Remuneration Report**

### *Opinion on the Remuneration Report*

We have audited the Remuneration Report included in the Directors' Report for the year ended 30 June 2024.

In our opinion, the Remuneration Report of Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme, for the year ended 30 June 2024, complies with section 300C of the Corporations Act 2001.

### *Responsibilities*

The Directors are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the Remuneration Report in accordance with section 300C of the Corporations Act 2001. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Remuneration Report, based on our audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards.

Australian National Audit Office



Sean Benfield  
Senior Executive Director  
Delegate of the Auditor-General

Canberra  
26 September 2024