

# **ETHICAL PARTNERS AUSTRALIAN SHARE FUND**

ARSN 640 785 904

## **ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023**

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This annual report covers Ethical Partners Australian Share Fund as an individual entity.

The Responsible Entity of Ethical Partners Australian Share Fund is Equity Trustees Limited (ABN 46 004 031 298) (AFSL 240975).

The Responsible Entity's registered office is:

Level 1, 575 Bourke Street,  
Melbourne, VIC 3000.

## DIRECTORS' REPORT

The directors of Equity Trustees Limited, the Responsible Entity of Ethical Partners Australian Share Fund (the "Fund"), present their report together with the financial statements of the Fund for the year ended 30 June 2023.

### Principal activities

The Fund invests in Australian listed shares in accordance with the Product Disclosure Statement, Information Memorandum and the provisions of the Fund's Constitution.

The Fund did not have any employees during the year.

There were no significant changes in the nature of the Fund's activities during the year.

The various service providers for the Fund are detailed below:

Service	Provider
Responsible Entity	Equity Trustees Limited
Investment Manager	Ethical Partners Funds Management Pty Ltd
Custodian and Administrator	Apex Fund Services Pty Ltd (an Apex Group Company)*
Statutory Auditor	Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd

On 1 February 2023 Apex Fund Services Pty Ltd has replaced Link Fund Solutions Pty Ltd as Administrator, Custodian and Registrar for the Fund.

\*Effective on 21 October 2022, Mainstream Fund Services Pty Ltd changed its name to Apex Fund Services Pty Ltd.

### Directors

The following persons held office as directors of Equity Trustees Limited during or since the end of the year and up to the date of this report:

Philip D Gentry	Chairman
Michael J O'Brien	
Russell W Beasley	
Mary A O'Connor	
David B Warren	(appointed 6 March 2023)

### Review and results of operations

During the year, the Fund continued to invest its funds in accordance with the Product Disclosure Statement, Information Memorandum and the provisions of the Fund's Constitution.

The Fund's performance was 20.31% (net of fees) for institutional class, 20.56% (net of fees) for Class A, 20.70% (net of fees) for Class B and 20.82% (net of fees) for Class C for the year ended 30 June 2023. The Fund's benchmark, the S&P/ASX 300 Accumulation Index, returned 14.40% for the same period.

The Fund's performance is calculated based on the percentage change in the Redemption Price in the Fund over the period (With any distributions paid during the period reinvested). Returns are disclosed after fees and expenses but before taxes.

The performance of the Fund, as represented by the results of its operations, was as follows:

	Year ended	
	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
Profit/(loss) before finance costs attributable to unit holders for the year (\$'000)	20,891	(14,111)
<b>Institutional Class</b>		
Distributions paid and payable (\$'000)	2,312	1,776
Distributions (cents per unit)	7.9311	3.8938
<b>Class A</b>		
Distributions paid and payable (\$'000)	3,617	1,752
Distributions (cents per unit)	5.8778	4.1174
<b>Class B</b>		
Distributions paid and payable (\$'000)	592	399
Distributions (cents per unit)	6.8288	4.2089
<b>Class C</b>		
Distributions paid and payable (\$'000)	588	177
Distributions (cents per unit)	5.3167	3.5189

**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

**Review and results of operations (continued)**

	Year ended	
	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
<b>Class E *</b>		
Distributions paid and payable (\$'000)	-	1,225
Distributions (cents per unit)	-	4.6735

\* Class E terminated during the year ended 30 June 2022.

**Significant changes in the state of affairs**

David B Warren was appointed as a director of Equity Trustees Limited on 6 March 2023.

In the opinion of the directors, there were no other significant changes in the state of affairs of the Fund that occurred during the financial year.

**Matters subsequent to the end of the financial year**

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 30 June 2023 that has significantly affected, or may have a significant effect on:

- i. the operations of the Fund in future financial years; or
- ii. the results of those operations in future financial years; or
- iii. the state of affairs of the Fund in future financial years.

**Likely developments and expected results of operations**

The Fund will continue to be managed in accordance with the investment objectives and guidelines as set out in the Product Disclosure Statement, Information Memorandum and the provisions of the Fund's Constitution.

The results of the Fund's operations will be affected by a number of factors, including the performance of investment markets in which the Fund invests. Investment performance is not guaranteed and future returns may differ from past returns. As investment conditions change over time, past returns should not be used to predict future returns.

**Indemnification and insurance of officers**

No insurance premiums are paid for out of the assets of the Fund in regards to insurance cover provided to the officers of Equity Trustees Limited. So long as the officers of Equity Trustees Limited act in accordance with the Fund's Constitution and the Law, the officers remain indemnified out of the assets of the Fund against losses incurred while acting on behalf of the Fund.

**Indemnification of auditor**

The auditor of the Fund is in no way indemnified out of the assets of the Fund.

**Fees paid to and interests held in the Fund by the Responsible Entity and its associates**

Fees paid to the Responsible Entity and its associates out of Fund property during the year are disclosed in Note 13 to the financial statements.

No fees were paid out of Fund property to the directors of the Responsible Entity during the year.

The number of interests in the Fund held by the Responsible Entity or its associates as at the end of the financial year are disclosed in Note 13 to the financial statements.

**Interests in the Fund**

The movement in units on issue in the Fund during the year is disclosed in Note 6 to the financial statements.

The value of the Fund's assets and liabilities is disclosed in the statement of financial position and derived using the basis set out in Note 2 to the financial statements.

**Environmental regulation**

The operations of the Fund are not subject to any particular or significant environmental regulations under Commonwealth, State or Territory law.

**DIRECTORS' REPORT (CONTINUED)**

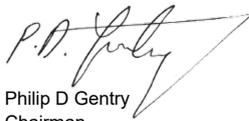
**Rounding of amounts to the nearest thousand dollars**

Amounts in the Directors' report have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars in accordance with *ASIC Corporations (Rounding in Financial/Directors' Reports) Instrument 2016/191*, unless otherwise indicated.

**Auditor's independence declaration**

A copy of the Auditor's independence declaration as required under section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001* is set out on page 5.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors of Equity Trustees Limited through a delegated authority given by Equity Trustees Limited's Board.



Philip D Gentry  
Chairman

Melbourne  
21 September 2023

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## Auditor's Independence Declaration

### To the Directors of Equity Trustees Limited

In accordance with the requirements of section 307C of the *Corporations Act 2001*, as lead auditor for the audit of Ethical Partners Australian Share Fund for the year ended 30 June 2023, I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there have been:

- a no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- b no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.



Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd  
Chartered Accountants



Grant Layland  
Director – Audit & Assurance

Sydney, 21 September 2023

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**STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME**

	Note	Year ended	
		30 June 2023 \$'000	30 June 2022 \$'000
<b>Investment income</b>			
Interest income from financial assets at amortised cost		11	-
Dividend and distribution income		4,075	3,526
Net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss		18,366	(16,087)
Expense reimbursement income	13	-	6
<b>Total investment income/(loss)</b>		<b>22,452</b>	<b>(12,555)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Management fees and costs		1,370	1,298
Performance fees	13	-	24
Transaction costs		174	224
Other expenses		17	10
<b>Total expenses</b>		<b>1,561</b>	<b>1,556</b>
<b>Profit/(loss) before finance costs attributable to unit holders for the year</b>		<b>20,891</b>	<b>(14,111)</b>
<b>Finance costs attributable to unit holders</b>			
Distributions to unit holders	7	(7,109)	(5,329)
(Increase)/decrease in net assets attributable to unit holders	6	(13,782)	19,440
<b>Profit/(loss) for the year</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
Other comprehensive income		-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

*The above statement of comprehensive income should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION**

	Note	As at	
		30 June 2023 \$'000	30 June 2022 \$'000
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	8	2,216	1,612
Receivables	10	636	875
Due from brokers – receivable for securities sold		49	-
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	5	113,883	98,778
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>116,784</b>	<b>101,265</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Distributions payable	7	4,581	3,292
Payables	11	142	299
Due to brokers - payable for securities purchased		-	58
<b>Total liabilities (excluding net assets attributable to unit holders)</b>		<b>4,723</b>	<b>3,649</b>
<b>Net assets attributable to unit holders – liability</b>	6	<b>112,061</b>	<b>97,616</b>

*The above statement of financial position should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

**STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY**

	Year ended	
	30 June 2023 \$'000	30 June 2022 \$'000
<b>Total equity at the beginning of the financial year</b>	-	-
Profit/(loss) for the year	-	-
Other comprehensive income	-	-
<b>Total comprehensive income</b>	-	-
Transactions with owners in their capacity as owners	-	-
<b>Total equity at the end of the financial year *</b>	-	-

\* Under Australian Accounting Standards, net assets attributable to unit holders are classified as a liability rather than equity. As a result, there was no equity at the end of the financial year.

*The above statement of changes in equity should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS**

	Note	Year ended	
		30 June 2023 \$'000	30 June 2022 \$'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Proceeds from sale of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss		70,678	151,946
Payments for purchase of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss		(67,343)	(167,622)
Interest income received from financial assets at amortised cost		11	-
Dividends and distributions received		4,232	2,949
Expense reimbursement fees received		-	6
Management fees and costs paid		(1,472)	(1,226)
Performance fees paid		(26)	-
Transaction costs paid		(174)	(224)
Net GST refunded/(paid)		(100)	49
Other expenses paid		(17)	11
<b>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities</b>	9(a)	<b>5,789</b>	<b>(14,111)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Proceeds from applications by unit holders		34,775	52,993
Payments for redemptions by unit holders		(35,068)	(35,927)
Distributions paid to unit holders		(4,892)	(2,278)
<b>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from financing activities</b>		<b>(5,185)</b>	<b>14,788</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>604</b>	<b>677</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the year		1,612	935
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	8	<b>2,216</b>	<b>1,612</b>
Non-cash operating and financing activities	9(b)	1,109	827

*The above statement of cash flows should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.*

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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## 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

These financial statements cover Ethical Partners Australian Share Fund (the "Fund") as an individual entity. The Fund was constituted on 19 July 2018, commenced operations on 8 August 2018, registered its retail class with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission on 21 May 2020 and will terminate in accordance with the Fund's Constitution or by law.

The Responsible Entity of the Fund is Equity Trustees Limited (ABN 46 004 031 298) (AFSL 240975) (the "Responsible Entity"). The Responsible Entity's registered office is Level 1, 575 Bourke Street, Melbourne, VIC 3000. The financial statements are presented in the Australian currency unless otherwise noted.

The Fund invests in Australian listed shares in accordance with the Product Disclosure Statement, Information Memorandum and the provisions of the Fund's Constitution.

The financial statements were authorised for issue by the directors on the date the Directors' declaration was signed. The directors of the Responsible Entity have the power to amend and reissue the financial statements.

## 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented, unless otherwise stated in the following text.

### a. Basis of preparation

These general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) and the *Corporations Act 2001* in Australia. The Fund is a for-profit entity for the purpose of preparing the financial statements.

The financial statements are prepared on the basis of fair value measurement of assets and liabilities except where otherwise stated.

The statement of financial position is presented on a liquidity basis. Assets and liabilities are presented in decreasing order of liquidity and do not distinguish between current and non-current. All balances are expected to be recovered or settled within 12 months, except for investments in financial assets and liabilities and net assets attributable to unit holders.

The Fund manages financial assets at fair value through profit or loss based on the economic circumstances at any given point in time, as well as to meet any liquidity requirements. As such, it is expected that a portion of the portfolio will be realised within 12 months, however, an estimate of that amount cannot be determined as at reporting date.

In the case of net assets attributable to unit holders, the units are redeemable on demand at the unit holders' option. However, holders of these instruments typically retain them for the medium to long term. As such, the amount expected to be settled within 12 months cannot be reliably determined.

### i. Compliance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

The financial statements of the Fund also comply with IFRS as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB).

### ii. New and amended standards adopted by the Fund

There are no standards, interpretations or amendments to existing standards that are effective for the first time for the financial year beginning 1 July 2022 that have a material impact on the amounts recognised in the prior periods or will affect the current or future periods.

### iii. New standards and interpretations not yet adopted

A number of new standards, amendments to standards and interpretations are effective for annual periods beginning after 1 July 2023 and have not been early adopted in preparing these financial statements.

None of these are expected to have a material effect on the financial statements of the Fund.

### b. Financial instruments

#### i. Classification

- Financial assets

The Fund classifies its financial assets in the following measurement categories:

- those to be measured at fair value through profit or loss; and
- those to be measured at amortised cost.

The Fund classifies its financial assets based on its business model for managing those financial assets and the contractual cash flow characteristics of the financial assets.

## 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

### b. Financial instruments (continued)

#### i. Classification (continued)

- Financial assets (continued)

The Fund's portfolio of financial assets is managed and its performance is evaluated on a fair value basis in accordance with the Fund's documented investment strategy. The Fund's policy is for the Investment Manager to evaluate the information about these financial assets on a fair value basis together with other related financial information.

For equity securities, the contractual cash flows of these instruments do not represent solely payments of principal and interest. Consequently, these investments are measured at fair value through profit or loss.

For cash and cash equivalents, due from brokers and receivables, these assets are held in order to collect the contractual cash flows. The contractual terms of these assets give rise, on specified dates, to cash flow that are solely payments of principal and interest on the principal amount outstanding. Consequently, these are measured at amortised cost.

- Financial liabilities

For financial liabilities that are not classified and measured at fair value through profit or loss, these are classified as financial liabilities at amortised cost (due to brokers, distributions payable, management fees and costs payable, applications received in advance and other payables).

#### ii. Recognition and derecognition

The Fund recognises financial assets and financial liabilities on the date it becomes party to the contractual agreement (trade date) and recognises changes in the fair value of the financial assets or financial liabilities from this date.

Financial assets are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the financial assets have expired or the Fund has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership. Financial liabilities are derecognised when the obligation under the liability is discharged, cancelled or expires. When an existing financial liability is replaced by another from the same lender on substantially different terms, or the terms of an existing liability are substantially modified, such an exchange or modification is treated as the derecognition of the original liability and the recognition of a new liability. The difference in the respective carrying amounts is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

#### iii. Measurement

- Financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss

At initial recognition, the Fund measures a financial asset at its fair value. Transaction costs of financial assets carried at fair value through profit or loss are expensed in the statement of comprehensive income.

Subsequent to initial recognition, all financial assets at fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value. Gains and losses arising from changes in the fair value of 'financial assets at fair value through profit or loss' category are presented in the statement of comprehensive income within 'net gains/(losses) on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss' in the period in which they arise.

For further details on how the fair value of financial instruments is determined please see Note 4 to the financial statements.

- Financial instruments at amortised cost

For financial assets and financial liabilities at amortised cost, they are initially measured at fair value including directly attributable costs and are subsequently measured using the effective interest rate method less any allowance for expected credit losses.

Cash and cash equivalents, due from brokers and receivables are carried at amortised cost.

#### iv. Impairment

At each reporting date, the Fund shall estimate a loss allowance on each of the financial assets carried at amortised cost (cash and cash equivalents, due from brokers and receivables) at an amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses if the credit risk has increased significantly since initial recognition. If, at the reporting date, the credit risk has not increased significantly since initial recognition, the Fund shall measure the loss allowance at an amount equal to 12-month expected credit losses. Significant financial difficulties of the counter party, probability that the counter party will enter bankruptcy or financial reorganisation, and default in payments are all considered indicators that the asset is credit impaired. If the credit risk increases to the point that it is considered to be credit impaired, interest income will be calculated based on the net carrying amount adjusted for the loss allowance. A significant increase in credit risk is defined by management as any contractual payment which is more than 30 days past due. Any contractual payment which is more than 90 days past due is considered credit impaired.

## 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

### b. Financial instruments (continued)

#### iv. Impairment (continued)

The expected credit loss (ECL) approach is based on the difference between the contractual cash flows due in accordance with the contract and all the cash flows that the Fund expects to receive. The shortfall is then discounted at an approximation to the asset's original effective interest rate.

The amount of the impairment loss is recognised in the statement of comprehensive income within other expenses. When a receivable for which an impairment allowance had been recognised becomes uncollectible in a subsequent period, it is written off against the allowance account. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are credited against other expenses in the statement of comprehensive income.

#### v. Offsetting financial instruments

Financial assets and liabilities are offset and the net amount reported in the statement of financial position when the Fund has a legally enforceable right to offset the recognised amounts, and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

As at the end of the reporting period, there are no financial assets or liabilities offset or with the right to offset in the statement of financial position.

### c. Net assets attributable to unit holders

Units are redeemable at the unit holders' option, however, applications and redemptions may be suspended by the Responsible Entity if it is in the best interests of the unit holders.

The units are classified as financial liabilities as the Fund is required to distribute its distributable income in accordance with the Fund's Constitution.

The units can be put back to the Fund at any time for cash based on the redemption price, which is equal to a proportionate share of the Fund's net asset value attributable to the unit holders.

The units are carried at the redemption amount that is payable at the reporting date if the holder exercises the right to put the units back to the Fund.

### d. Cash and cash equivalents

For the purpose of presentation in the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand, deposits held at call with financial institutions and other short term, highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

Payments and receipts relating to the purchase and sale of investment securities are classified as cash flows from operating activities, as trading of these securities represent the Fund's main income generating activity.

### e. Investment income

#### i. Interest income

Interest income from financial assets at amortised cost is recognised using the effective interest method and includes interest from cash and cash equivalents. Interest from financial assets at fair value through profit or loss is determined based on the contractual coupon interest rate and includes interest from debt securities measured at fair value through profit or loss.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset and of allocating the interest income over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments or receipts throughout the expected life of the financial instrument, or a shorter period where appropriate, to the net carrying amount of the financial asset. When calculating the effective interest rate, the Fund estimates cash flows considering all contractual terms of the financial instrument (for example, prepayment options) but does not consider future credit losses. The calculation includes all fees paid or received between the parties to the contract that are an integral part of the effective interest rate, including transaction costs and all other premiums or discounts.

Interest income on financial assets at fair value through profit or loss is also recognised in the statement of comprehensive income. Changes in fair value of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss are recorded in accordance with the policies described in Note 2(b) to the financial statements.

## 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

### e. Investment income (continued)

#### ii. Dividends and distributions

Dividend income is recognised on the ex-dividend date with any related foreign withholding tax recorded as an expense. The Fund currently incurs withholding tax imposed by certain countries on dividend income. Such income is recorded gross of withholding tax in the statement of comprehensive income.

Trust distributions are recognised on an entitlement basis.

### f. Expenses

All expenses are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income on an accruals basis.

As per the Fund's Product Disclosure Statement (PDS), ordinary expenses such as investment management fees, Responsible Entity fees, custodian fees, administration fees, audit fees and other ordinary expenses of operating the Fund are covered by the management fees and costs.

### g. Income tax

Under current legislation, the Fund is not subject to income tax provided it attributes the entirety of its taxable income to its unit holders.

### h. Distributions

The Fund may distribute its distributable income, in accordance with the Fund's Constitution, to unit holders by cash or reinvestment. The distributions are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income as finance costs attributable to unit holders.

#### i. Increase/decrease in net assets attributable to unit holders

Income not distributed is included in net assets attributable to unit holders. Where the Fund's units are classified as financial liabilities, movements in net assets attributable to unit holders are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income as finance costs.

### j. Foreign currency translation

#### i. Functional and presentation currency

Balances included in the Fund's financial statements are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which it operates (the "functional currency"). This is the Australian dollar which reflects the currency of the economy in which the Fund competes for funds and is regulated. The Australian dollar is also the Fund's presentation currency.

#### ii. Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translations at year end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the statement of comprehensive income.

Non-monetary items that are measured at fair value in a foreign currency are translated using the exchange rates at the date when fair value was determined.

### k. Due from/to brokers

Amounts due from/to brokers represent receivables for securities sold and payables for securities purchased that have been contracted for but not yet delivered by the end of the year. The due from brokers balance is held for collection and is recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost.

### l. Receivables

Receivables may include amounts for interest, dividends and trust distributions. Dividends and trust distributions are accrued when the right to receive payment is established. Where applicable, interest is accrued on a daily basis. Amounts are generally received within 30 days of being recorded as receivables.

### m. Payables

Payables include liabilities, accrued expenses owed by the Fund and any distributions declared which are unpaid as at the end of the reporting period.

A separate distribution payable is recognised in the statement of financial position.

Distributions declared effective 30 June in relation to unit holders who have previously elected to reinvest distributions are recognised as reinvested effective 1 July of the following financial year.

## 2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

### n. Applications and redemptions

Applications received for units in the Fund are recorded net of any entry fees payable prior to the issue of units in the Fund. Redemptions from the Fund are recorded gross of any exit fees payable after the cancellation of units redeemed.

### o. Goods and services tax (GST)

The GST incurred on the costs of various services provided to the Fund by third parties such as management, administration and custodian services where applicable, have been passed on to the Fund. The Fund qualifies for Reduced Input Tax Credits (RITC) at a rate of at least 55%. Hence, fees for these services and any other expenses have been recognised in the statement of comprehensive income net of the amount of GST recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). Amounts payable are inclusive of GST. The net amount of GST recoverable from the ATO is included in receivables in the statement of financial position. Cash flows relating to GST are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis.

### p. Use of estimates and judgements

The Fund makes estimates, assumptions and judgements that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

For the majority of the Fund's financial instruments, quoted market prices are readily available.

The Fund estimates that the resultant expected credit loss (ECL) derived from using impairment model, has not materially impacted the Fund. Please see Note 3 for more information on credit risk.

For more information on how fair value is calculated please refer to Note 4 to the financial statements.

### q. Rounding of amounts

The Fund is an entity of a kind referred to in *ASIC Corporations (Rounding in Financial/Directors' Reports) Instrument 2016/191* relating to the "rounding off" of amounts in the financial statements. Amounts in the financial statements have been rounded to the nearest thousand dollars unless otherwise indicated.

### r. Comparative revisions

Comparative information has been revised where appropriate to enhance comparability. Where necessary, comparative figures have been adjusted to conform with changes in presentation in the current year.

## 3. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

The Fund's activities expose it to a variety of financial risks including market risk (which incorporates price risk and interest rate risk), credit risk and liquidity risk.

The Fund's overall risk management programme focuses on ensuring compliance with the Fund's Product Disclosure Statement, Information Memorandum and the investment guidelines of the Fund. It also seeks to maximise the returns derived for the level of risk to which the Fund is exposed and seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the Fund's financial performance. The Fund's policy allows it to use derivative financial instruments in managing its financial risks.

All investments present a risk of loss of capital. The maximum loss of capital on long equity securities is limited to the fair value of those positions. The maximum loss of capital on long futures is limited to the notional contract values of those positions.

The investments of the Fund, and associated risks, are managed by a specialist Investment Manager, Ethical Partners Funds Management Pty Ltd, under an Investment Management Agreement ("IMA") approved by the Responsible Entity, and containing the investment strategy and guidelines of the Fund, consistent with those stated in the Product Disclosure Statement and Information Memorandum.

The Fund uses different methods to measure different types of risk to which it is exposed. These methods are explained below.

### a. Market risk

#### i. Price risk

The Fund is exposed to price risk on equity securities listed or quoted on recognised securities exchanges. Price risk arises from investments held by the Fund for which prices in the future are uncertain. Where non-monetary financial instruments are denominated in currencies other than the Australian dollar, the price in the future will also fluctuate because of changes in foreign exchange rates which are considered a component of price risk.

### 3. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

#### a. Market risk (continued)

##### i. Price risk (continued)

The Investment Manager mitigates price risk through diversification and a careful selection of securities. The Fund can only invest in equity securities, related exchange traded derivatives and cash. All of the Fund's equity investments are publicly traded in Australia on the ASX. Compliance with the Fund's Product Disclosure Statement and Information Memorandum is monitored on a daily basis. The Fund's policies also limits individual equity securities to no more than 7% greater than or less than their index weighting in the S&P ASX300.

The table in Note 3(b) summarises the sensitivities of the Fund's assets to price risk. The analysis is based on the reasonably possible shift that the investment portfolio in which the Fund invests moves by +/- 10% (2022: +/- 10%).

##### ii. Interest rate risk

The Fund is exposed to cash flow interest rate risk on financial instruments with variable interest rates. Financial instruments with fixed rates expose the Fund to fair value interest rate risk.

The Fund's interest bearing financial instruments expose it to risks associated with the effects of fluctuations in the prevailing market interest rates on its financial position and cash flows. The risk is measured using sensitivity analysis. The Fund may also be indirectly affected by the impact of interest rate changes on the earnings of certain companies in which the Fund invests and impact on the valuation of certain assets that use interest rates as an input in their valuation model. Therefore, the sensitivity analysis within note 3(b) may not fully indicate the total effect on the Fund's profit/(loss) and net assets attributable to unit holders of future movements in interest rates.

The table in Note 3(b) summarises the impact of an increase/decrease in interest rates on the Fund's operating profit/(loss) and net assets attributable to unit holders through changes in fair value or changes in future cash flows. The analysis is based on the reasonably possible shift that interest rates changed by +/- 200 basis points (2022: +/- 200 basis points) from the year end rates with all other variables held constant.

#### b. Summarised sensitivity analysis

The following table summarises the sensitivity of the Fund's operating profit and net assets attributable to unit holders to market risks. The reasonably possible movements in the risk variables have been determined based on management's best estimate having regard to a number of factors, including historical levels of changes in interest rates and the historical correlation of the Fund's investments with the relevant benchmark and market volatility. However, actual movements in the risk variables may be greater or less than anticipated due to a number of factors, including unusually large market movements resulting from changes in the performance of and/or correlation between the performances of the economies, markets and securities in which the Fund invests. As a result, historic variations in risk variables should not be used to predict future variances in the risk variables.

	Impact on operating profit/loss and net assets attributable to unit holders			
	Price risk		Interest rate risk	
	+10%	-10%	+200bps	-200bps
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
As at 30 June 2023	11,388	(11,388)	-	-
As at 30 June 2022	9,878	(9,878)	32	(32)

#### c. Credit risk

The Fund is exposed to credit risk, which is the risk that the counterparty will be unable to pay its obligations in full when they fall due, causing a financial loss to the Fund.

The Fund does not have a significant concentration of credit risk that arises from an exposure to a single counterparty or group of counterparties having similar characteristics. The main concentration of credit risk, to which the Fund is exposed, arises from cash and cash equivalents, receivables and amounts due from broker balances. None of these assets are impaired nor past their due date. The maximum exposure to credit risk is the carrying amount of these balances as at the reporting date.

The Fund determines credit risk and measures expected credit losses for financial assets measured at amortised cost using probability of default, exposure at default and loss given default. Management consider both historical analysis and forward looking information in determining any expected credit loss. At 30 June 2023, all receivables, amounts due from brokers, cash and short-term deposits are held with counterparties with a credit rating of B or higher (2022: A+) and are either callable on demand or due to be settled within 1 week. Management consider the probability of default to be close to zero as these instruments have a low risk of default and the counterparties have a strong capacity to meet their contractual obligations in the near term. As a result, no loss allowance has been recognised based on 12-month expected credit losses as any such impairment would be wholly insignificant to the Fund.

### 3. FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT (CONTINUED)

#### d. Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Fund may not be able to generate sufficient cash resources to settle its obligations in full as they fall due or can only do so on terms that are materially disadvantageous.

Exposure to liquidity risk for the Fund may arise from the requirement to meet daily unit holder redemption requests.

The Fund manages liquidity risk by investing the majority of its assets in investments that can be readily disposed of.

In order to manage the Fund's overall liquidity, the Responsible Entity has the discretion to reject an application for units and to defer or adjust redemption of units if the exercise of such discretion is in the best interests of unit holders. The Fund did not reject or withhold any redemptions during 2023 and 2022.

#### i. Maturities of non-derivative financial liabilities

All non-derivative financial liabilities of the Fund in the current period have maturities of less than 1 month.

### 4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT

The Fund measures and recognises the financial assets at fair value through profit or loss on a recurring basis.

- Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss (see Note 5)

The Fund has no assets or liabilities measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis in the current reporting period.

AASB 13 *Fair value measurement* requires disclosure of fair value measurements by level of the following fair value measurement hierarchy:

- Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (level 1);
- Inputs other than quoted prices included within level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly (level 2); and
- Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs) (level 3).

The Fund values its investments in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 2 to the financial statements. For the majority of its investments, the Fund relies on information provided by independent pricing services for the valuation of its investments.

#### a. Fair value in an active market (level 1)

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities traded in active markets (such as listed equity securities and listed property trusts) are based on their quoted market prices at the close of trading at the end of the reporting period without any deduction for estimated future selling costs.

The quoted market price used for financial assets held by the Fund is the current bid price; the quoted market price for financial liabilities is the current asking price.

A financial instrument is regarded as quoted in an active market if quoted prices are readily and regularly available from an exchange, dealer, broker, industry group, pricing service, or regulatory agency, and those prices represent actual and regularly occurring market transactions on an arm's length basis.

An active market is a market in which transactions for the asset or liability take place with sufficient frequency and volume to provide pricing information on an ongoing basis.

#### 4. FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT (CONTINUED)

##### b. Recognised fair value measurements

The table below presents the Fund's financial assets and liabilities measured and recognised at fair value as at 30 June 2023 and 30 June 2022

	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>As at 30 June 2023</b>				
<b>Financial assets</b>				
Australian listed equity securities	106,189	-	-	106,189
Australian listed property trusts	7,694	-	-	7,694
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>113,883</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>113,883</b>
<b>As at 30 June 2022</b>				
<b>Financial assets</b>				
Australian listed equity securities	92,463	-	-	92,463
Australian listed property trusts	6,315	-	-	6,315
<b>Total financial assets</b>	<b>98,778</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>98,778</b>

##### c. Transfer between levels

Management's policy is to recognise transfers into and transfers out of fair value hierarchy levels as at the end of the reporting period.

There were no transfers between levels in the fair value hierarchy at the end of the reporting period.

##### d. Financial instruments not carried at fair value

The financial instruments not measured at fair value through profit or loss include:

- i. Cash and cash equivalents, balances due from/to brokers and receivables/payables under sale and repurchase agreements. These are short-term financial assets and financial liabilities whose carrying amounts approximate fair value, because of their short-term nature and the high credit quality of counterparties; and
- ii. Net assets attributable to unit holders. The Fund routinely redeems and issues the units at the amount equal to the proportionate share of net assets of the Fund at the time of redemption, calculated on a basis consistent with that used in these financial statements. Accordingly, the carrying amount of net assets attributable to unitholders approximates their fair value. Any difference is not material in the current year or prior year.

#### 5. FINANCIAL ASSETS AT FAIR VALUE THROUGH PROFIT OR LOSS

	As at	
	30 June 2023 \$'000	30 June 2022 \$'000
Australian listed equity securities	106,189	92,463
Australian listed property trusts	7,694	6,315
<b>Total financial assets at fair value through profit or loss</b>	<b>113,883</b>	<b>98,778</b>

An overview of the risk exposures and fair value measurements relating to financial assets at fair value through profit or loss is included in Note 3 and Note 4 to the financial statements.

## 6. NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO UNIT HOLDERS - LIABILITY

The Fund's units are classified as a liability as they do not meet the definition of a financial instrument to be classified as equity.

Movements in the number of units and net assets attributable to unit holders during the year were as follows:

	Year ended		Year ended	
	30 June 2023 Units '000	30 June 2023 Units \$'000	30 June 2022 Units '000	30 June 2022 Units \$'000
<b>Institutional Class</b>				
Opening balance	46,561	40,701	39,744	40,147
Applications	2,387	2,244	9,350	10,235
Redemptions	(27,211)	(27,676)	(2,699)	(2,834)
Reinvestment of distributions	669	646	166	168
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unit holders	-	6,000	-	(7,015)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>22,406</b>	<b>21,915</b>	<b>46,561</b>	<b>40,701</b>
<b>Class A</b>				
Opening balance	50,606	43,918	19,676	19,740
Applications	25,081	25,401	31,971	33,114
Redemptions	(5,000)	(4,857)	(1,130)	(1,000)
Reinvestment of distributions	244	234	89	91
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unit holders	-	5,752	-	(8,027)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>70,931</b>	<b>70,448</b>	<b>50,606</b>	<b>43,918</b>
<b>Class B</b>				
Opening balance	9,599	8,417	10,592	10,733
Applications	422	390	2,984	2,959
Redemptions	(2,034)	(2,104)	(3,977)	(4,293)
Reinvestment of distributions	1	1	-	-
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unit holders	-	1,249	-	(982)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>7,988</b>	<b>7,953</b>	<b>9,599</b>	<b>8,417</b>
<b>Class C</b>				
Opening balance	5,336	4,580	1,044	1,039
Applications	6,893	6,745	4,343	4,467
Redemptions	(407)	(408)	(58)	(58)
Reinvestment of distributions	49	47	7	7
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unit holders	-	781	-	(875)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>11,871</b>	<b>11,745</b>	<b>5,336</b>	<b>4,580</b>
<b>Class E*</b>				
Opening balance	-	-	27,222	27,397
Applications	-	-	2,046	2,212
Redemptions	-	-	(29,640)	(27,443)
Reinvestment of distributions	-	-	372	375
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unit holders	-	-	-	(2,541)
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Closing balance</b>		<b>112,061</b>		<b>97,616</b>

\* Class E terminated during the year ended 30 June 2022.

As stipulated within the Fund Constitution, each unit represents a right to an individual share in the Fund and does not extend to a right to the underlying assets of the Fund.

There are four separate classes of units. Each unit within the same class has the same rights as all other units within that class. Except for the inclusion of management fees, the five different classes have the same preferences and restrictions.

Units are redeemed on demand at the unit holder's option. However, holders of these instruments typically retain them for the medium to long term. As such, the amount expected to be settled within twelve months after the end of the reporting period cannot be reliably determined.

## 6. NET ASSETS ATTRIBUTABLE TO UNIT HOLDERS - LIABILITY (CONTINUED)

### Capital risk management

The Fund considers its net assets attributable to unit holders as capital, notwithstanding that net assets attributable to unit holders are classified as a liability. The amount of net assets attributable to unit holders can change significantly on a daily basis as the Fund is subject to daily applications and redemptions at the discretion of unit holders.

Daily applications and redemptions are reviewed relative to the liquidity of the Fund's underlying assets on a daily basis by the Responsible Entity. Under the terms of the Fund's Constitution, the Responsible Entity has the discretion to reject an application for units and to defer or adjust a redemption of units if the exercise of such discretion is in the best interests of unit holders.

## 7. DISTRIBUTIONS TO UNIT HOLDERS

The distributions declared for the year were as follows:

	Year ended		Year ended	
	30 June 2023 \$'000	30 June 2023 CPU	30 June 2022 \$'000	30 June 2022 CPU
<b>Distributions - Institutional Class</b>				
December	1,025	2,1861	448	1,0410
June (payable)	1,287	5,7450	1,328	2,8528
<b>Total distributions</b>	<b>2,312</b>	<b>7,9311</b>	1,776	3,8938
<b>Distributions - Class A</b>				
December	1,038	2,2422	244	1,1383
June (payable)	2,579	3,6356	1,508	2,9791
<b>Total distributions</b>	<b>3,617</b>	<b>5,8778</b>	1,752	4,1174
<b>Distributions - Class B</b>				
December	235	2,3544	105	1,1441
June (payable)	357	4,4744	294	3,0648
<b>Total distributions</b>	<b>592</b>	<b>6,8288</b>	399	4,2089
<b>Distributions - Class C</b>				
December	230	2,3049	15	0,4794
June (payable)	358	3,0118	162	3,0395
<b>Total distributions</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>5,3167</b>	177	3,5189
<b>Distributions - Class E</b>				
December	-	-	383	1,4259
June	-	-	842	3,2476
June (payable)	-	-	-	-
<b>Total distributions</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	1,225	4,6735
<b>Total distributions</b>	<b>7,109</b>		5,329	

## 8. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

	As at	
	30 June 2023 \$'000	30 June 2022 \$'000
Cash at bank	2,216	1,612
<b>Total cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>2,216</b>	1,612

## 9. RECONCILIATION OF PROFIT/(LOSS) TO NET CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES

### a. Reconciliation of profit/(loss) to net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities

	Year ended	
	30 June 2023 \$'000	30 June 2022 \$'000
Profit/(loss) for the year	-	-
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unit holders	13,782	(19,440)
Distributions payable to unit holders	7,109	5,329
Proceeds from sale of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	70,678	151,946
Payments for purchase of financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	(67,343)	(167,622)
Net (gains)/losses on financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss	(18,366)	16,087
Dividend and distribution income reinvested	(181)	(186)
Net change in receivables	239	(345)
Net change in payables	(129)	120
<b>Net cash inflow/(outflow) from operating activities</b>	<b>5,789</b>	<b>(14,111)</b>

### b. Non-cash operating and financing activities

The following distribution payments to unit holders were satisfied by the issue of units under the distribution reinvestment plan

928                      641

The following purchases of investments were satisfied by the participation in dividend and dividend reinvestment plans

181                        186

#### **Total non-cash operating and financing activities**

**1,109                      827**

As described in Note 2(i), income not distributed is included in net assets attributable to unit holders. The change in this amount for the year (as reported in (a) above) represents a non-cash financing cost as it is not settled in cash until such time as it becomes distributable.

## 10. RECEIVABLES

	As at	
	30 June 2023 \$'000	30 June 2022 \$'000
Dividends receivable	419	757
GST receivable	217	117
Management fees and costs reimbursement receivable	-	1
<b>Total receivables</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>875</b>

## 11. PAYABLES

	As at	
	30 June 2023 \$'000	30 June 2022 \$'000
Management fees and costs payable	142	245
Performance fees payable	-	26
Redemptions payable	-	23
Applications received in advance	-	5
<b>Total payables</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>299</b>

## 12. REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS

During the year the following fees were paid or payable for services provided by the auditors of the Fund:

	Year ended	
	30 June 2023	30 June 2022
	\$	\$
<b>Grant Thornton</b>		
<i>Audit and other assurance services</i>		
Audit and review of financial statements	19,160	16,700
<b>Total auditor remuneration and other assurance services</b>	<b>19,160</b>	<b>16,700</b>
<i>Taxation services</i>		
Tax compliance services	18,500	11,500
<b>Total remuneration for taxation services</b>	<b>18,500</b>	<b>11,500</b>
<b>Total remuneration of Grant Thornton</b>	<b>37,660</b>	<b>28,200</b>
<b>PricewaterhouseCoopers</b>		
<i>Audit and other assurance services</i>		
Audit of compliance plan	2,346	2,346
<b>Total auditor remuneration and other assurance services</b>	<b>2,346</b>	<b>2,346</b>
<b>Total remuneration of PricewaterhouseCoopers</b>	<b>2,346</b>	<b>2,346</b>

The auditors' remuneration is borne by the Responsible Entity. Fees are stated exclusive of GST.

## 13. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

The Responsible Entity of Ethical Partners Australian Share Fund is Equity Trustees Limited (ABN 46 004 031 298) (AFSL 240975). Accordingly, transactions with entities related to Equity Trustees Limited are disclosed below.

The Responsible Entity has contracted services to Ethical Partners Funds Management Pty Ltd to act as Investment Manager for the Fund. Apex Fund Services Pty Ltd has contracted to act as Administrator, Custodian and Registrar for the Fund effective 1 February 2023. The contracts are on normal commercial terms and conditions.

### a. Key management personnel

#### i. Directors

Key management personnel include persons who were directors of Equity Trustees Limited at any time during the financial year as follows:

Philip D Gentry	Chairman
Michael J O'Brien	
Russell W Beasley	
Mary A O'Connor	
David B Warren	(appointed 6 March 2023)

#### ii. Responsible Entity

Other than fees paid to the Responsible Entity, there were no other transactions.

#### iii. Other key management personnel

There were no other key management personnel with responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the Fund, directly or indirectly during the financial year.

### b. Transactions with key management personnel

There were no transactions with key management personnel during the reporting period.

### c. Key management personnel unit holdings

Key management personnel did not hold units in the Fund as at 30 June 2023 (30 June 2022: nil).

### 13. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (CONTINUED)

#### d. Key management personnel compensation

Key management personnel are paid by EQT Services Pty Ltd. Payments made from the Fund to Equity Trustees Limited do not include any amounts directly attributable to the compensation of key management personnel.

#### e. Key management personnel loans

The Fund 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 reporting period.

#### f. Other transactions within the Fund

Apart from those details disclosed in this note, no key management personnel have entered into a material contract with the Fund during the financial year and there were no material contracts involving key management personnel's interests existing at year end.

#### g. Responsible Entity fees, Investment Manager's fees and other transactions

The transactions during the year and amounts payable as at year end between the Fund, the Responsible Entity and the Investment Manager were as follows:

	Year ended	
	30 June 2023 \$	30 June 2022 \$
Management fees for the year	1,077,974	1,055,656
Responsible Entity fees for the year	43,562	56,392
Performance fees for the year	-	23,938
Management fees reimbursement received for the year	-	(6,487)
Management fees payable at year end	73,000	99,915
Responsible Entity fees payable at year end	-	28,064
Performance fees payable at year end	-	25,690
Management fees reimbursement receivable at year end	-	(1,012)

Under the terms of the Fund's Constitution and Product Disclosure Statement, management fees and costs includes responsible entity fees paid to the Responsible Entity, management fees paid to the Investment Manager and other costs (such as custody fees, administration fees and audit fees) paid to other unrelated parties. Please refer to the Fund's Product Disclosure Statement for information on how management fees and costs are calculated.

Management fees reimbursed represent monies put into the Fund to ensure that the Fund's overall management costs remain within that disclosed in the Product Disclosure Statement.

Under the terms of the Fund's Constitution and Product Disclosure Statement, the Investment Manager is also entitled to receive a performance fee in relation to the performance of the fund.

#### h. Related party unit holdings

Parties related to the Fund (including Equity Trustees Limited, its related parties and other schemes managed by Equity Trustees Limited and the Investment Manager) hold units in the Fund, as follows:

Unitholder	No. of units held opening	No. of units held closing	Fair value of investment \$	Interest held %	No. of Units acquired	No. of Units disposed	Distributions Paid/Payable by the Fund \$
<b>As at 30 June 2023</b>							
Ethical Partners Funds Management Pty Ltd							
	25,531	27,064	26,936	0.02	1,533	-	1,424
Ethical Partners Management Services Pty Ltd							
	219,416	232,595	231,497	0.21	13,179	-	12,239
<b>As at 30 June 2022</b>							
Ethical Partners Funds Management Pty Ltd							
	25,093	25,531	22,151	0.02	438	-	449
Ethical Partners Management Services Pty Ltd							
	215,652	219,416	190,365	0.20	3,764	-	3,858

**13. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS (CONTINUED)**

**i. Investments**

The Fund did not hold any investments in Equity Trustees Limited or its related parties during the year (2022: nil).

**14. EVENTS OCCURRING AFTER THE REPORTING PERIOD**

No significant events have occurred since the end of the year which would impact on the financial position of the Fund as disclosed in the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023 or on the results and cash flows of the Fund for the year ended on that date.

**15. CONTINGENT ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AND COMMITMENTS**

There were no outstanding contingent assets, liabilities or commitments as at 30 June 2023 and 30 June 2022.

**DIRECTORS' DECLARATION**

In the opinion of the directors of the Responsible Entity:

- a. The financial statements and notes set out on pages 6 to 24 are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
  - i. complying with Australian Accounting Standards, the *Corporations Regulations 2001* and other mandatory professional reporting requirements; and
  - ii. giving a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the financial year ended on that date.
- b. There are reasonable grounds to believe that the Fund will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable; and
- c. Note 2(a) confirms that the financial statements also comply with the International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors of Equity Trustees Limited through a delegated authority given by Equity Trustees Limited's Board.



Philip D Gentry  
Chairman

Melbourne  
21 September 2023

## Independent Auditor's Report

### To the Unitholders of Ethical Partners Australian Share Fund

#### Report on the audit of the financial report

##### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Ethical Partners Australian Share Fund (the Fund), which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of comprehensive income, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and statement by the Directors of the Responsible Entity.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report of the Fund is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- a giving a true and fair view of the Fund's financial position as at 30 June 2023 and of its performance for the year ended on that date; and
- b complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

##### Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

### **Information other than the financial report and auditor's report thereon**

The Directors of the Responsible Entity are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the Fund's annual report for the year ended 30 June 2023 but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon.

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

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

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

### **Responsibilities of the Directors for the financial report**

The Directors of the Responsible Entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Act 2001*. The Directors' responsibility also includes 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 Fund's ability 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 Fund or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

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

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian 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 this financial report.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website at: [http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors\\_responsibilities/ar4.pdf](http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_responsibilities/ar4.pdf). This description forms part of our auditor's report.



Grant Thornton Audit Pty Ltd  
Chartered Accountants



Grant Layland  
Director – Audit & Assurance

Sydney, 21 September 2023