Agenda

Tuesday, December 1

8:00am - 10:00am **Coach transfer from Sydney Domestic Airport or Central Station to Hydro Majestic**

9:45am - 10:30am **Registration**

10:30am - 10:40am **Welcome remarks**

CHAIR

Aleks Vickovich
Editor-in-chief,
Conexus Financial

10:40am - 11:30am **In conversation: Growth through disruption and perennial market change**

The opening session will share lessons from a career at the cutting edge of investment portfolios and product, reflecting on leadership, resilience and success amid an ever-changing investment landscape. It will opine on the outlook for exchange-traded funds, public and private markets, superannuation and managed accounts, while outlining the headwinds and tailwinds for financial advice and its trusted service providers. It will also provide a behind-the-scenes account of BetaShares' momentous acquisitions of both InvestSense and Bendigo Bank Super.

Alex Vynokur
Founder and chief executive,
Betashares

CHAIR

Aleks Vickovich
Editor-in-chief,
Conexus Financial

11:30am - 12:30pm **Panel: Big picture in investment advice, research and**

managed accounts

This opening panel will survey the major commercial forces reshaping the advice and investment research ecosystem. Licensees are consolidating and expanding their influence over investment governance, the balance of power across the value chain is shifting, and the gatekeeper model is under greater scrutiny than at any point in the past decade. Meanwhile, access to private markets and the AI tech revolution continues to present sharp opportunities and perils. The panel will take a leadership position on the key trends shaping and reshaping wealth management.

Includes table discussion

John Carnevale
Executive general manager research and investment services, Entireti

Alex Donald
Chief executive - investment solutions, Ironbark Asset Management

Louise Watson
Chief executive, Evidentia Group

CHAIR

Aleks Vickovich
Editor-in-chief, Conexus Financial

12:30pm - 1:30pm **Lunch | Wintergarden Restaurant**

1:30pm - 2:20pm **Panel: Active, passive, systematic and the alpha question**

Bottom-up fundamental equity management has structurally underperformed across developed markets, and advisers are questioning the fee rationale. Information edge has decayed, market concentration penalises unconstrained stock-picking, and systematic strategies are gaining ground as a cost-efficient middle ground at a fraction of traditional active fees. This panel will debate whether the alpha drought is cyclical or structural, examine the case for systematic approaches, and interrogate what the shift means for portfolio construction and manager due diligence.

Subash Pillai
Senior vice president, head of

Lachlan

APAC solutions, Franklin Templeton

CHAIR

Maddock
Editor, Investment Magazine

2:50pm - 3:40pm

Panel: Private credit and the risk, reward equation

As private credit assets proliferate in advice portfolios, the established frameworks for manager due diligence may not be fit for purposes, particularly as global regulators ramp up scrutiny of retail and wholesale exposures. This panel will examine how advisers, asset consultants and research houses can help ensure investors are educated about emerging asset classes and the risks that can be associated with the coveted illiquidity premium.

Michael Watson
Director – wealth solutions, La Trobe Financial

CHAIR

Simon Hoyle
Senior writer, Professional Planner

3:40pm - 4:10pm

Afternoon tea

4:10pm - 5:10pm

Panel: AI, US exceptionalism and the volatile new normal

The AI trade is more complex than the Magnificent Seven. Private equity is exposed through software company holdings, private credit through AI-adjacent borrowers, and infrastructure debt through data centre energy demand — and that exposure is growing rapidly across advice portfolios whether managers know it or not. This panel will map the full stack of AI-driven investment opportunity across public and private asset classes, examine the intersection with the energy transition, and ask whether Australian advisers are equipped to position their clients for the structural shift underway in US and global markets.

Includes table discussion

CHAIR

Lachlan Maddock
Editor, Investment Magazine

5:10pm - 5:30pm **Closing remarks**

CHAIR

Aleks Vickovich
Editor-in-chief,
Conexus Financial

5:30pm - 5:50pm	**Coach transfer from Hydro Majestic to Lilianfels**
6:00pm - 7:00pm	**Pre-dinner drinks | Lilianfels Lounge**
7:00pm - 10:00pm	**Conference dinner | Darley's Restaurant, Lilianfels**

Wednesday, December 2

8:10am - 8:30am	**Coach transfer from Lilianfels to Hydro Majestic**
8:30am - 8:50am	**Arrival refreshments**

8:50am - 9:00am **Welcome remarks**

CHAIR

Aleks Vickovich
Editor-in-chief,
Conexus Financial

9:00am - 9:45am **Keynote: Regulatory priorities in investment research and advice**

This session will provide an update on the corporate regulator's private credit review and its ongoing oversight of the managed accounts market, covering separately managed accounts and platform governance. It will examine enforcement priorities across the advice and investment chain and provide guidance on how the industry can engage constructively ahead of potential legislative changes.

CHAIR

Aleks Vickovich
Editor-in-chief,
Conexus Financial

9:45am - 10:45am **Workshop: Designing a performance test for managed accounts**

Amid rumours that government or regulators may introduce a superannuation-style performance test for the managed accounts sector, this session invites delegates to take a self-regulatory leadership position. Following a panel session setting the scene, this interactive session will seek to resolve key questions including: what benchmark is appropriate and investable, how does the test apply across super and non-super portfolios, and what are the implications for platform data disclosure and the SMA market? It will seek to draw out areas of industry consensus and contention.

Includes table discussion

CHAIR

Simon Hoyle
Senior writer,
Professional Planner

10:45am - 11:15am **Morning tea**

12:00pm - 12:45pm **Case studies: Licensees, investment committees and the shifting sands of adviser portfolios**

Amid greater regulatory scrutiny and commercial opportunity set, some licensees and advice firms are taking on greater ownership of approved product lists, managed accounts and investment management, changing the dynamics of strategic partnership with asset consultants and research houses. This session showcases current thinking among a diverse range of leading advice firms and licensees, examining the investment governance and client experience implications of management decisions and examining tensions that may arise between product innovation, professional service and research independence.

CHAIR

Simon Hoyle
Senior writer,
Professional Planner

12:45pm - 1:45pm **Lunch | Wintergarden Restaurant**

1:45pm - 2:35pm **Panel: Investment, product and service innovation for retirement**

Product innovation in solving for longevity risk has largely failed to achieve mass adviser or client adoption, yet the retirement income challenge continues to grow. This session will examine whether traditional portfolio construction can genuinely meet the income needs of retirees, or whether life insurer or other balance sheet underwriting is really needed to ensure standard of living for retirees. It will consider whether a possible extension of the Retirement Income Covenant to the advice channel would change the terms of the debate.

CHAIR

Simon Hoyle
Senior writer,
Professional Planner

2:35pm - 3:25pm **Panel: Investment governance, due diligence and the hygiene of the advice ecosystem**

This final session will look across the value chain to interrogate whether the profession and its gatekeepers have established sufficient checks and balances in the post-Shield First Guardian era to detect fraud, ensure robust investment and advice guidance and conduct due diligence on financial products and investment opportunities. It will reflect on the key themes and contention points of the conference and question whether leaders of the research and asset consulting community.

Includes table discussion

Cameron Spittle
Managing partner,
Trellia Wealth
Partners

CHAIR

Aleks Vickovich
Editor-in-chief,
Conexus Financial

3:25pm - 3:30pm **Closing remarks**

CHAIR

Aleks Vickovich
Editor-in-chief,
Conexus Financial

3:30pm - 5:00pm **Coach transfer from Hydro Majestic to Sydney Domestic Airport or Central Station**