

## u ethical Diversified Income Trust - Wholesale

APIR UGF8935AU

### September 2024

A diversified portfolio of income generating investments including cash, short-dated deposits, bonds, hybrid securities, mortgages and impact loans.

### Benefits and risks

- Exposure to income generating investments
- Suggested minimum investment horizon 3 to 5 years
- Medium-risk profile

### **Investment objective**

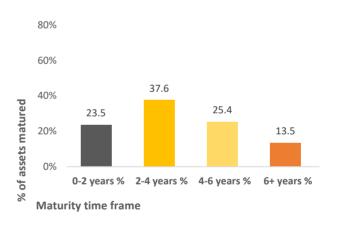
The U Ethical Diversified Income Trust - Wholesale aims to generate income in excess of short-term interest rates, while limiting harm and creating positive impact through the implementation of U Ethical's Ethical Investment Policy.

The Trust is a medium-risk investment option with a suggested minimum investment horizon of 3 to 5 years. It aims to outperform the benchmark after fees over a rolling three year period.

### **Fund information**

Portfolio Managers	Joshua Nappa & Dandan Huang		
Chief investment officer	Jon Fernie		
Inception date	1 July 2020		
Total fund size (\$M)	\$38.42		
Benchmark	3 Month Bank Bill Swap Rate +		
	2.50%		
Buy/sell spread	0.20%/0.20%		
Management costs	Estimated up to 0.70% p.a.		
	(See Information Memorandum)		

### **Maturity Profile**



Performance	3 months %	6 months %	1 year	3 year	Since Inception
			% p.a.	% p.a.	% p.a.
U Ethical Diversified Income Trust - Wholesale†	1.87	3.27	5.91	4.03	4.57
Benchmark*	1.74	3.51	7.11	5.67	4.75
Relative performance	0.13	-0.24	-1.20	-1.64	-0.18

Past performance is not indicative of future performance.



<sup>†</sup> Based on exit price with distributions reinvested, and are net of all fees

<sup>\* 3</sup> month Bank Bill Swap Rate +2.5%

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### **Market Commentary**

Global equity markets continued to rally in the September quarter with inflation trending lower and more central banks starting easing cycles to engineer a 'soft landing'.

US inflation declined to 2.5% in August and recent economic data has been mixed. This led the Federal Reserve to reduce interest rates by 50 basis points at their September meeting ahead of the upcoming US election. The European Central Bank has also cut interest rates several times since June as growth remains challenging in the region. In Australia, the Reserve Bank of Australia has maintained interest rates at 4.35% since November and trimmed mean inflation in August remained above target levels at 3.4% annualised. We expect that domestic monetary policy will remain on hold for 2024 as the labour market has remained relatively robust.

China continues to deal with a troubled property sector and subdued consumer activity, although recent stimulus measures have provided more reason for optimism. Rising tensions in the middle east remain a risk for markets including potential inflation impacts from supply chain disruption and higher energy prices.

Corporate earnings results have remained solid in Australia and overseas. However, outlook statements were more cautious, and earnings expectations have been revised lower. We also note increased concentration in a US market dominated by a handful of large information technology stocks. We continue to see equity market valuations as stretched given relatively optimistic earnings growth forecasts, although acknowledge central bank easing will be positive for sentiment.

### **Portfolio Commentary**

Over the quarter, major bank credit spreads tightened albeit with Tier 2 (T2) and Senior Unsecured underperforming Additional Tier 1 (AT1) on a spread basis. This saw the Tier-2/Snr Unsecured spreads at the five-year expand to 1.98x up from the start of the quarter 1.92x level. Comparing the AT1/T2 multiple over the same period showed a compression from 1.41x to 1.32x, contrary to movements in Tier-2 spreads which expanded marginally.

AT1's outperformance versus the rest of the bank debt market was brought upon by APRA's release of their final decision regarding the future of the hybrid market. The proposal to fully scrap the market going forward and to fully phase out AT1's in bank capital structures, surprised the market and a spread rally ensued. This was on the back of likely no future supply or rolls of existing lines.

Further adding to the rally was strong performance in bank stocks over the period, as AT1's were 'pulled along' via their beta to the ASX 200 Financials sector.

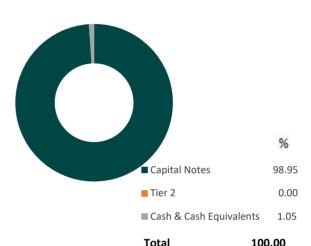
Considering the above, the Diversified Income Trust (DIT-W) returned 1.87% over the quarter, outperforming the benchmark (after fees) by 0.13%. With 1.38% of the return attributed to coupon income and 0.49% as a result of movements in capital value.



## Diversified Income Trust - Wholesale

Top 5 issuers	%
Commonwealth Bank Of Australia	23.31
National Australia Bank	21.58
Macquaire Group	19.49
Westpac Banking Corporation	16.64
Australia & New Zealand Bank Group	15.83
Total	96.86

### Asset allocation by securities' type



#### About U Ethical and your team

U Ethical is an investment manager with a difference. We believe in creating a better world by investing with purpose—today and into the future.

With the creation of our first funds in 1985, we have become one of the largest ethical investment managers in Australia with over \$1 billion in funds under management. We are also one of the few investment businesses in Australia to have been certified as a B Corporation. As a not-for-profit social enterprise, we grant the majority of our operating surplus to community programs.



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