# CC Sage Capital Absolute Return Fund (APIR: CHN5843AU)

April 2022

Class A

## **Fund Performance**

Returns¹	1 month	3 months	6 months	FYTD	1 year	2 years p.a.	Since inception p.a. (20-Aug-2019)
Fund Net Return	0.28%	2.94%	7.38%	14.92%	13.10%	11.47%	12.11%
Benchmark Return²	0.00%	0.01%	0.02%	0.03%	0.04%	0.06%	0.22%
Active Return (After fees)	0.28%	2.93%	7.36%	14.89%	13.06%	11.41%	11.89%

## **About Sage Capital**

As an Australian equities long short manager, Sage Capital views the market through eight unique Sage Groups enabling the team to focus on individual stock drivers and hedge systematic market risks. This style and cycle neutral investment process is designed to deliver consistent returns regardless of the market environment.

The Sage Capital investment team owns 100% of the firm and invests alongside its clients.

# About the Fund

The CC Sage Capital Absolute Return Fund aims to provide an uncorrelated source of returns whilst eliminating equity market exposure, where long and short positions offset each other.

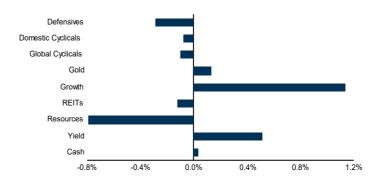
# **Fund Facts**

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Investment Style	An Australian equity market neutral long short strategy		
Net Asset Value	\$294.4 million <sup>3</sup>		
Inception Date	20 Aug 2019		
Benchmark	RBA Cash Rate		
Management Fee	1.29% p.a.⁴		
Administration Fee	0.10% p.a.⁴		
Performance Fee	20.5% p.a.⁵		
High Water Mark	Yes		
Distributions	Semi-annually at 31 December and 30 June		

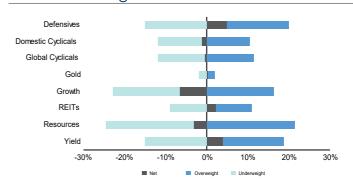
### Portfolio Metrics

As at end of month	
Long exposure	112%
Short exposure	-113%
Gross exposure	225%
Net exposure	0%
Number of long positions	56
Number of short positions	68
Since Inception	
Sharpe Ratio <sup>6</sup>	2.4
Volatility <sup>6</sup>	5.1%
Maximum monthly drawdown	-2%

## Contributors to Fund Performance\*



# Allocation Weights\*



# Platform Availabilty

AMP MyNorth	ANZ Grow Wrap	Ausmaq
BT Panorama	Colonial First Wrap	HUB24
IOOF	Macquarie Wrap	Mason Stevens
MLC Wrap/Navigator	Netwealth	Powerwrap
Praemium	Xplore Wealth	

### **Contact Details**

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¹ Performance is for the CC Sage Capital Absolute Return Fund ('the Fund') - Class A, and is based on month end unit prices in Australian Dollars . Net return is calculated after management fees and operating costs. Individual investor level taxes are not taken into account when calculating net returns. This is historical performance data. The value of an investment can rise and fall and past performance is not indicative of future performance. ² Benchmark refers to the RBA Cash Rate Total Return Index. ³ Net Asset Value is calculated as Fund assets less Fund liabilities . ⁴ All figures disclosed include the net effect of GST and RITC. ⁵ Performance Fee of 20.5% (including the net effect of GST and RITC) based on outperformance of the Fund Benchmark, net of the Management Fee. ⁶ Refer to Definition of Terms at the end of the report.



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#### Performance Review

The CC Sage Capital Absolute Return Fund returned 0.28% in April versus the RBA Cash Rate of 0.00%, resulting in outperformance of 0.28%.

Key contributors to performance by Sage Groups\* were Growth and Yield and main detractors were Resources and Defensives. Performance in the Growth Sage Group was driven by short positions in stocks with elevated PE multiples such as Block (SQ2 -22%) and Reece (REH -8%) which fell due to continued rising bond yields and Aristocrat Leisure (ALL -8%) which fell after industry data indicated a slow down in digital gaming revenue. The Yield Sage Group was driven by a long position in QBE Insurance Group (QBE +7%) which rose due to robust earnings reports from US peers and it's also a beneficiary of higher interest rates and a long position in Pendal Group (PDL +14%) which received a takeover offer from Perpetual Limited.

In the Resources Sage Group, detractors were long positions Lynas Rare Earths (LYC -15%) which fell as rare earth commodity prices dropped due to fears of reduced demand from China on the back of Covid-19 lockdowns, South32 (S32 -5%) which announced a solid quarterly result but guided to increased costs for the year and a short position in Worley (WOR +8%) which outperformed as oil bucked the trend of other commodities and continued to rise. Underperformance in the Defensives Sage Group was primarily impacted by a short position in Ramsay Healthcare (RHC +24%) which received a takeover proposal from a KKR led consortium.

#### Market Review

The S&P/ASX 200 Accumulation Index finished April down -0.85%. The strongest performing Sage Groups were Global Cyclicals and Defensives and the weakest were Resources and Growth. The Global Cyclicals Sage Group was driven by a rebound in the travel stocks such as Flight Centre (FLT +16%) and Corporate Travel (CTD +11%) on the back of positive commentary from US airlines and a strong Easter travelling period domestically. The Defensives Sage Group was driven by a surprise takeover offer of Ramsay Healthcare (RHC+24%) and Utilities as investors flocked to stocks that may provide a hedge against inflation after a higher than expected inflation number for the March quarter. Weakness from the Resource Sage Group was driven by prices of most commodities falling as China re-entered Covid-19 lockdowns and Growth was down on the back of rising bond yields and the Nasdaq having its worst month since 2008.

## Portfolio Positioning and Market Outlook

Inflation around the world is running at levels not seen since the 1970s. With inflation rates of 5.1% in Australia, 8.5% in the US and 7% in the UK, interest rates need to keep rising to keep inflation in check. Narratives from central banks, as well as market pricing, indicate that cash rates will move back to a "neutral" level quite rapidly. Sage Capital's concern is that, with economies at full employment globally, strong wage growth will see inflation persist at higher levels. The ability of central banks to manufacture a soft landing looks slim with prospects of a recession increasing.

The outlook is being further complicated by the continuing sanctions resulting from the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which are continuing to support higher energy prices and further Covid-19 lockdowns in China are causing ongoing supply chain headaches for companies around the world. These uncertainties, along with labour market tightness and rapidly rising costs across the board, remain a challenge for many companies. In this environment Sage Capital retains a preference for companies who either have positive earnings exposure to higher yields or reasonably defensive earnings and strong pricing power. In addition, as discount rates rise due to a higher risk-free rate and equity risk premium, valuations of high growth companies are particularly impacted. As such the Sage Capital investment team are cautious on stocks that are priced to perfection.

Sage Capital expects unpredictable macro drivers to continue to be a large influence on equity markets. However, the investment team's focus on individual company earnings and utilising Sage Groups for portfolio construction allows systematic macro risks to be minimised as much as possible while benefiting from bottom-up stock selection. The Sage Capital portfolios are as always, well diversified, liquid and positioned to weather the myriad of unknowns.

#### **Fund Disclosures**

Key service provider changes Nil
Key individual changes Nil
Risk profile or investment strategy material changes Nil

\*Sage Capital uses a custom grouping system for long short positions (Defensives, Domestic Cyclicals, Global Cyclicals, Gold, Growth, REITs, Resources and Yield). With a focus on the principal macro earnings drivers for each stock, Sage Groups allow for comparisons to GICS for selecting stocks within a sector. Contributors to Active Performance is Gross of Fees.

### **Definition of Terms:**

Sharpe Ratio - Annualised average monthly excess Fund return (net of fees) divided by Fund volatility. Excess return is the Fund return minus the risk free rate, which is the RBA Cash Rate.

Volatility - Annualised standard deviation of monthly returns (net of fees) since inception.



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