

# Australian Ethical Australian Shares Fund (Wholesale) Product Disclosure Statement

2 October 2018

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## Important

This Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) is issued by Australian Ethical Investment Ltd (ABN 47 003 188 930, AFSL 229949), the Responsible Entity of the Australian Ethical Australian Shares Fund (Wholesale) (ARSN 089 919 175).

The information in this PDS is up-to-date at the time of preparation. However, information in this PDS is subject to change from time to time. A copy of this PDS and updated information (if not materially adverse) can be obtained, free of charge, by going to [australianethical.com.au/managed-funds/pds](http://australianethical.com.au/managed-funds/pds), or by calling us on 1800 021 227.

The offer made in this PDS is made only to persons receiving this PDS in Australia or New Zealand (electronically or otherwise).

## Retail investors

If you are a retail investor you should read the Australian Ethical Australian Shares Fund PDS. This can be found on our website at: [australianethical.com.au/managed-funds/pds/](http://australianethical.com.au/managed-funds/pds/)

This PDS is a summary of the significant information you need to make a decision. It includes references to important information that forms part of the PDS and is included in the Managed Funds Additional Information Booklet dated 2 October 2018. The Managed Funds Additional Information Booklet can be found on our website [australianethical.com.au/managed-funds/pds/](http://australianethical.com.au/managed-funds/pds/) or by contacting us on 1800 021 227.

You should consider this other important information before making your decision.

# 1 About Australian Ethical Investment Ltd

Australian Ethical Investment Ltd (Australian Ethical) is a publicly listed funds management company, which has a long history of actively seeking out investments that are positive for society and the environment and avoiding investments in harmful activities. Since pioneering ethical investment in Australia in 1986, Australian Ethical has grown to manage investments and superannuation on behalf of over 40,000 investors.

## Ethical investment is our only business

Australian Ethical believes the more money doing good for the planet, the better. Since 1986 we have been influenced by the 23 principles of the Australian Ethical Charter to invest in ethical and responsible initiatives that can have a positive impact on the planet, while achieving competitive long-term returns. We avoid investments in corporations that engage in harmful practices such as coal, oil, weapons, tobacco, gambling and human rights abuses. The Charter not only influences our investment choices, but underpins every aspect of our business practices.

Australian Ethical strives to be a leader among ethical and responsible funds. Australian Ethical is a signatory to the United Nations' Principles for Responsible Investment, and our funds have achieved certification by the Responsible Investment Association of Australasia (RIAA).

Australian Ethical is one of the founding B Corporations in Australia and in 2014 the first company listed on the ASX to receive B Corporation certification.

Each year since then, Australian Ethical has been included on the B Corporation 'Best for the World Honorees' which lists the top 10% of all certified B Corporations globally.

Australian Ethical believe it's important for businesses to play a leadership role in making the world a better place, not just to make profit. That's why Australian Ethical sets aside 10% of its after-tax profits (before bonus expense) every year to put back into the community via our community grants program, through our registered charity, the Australian Ethical Foundation Limited (ABN 14 607 166 503). This initiative provides financial support to not-for-profit and social impact organisations that contribute to humanitarian, environmental, and animal welfare efforts in Australia and overseas.

# 2 How the Australian Ethical Australian Shares Fund (Wholesale) works

**You should read** the important information about how the Australian Ethical Australian Shares Fund (Wholesale) works before making a decision. Go to Section 2 of the Additional Information Booklet. The material relating to how the Fund works may change between the time when you read this PDS and the day when you acquire the product.

When you invest your money in a managed fund like the Australian Ethical Australian Shares Fund (Wholesale) (the Fund), your money is pooled together with other investors' money. A team of investment professionals invest and manage this money on behalf of all investors in the Fund in a range of assets.

The Fund is divided into units and these units are used to identify and value each investor's investment in the Fund. The amount you invest is used to buy units in the Fund. The number of units allocated to you depends on the amount you invest and the value of a unit on that day. The number of units you hold will increase if you make additional investments or reinvest your distributions. If you make a withdrawal, units will be redeemed and the number of units you hold will decrease.

## Investor classification

Under the Fund's constitution, we are able to issue different classes of units. At our discretion we will provide wholesale and larger investors with a different class of units provided specified conditions are met.

To be classified as a wholesale investor, a direct investor in the Australian Ethical Australian Shares Fund must maintain a minimum \$500,000 investment across Australian Ethical's managed funds and a minimum of \$25,000 in the Australian Shares Fund.

This PDS applies to the wholesale class of units. You should refer to the Australian Ethical Australian Shares Fund PDS if you are a retail investor.

## Calculating unit prices

The unit price is the dollar value of each unit. New unit prices are calculated every business day by dividing the net value of the assets of the Fund by the number of units issued. The value of units will change as the market value of the assets in the Fund increase or decrease in value.

A buy price is used when you purchase units and a sell price is used when you redeem units. The buy and sell prices differ to cover the transaction costs when you buy or sell units so that these costs are not passed onto other investors.

Daily unit prices are available at: [australianethical.com.au/unit-prices-managed-funds/](http://australianethical.com.au/unit-prices-managed-funds/)

## 2 How the Australian Ethical Australian Shares Fund (Wholesale) works continued

### Making investments and withdrawals

The minimum investment amounts are noted in the table below. You can increase your investment by starting a Regular Investor Plan or by making additional investments at any time.

Minimum investment amounts*	
	Direct Investors
Starting investment and minimum balance	\$25,000 <sup>#</sup>
Additional investments	\$1
Monthly Regular Investor Plan investments <sup>^</sup>	\$100

\* Australian Ethical may accept lesser amounts at its discretion.

<sup>^</sup> Deducted from your personal bank account.

<sup>#</sup> Direct investors in the Australian Ethical Australian Shares Fund (Wholesale) must maintain a minimum \$500,000 investment across Australian Ethical's managed funds and a minimum of \$25,000 in the Fund.

Withdrawals can be made at any time by completing the Withdrawal Form available on our website. There is no minimum withdrawal amount.

In most situations we will make payment to your nominated Australian bank account within seven business days of receiving a payment request.

There may be some circumstances when withdrawals may take longer, such as in July and January when the distributions are calculated, if there is a freeze on withdrawals, or where the Fund is illiquid.

### Processing your transactions

The close of business unit price will be used for applications or withdrawal requests received before 3pm (Sydney time) on a business day. Applications or withdrawals received after 3pm (or on a day other than a business day) are processed using the close of business price for the following business day.

Applications and withdrawals received via a platform may have a different processing cut-off time applied. You should contact your financial adviser or broker to determine if a different cut-off time may apply for applications or withdrawals.

### Income distributions

Payments of net income earned by the Fund are distributed to you every six-months, typically in July and January. Australian Ethical as the Responsible entity has discretion whether to declare a half yearly distribution. The distributable income may include interest, dividends, foreign income, realised net capital gains and other income.

The amount of income you receive will be proportionate to the number of units you hold relative to the number of units on issue at the end of the distribution period. The amount will vary from year-to-year and on occasion, no distribution may be made.

Income can be reinvested or paid to your nominated Australian bank account. If no selection is made or we are unable to pay it to you for any reason, your income will be automatically reinvested and additional units in the fund purchased in your name.

## 3 Benefits of investing in the Australian Ethical Australian Shares Fund (Wholesale)

**You should read** the important information about the benefits of investing in the Australian Ethical Australian Shares Fund (Wholesale) before making a decision. Go to Section 3 of the Additional Information Booklet. The material relating to the benefits of the Fund may change between the time when you read this PDS and the day when you acquire the product.

### Significant features

#### Investment strategy

Australian Ethical offers investors the opportunity to invest in a diversified share portfolio of companies predominately listed on the ASX and selected on the basis of their social, environmental and financial credentials.

The Fund utilises an active stock-picking management style with stocks selected for growth rather than income, with a bias towards smaller capitalisation stocks listed on the ASX. All stocks are chosen on the basis of relative value where we deem the risks are being adequately priced.

#### Our unique investment process

Australian Ethical believes in the transformative power of money to achieve positive social and environmental outcomes.

The Australian Ethical Charter, shown on page 4, guides our ethical investment decisions - what we seek to invest in and what we avoid, and also guides our corporate activities beyond our Managed Funds.

However, ethics alone are not enough; investments made by Australian Ethical must also have solid investment prospects. Our team of ethical and investment analysts work together to provide our investors with an ethical portfolio that aims to provide competitive returns over the long term.

#### Certified Responsible Investment

Australian Ethical's Managed Funds have been certified by RIAA according to the strict disclosure practices required under the Responsible Investment Certification Program.

The Certification Symbol signifies that a product or service offers an investment style that takes into account environmental, social, governance or ethical considerations.

The Symbol also signifies that Australian Ethical has adopted strict disclosure and operational practices required under the Responsible Investment Certification Program for the category of Asset Manager.

### 3 Benefits of investing in the Australian Ethical Australian Shares Fund (Wholesale) continued

The Certification Symbol is a Registered Trademark of RIAA. Detailed information about RIAA, the Symbol and Australian Ethical's methodology and performance can be found at [www.responsiblereturns.com.au](http://www.responsiblereturns.com.au), together with details about other responsible investment products certified by RIAA<sup>1</sup>.



<sup>1</sup> The Responsible Investment Certification Program does not constitute financial product advice. Neither the Certification Symbol nor RIAA recommends to any person that any financial product is a suitable investment or that returns are guaranteed. Appropriate professional advice should be sought prior to making an investment decision. RIAA does not hold an Australian Financial Services Licence.

#### Significant benefits

##### Management – ethical investment professionals

The Fund provides access to a professionally managed investment portfolio that takes account of ethical factors (including environmental and social impact plus corporate governance), so that you can invest knowing your money is involved in positive activities.

##### Governance – looking after your investment

The operations of the Fund, including the rights, responsibilities and duties of Australian Ethical and investors, are governed by its constitution and the *Corporations Act 2001*.

##### Communications – staying in touch with you

You can keep track of your investment in the following ways;

- via our website [australianethical.com.au/managed-funds/](http://australianethical.com.au/managed-funds/), which provides all the information that is material for our Managed Funds;
- through statements issued twice yearly;
- by using our secure online account access system, InvestorServe; and
- by subscribing to our monthly and quarterly investment commentary reports and our ethical magazine (Good Money) at [australianethical.com.au/subscribe-to-updates](http://australianethical.com.au/subscribe-to-updates)

**The Australian Ethical Charter<sup>1</sup> addresses environmental and social considerations. The Charter sets out the types of activities we seek to support, and the types of activities we seek to avoid.**

##### The Fund shall seek out investments which provide for and support:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| a. the development of workers' participation in the ownership and control of their work organisations and places | g. the preservation of endangered eco-systems                                      |
| b. the production of high quality and properly presented products and services                                   | h. activities which contribute to human happiness, dignity and education           |
| c. the development of locally based ventures   | i. the dignity and well-being of non-human animals                                 |
| d. the development of appropriate technological systems  | j. the efficient use of human waste  |
| e. the amelioration of wasteful or polluting practices   | k. the alleviation of poverty in all its forms                                     |
| f. the development of sustainable land use and food production   | l. the development and preservation of appropriate human buildings and landscapes. |

##### The Fund shall avoid any investment which is considered to unnecessarily:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| i. pollute land, air or water  | vii. create, encourage or perpetuate militarism or engage in the manufacture of armaments          |
| ii. destroy or waste non-recurring resources   | viii. entice people into financial over- commitment  |
| iii. extract, create, produce, manufacture, or market materials, products, goods or services which have a harmful effect on humans, non-human animals or the environment | ix. exploit people through the payment of low wages or the provision of poor working conditions    |
| iv. market, promote or advertise, products or services in a misleading or deceitful manner   | x. discriminate by way of race, religion or sex in employment, marketing, or advertising practices |
| v. create markets by the promotion or advertising of unwanted products or services   | xi. contribute to the inhibition of human rights generally.  |
| vi. acquire land or commodities primarily for the purpose of speculative gain  |  |

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## 4 Risks of managed investment schemes

**You should read** the important information about the significant risks of managed investment schemes before making a decision. Go to Section 4 of the Additional Information Booklet. The material relating to the significant risks of managed investment schemes may change between the time when you read this PDS and the day when you acquire the product.

Investing in a managed fund carries risks, like any investment.

The level of risk and the returns will depend on the assets the Fund invests in. Assets with the highest long-term returns may also carry the highest level of short-term risk.

There are also some risks involved when investing through a managed fund that you may not face if you invested directly. These include the managed fund terminating, fees and expenses changing, the Responsible Entity being replaced, or a change in the investment professionals managing the fund. Additionally, a managed fund may give different results from investing directly because of the treatment of income or capital gains within the managed fund, and as a result of other investors investing in and exiting the fund.

The significant investment risks for the Australian Ethical Australian Shares Fund (Wholesale) are:

**Asset class risk:** The risk associated with the type of assets the Fund invests in, which behave differently over time. Shares, for example, tend to provide higher returns over the long-term, but are more likely to fall in value over the short-term when compared to other asset classes. Cash investments are less likely to fall in value over the short-term, but tend to offer lower returns than shares over the long-term.

**Specific security risk:** The risk associated with individual investments. For example, the price of a particular share may fall in value or perform below expectations.

**Liquidity risk:** The risk that the Fund does not have enough 'cash-like' assets or is unable to sell assets (without significant losses) to meet withdrawal requests in a timely manner.

**Market risk:** The risk that changes in economic, technological and political conditions will affect the value of investment markets and therefore the Fund. Other factors such as a decline in market sentiment and unexpected events can also significantly affect markets.

**Currency risk:** This is the risk that changes in foreign currency exchange rates will impact the value of the international investments held in the Fund. The Fund is unhedged. As a result, the value of the Fund's international investments in Australian dollars will vary as exchange rates vary. At our discretion we may, in the future, hedge some or all of the currency exposure.

When considering your investment in the Fund, it is important to understand that:

- the value of your investment will go up and down depending on the market prices of the assets held by the Fund;
- investment returns are not guaranteed and will vary;
- you may lose some or all of the money you invest;
- future investment returns may differ from past returns; and
- laws affecting your investment in the Fund may change in the future.

The appropriate level of risk for you will depend on a range of factors, including your age, investment timeframe, where other parts of your wealth are invested, and your tolerance to fluctuations in the value of your investment. If you are unsure about these areas, you should seek professional advice.

## 5 How we invest your money

**You should read** the important information about how we invest your money before making a decision. Go to Section 5 of the Additional Information Booklet. The material relating to how we invest your money may change between the time when you read this PDS and the day when you acquire the product.

**Warning** It is important to consider the Fund's investment objective, risk level, likely investment return and your individual circumstances including your life stage, investment timeframe, and attitude to risk, when considering whether to invest.

# 5 How we invest your money continued

## Australian Ethical Australian Shares Fund (Wholesale)

<b>Investment return objective</b>	To provide long-term growth focusing on Australian companies that meet the Australian Ethical Charter.			
<b>Investors that the Fund may suit</b>	Investors seeking capital growth through an exposure to Australian shares. The Fund is suited to investors with a longer investment timeframe and a higher risk tolerance.			
<b>Recommended minimum investment timeframe</b>	7 years			
<b>Strategy</b>	The opportunity to invest in a diversified share portfolio of companies predominately listed on the ASX and selected on the basis of their social, environmental and financial credentials. The Fund utilises an active stock-picking management style with stocks generally selected for growth rather than income, with a bias towards smaller capitalisation stocks listed on the ASX. All stocks are chosen on the basis of relative value where we deem the risks are being adequately priced.			
<b>Mix of asset classes and strategic ranges*</b>		Growth		Defensive
	Asset Class	Australian & New Zealand Shares	Unlisted Shares	Cash
	Ranges	85 – 100%	0 – 5%	0 – 15%
<b>Risk level</b>	Very High			
<b>Performance and portfolio information</b>	We may make changes to the Fund from time to time, including changes to the types of investments. We will notify investors of any significant changes. You can also keep up-to-date with the Fund's unit price, performance and portfolio holdings via our website.			

\* These are indicative asset allocation ranges for the Fund. If market movements, investments into or withdrawals from the Fund, or changes in the nature of an investment cause the Fund to move outside these indicative ranges, this will be addressed by us as soon as reasonably practicable.

# 6 Fees and costs

**You should read** the important information about the fees and costs before making a decision. Go to Section 6 of the Additional Information Booklet. The material relating to the fees and costs may change between the time when you read this PDS and the day when you acquire the product.

**Changes to fees and maximum allowable fees** All fees can change. Reasons might include changing economic conditions or changes in regulation. If we were to increase the fees, we would always give you at least 30 days' notice of any proposed increase.

**Please note** NAB Asset Servicing has been appointed as the Custodian for the Fund. NAB Asset Servicing's role as Custodian is limited to holding the assets of the Fund.

### Did you know?

Small differences in both investment performance and fees and costs can have a substantial impact on your long-term returns. For example, total annual fees and costs of 2% of your account balance rather than 1% could reduce your final return by up to 20% over a 30-year period (for example, reduce it from \$100,000 to \$80,000).

You should consider whether features such as superior investment performance or the provision of better member services justify higher fees and costs.

You may be able to negotiate to pay lower contribution fees and management costs where applicable. Ask the fund or your financial adviser.

### To find out more

If you would like to find out more, or see the impact of the fees based on your own circumstances, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC) website ([moneysmart.gov.au](http://moneysmart.gov.au)) has a managed funds fee calculator to help you check out different fee options.

## 6 Fees and costs continued

This section provides information on the fees and other costs that you may be charged for investing in the Fund. These fees and costs may be deducted from your investment, from the returns on your investment, or from the assets of the Fund as a whole.

Taxes are set out in section 7 of this document.

You should read all the information about fees and costs because it is important to understand their impact on your investment. You can also use this information to compare this product with other managed funds.

If you consult a financial adviser, additional fees may be payable to the adviser. You should refer to the adviser's Statement of Advice for details.

Type of fee or cost	Amount	How and when paid
<b>Fees when your money moves in or out of the Fund*</b>		
Establishment fee The fee to open your investment	Nil	
Contribution fee The fee on each amount contributed to your investment	Nil	
Withdrawal fee The fee on each amount you take out of your investment	Nil	
Exit fee	Nil	
<b>Management costs</b>		
The fees and costs for managing your investment	<b>Management costs*<sup>@</sup></b> 1.10% per year	Management costs are calculated as a percentage of the daily net asset value of the Fund and form part of the daily unit pricing calculations.
<b>Service Fees<sup>~</sup></b>		
Switching fee The fee for changing investment options	Nil	

\* The buy-sell spread for the Australian Ethical Australian Shares Fund (Wholesale) is 0.20% as at 2 October 2018. This amount is subject to change without notice.

<sup>@</sup> The indirect costs are calculated at 30 June each year based on the previous 12 months. These may change from year to year. Indirect costs, which amount to \$0 are included in the Management Cost.

<sup>~</sup> Please refer to the additional information booklet for more information about adviser service fees.

### Example of annual fees and costs for the Australian Ethical Australian Shares Fund (Wholesale)

The table below gives an example of how the fees and costs in the Fund can affect your investment over a one year period.

You should use this table to compare this product with other managed investment products.

Management costs are included in the unit price for the Fund and are inclusive of GST.

The management costs shown in the table are calculated on the initial balance of \$50,000.

The example does not show the impact of taxation, which will vary for each investor depending on their personal circumstances.

<b>EXAMPLE - Australian Shares Fund (Wholesale)</b>		<b>Balance of \$50,000 with a contribution of \$5,000 during year</b>
Contribution fees	Nil	For every additional \$5,000 you put in, you will be charged \$0
PLUS Management Costs	1.10% per year	And for every \$50,000 you have in the Fund you will be charged \$550* each year.
Performance Fee	Nil	If you had an investment of \$50,000, you would be charged a performance fee of approximately \$0 (based on the previous financial year (2017-2018)). <sup>+</sup>
EQUALS Cost of Fund		If you had an investment of \$50,000 at the beginning of the year and you put in an additional \$5,000 during that year, you would be charged fees of \$605.* What it costs you will depend on the managed fund you choose and the fees you negotiate with the Fund or your financial adviser.

\* Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar. Additional fees may apply. If you have agreed to pay your adviser a service fee, it will be deducted from your account balance. Percentages expressed to one or two decimal places may have been rounded. There is no establishment fee.

<sup>+</sup> Amounts are rounded to the nearest dollar and will vary from year to year.

If you leave the managed investment scheme early, you will not be charged an exit fee.

# 7 How managed investment schemes are taxed

**You should read** the important information about how managed investment schemes are taxed before making a decision. Go to Section 7 of the Additional Information Booklet. The material relating to how managed investment schemes are taxed may change between the time when you read this PDS and the day when you acquire the product.

**Warning** Investing in a registered managed fund is likely to have tax consequences. As each investor's circumstances are different, we strongly recommend you seek professional tax advice before investing.

The following summary tax information is based on the tax laws that were current when this PDS was issued. Refer to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) website [www.ato.gov.au](http://www.ato.gov.au) for further details.

The information should not replace professional taxation advice and should not be relied on as a complete statement of the law.

Generally, managed funds do not pay tax on your behalf. You are assessed for tax on any income and capital gains attributed to you by the managed fund in which you invest, even if you reinvest that income.

At the end of each financial year, we will send you a consolidated statement of all income we have paid you and the tax components.

A guide to help you transfer this information to your tax return is available at [australianethical.com.au/tax-guide/](http://australianethical.com.au/tax-guide/)

If you decide to sell or transfer units in the managed fund, you may also be liable for tax on the capital gains realised.

## Quoting your tax file number

It is recommended that you provide your Tax File Number (TFN) when you invest in the Fund. If you do not provide us with your TFN (or claim an exemption from doing so), tax must be withheld from an Australian investor's distribution at the highest marginal tax rate plus any levies, such as the Medicare levy.

# 8 How to apply

**You should read** the important information about how to apply before making a decision. Go to Section 8 of the Additional Information Booklet. The material relating to how to apply may change between the time when you read this PDS and the day when you acquire the product.

To invest in the Australian Ethical Australian Shares Fund (Wholesale), please:

1

**Direct investors:** Read this Product Disclosure Statement and complete and submit either the online Australian Ethical Managed Funds Application Form or the paper Application Form. The paper Application Form is available on our website at [australianethical.com.au/managed-funds/forms/](http://australianethical.com.au/managed-funds/forms/) or in hard copy on request.

If you are making an investment by cheque, please make it payable to: "Australian Ethical Applications on Trust".

Please send your signed paper Application Form, with the supporting documents to:  
Australian Ethical Investment Ltd, Reply Paid 3993, Sydney NSW 2001

## New Zealand investors

The offer made in this Product Disclosure Statement is available only to persons receiving this statement in Australia and in New Zealand. The offer is available in New Zealand only to people who have received the Important Information for New Zealand Investors, which is available on our website at [australianethical.com.au/nz/](http://australianethical.com.au/nz/)

## Cooling off period

If you change your mind there is a 14-day cooling off period. You will need to tell us in writing if you no longer wish to invest. The 14-day period starts on the earlier of receiving confirmation that you are invested or five business days after we issue units to you.

If you exercise your right to cool off, your money will be returned to you, adjusted for the increase or decrease in the value of the investment at the date we received notification, and reasonable transaction or administrative costs.

## Complaints

If you are not satisfied with any aspect of our service, please contact our Client Service team on 1800 021 227 or email [investors@australianethical.com.au](mailto:investors@australianethical.com.au).

Further detail about lodging formal complaints is available on our website at: [australianethical.com.au/lodge-a-complaint](http://australianethical.com.au/lodge-a-complaint).

If we do not resolve your complaint to your satisfaction, you can complain to the following external dispute resolution body, as applicable, at no charge to you:

- Until 31 October 2018 – the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS): [www.fos.org.au](http://www.fos.org.au) e [info@fos.org.au](mailto:info@fos.org.au) t 1300 780 808
- From 1 November 2018 – the Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA): [www.afca.org.au](http://www.afca.org.au) e [info@afca.org.au](mailto:info@afca.org.au) t 1800 931 678

## Privacy

We respect your privacy. Protecting your personal information is important to us. Please read our Privacy Policy and our Privacy Collection Notice which outline the type of information we collect about you and how we will use that information, and are available on our website: [australianethical.com.au/privacy-policy/](http://australianethical.com.au/privacy-policy/)

## Contact us

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p Australian Ethical Investment Ltd, Reply Paid 3993, Sydney NSW 2001