

# **Vaughan Nelson Global Equity SMID Fund**

ARSN 657 058 841

## **Condensed interim report For the half-year ended 31 December 2024**

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ARSN 657 058 841

## Condensed interim report For the half-year ended 31 December 2024

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These interim financial statements cover Vaughan Nelson Global Equity SMID Fund (ARSN 657 058 841) as an individual entity.

The Responsible Entity of Vaughan Nelson Global Equity SMID Fund is Investors Mutual Limited (ABN 14 078 030 752).

The Responsible Entity's registered office is:

Investors Mutual Limited,  
Suite 15.01, Level 15  
39 Martin Place  
Sydney NSW 2000

## Directors' report

The directors of Investors Mutual Limited, the Responsible Entity of Vaughan Nelson Global Equity SMID Fund ("the Scheme"), present their report together with the financial reports of the Scheme, for the financial half-year ended 31 December 2024.

### Responsible Entity

The Responsible Entity of the Scheme is Investors Mutual Limited (ABN 14 078 030 752). The Responsible Entity's registered office is:

Investors Mutual Limited  
Suite 15.01, Level 15  
39 Martin Place  
Sydney NSW 2000

### Principal activities

During the half-year, the Scheme continued to invest in accordance with target asset allocations as set out in the governing documents of the Scheme and in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme's Constitution.

The Scheme did not have any employees during the half-year.

### Significant changes in the state of affairs

There were no significant changes in the nature of the Scheme's activities during the half-year.

### Directors

The following persons held office as directors of Investor Mutual Limited during the half-year or since the end of the half-year and up to the date of this report:

Hugh Giddy  
Simon Conn  
Jerome Urvoy  
James Orfanos  
Damon Hambly  
Eric Ward  
Fabrice Chemouny

### Review and results of operations

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

	01 July 2024 to 31 December 2024 \$'000	01 July 2023 to 31 December 2023 \$'000
Operating profit/(loss) attributable to unitholders	<u>4,609</u>	<u>1,054</u>

No distribution was paid by the Scheme during for the half-year ended 31 December 2024 and 31 December 2023.

## Directors' report (continued)

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

No matter or circumstance has arisen since 31 December 2024 that has significantly affected, or may have a significant effect on:

- (i) the operations of the Scheme in future financial years, or
- (ii) the results of those operations in future financial years, or
- (iii) the state of affairs of the Scheme in future financial years.

### Rounding of amounts to the nearest thousand dollars

The Scheme is entity of the kind referred to in *Australian Securities and Investments Commission ("ASIC") (Rounding in Financial/Directors' Reports) Instrument 2016/191* and in accordance with that instrument, amounts in the financial report and directors' report have been rounded off to the nearest thousand dollars or nearest dollar, 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 4.

This report is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors.



Damon Hambly  
Director

Sydney  
13 March 2025



**Building a better  
working world**

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## **Auditor's independence declaration to the directors of Investors Mutual Limited, as Responsible Entity for Vaughan Nelson Global Equity SMID Fund**

As lead auditor for the review of the half-year financial reports of Vaughan Nelson Global Equity SMID Fund for the period ended 31 December 2024, I declare 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 review; and
- b) No contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the review; and
- c) No non-audit services provided that contravene any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the review.

Ernst & Young

Luke Slater  
Partner  
13 March 2025

Vaughan Nelson Global Equity SMID Fund  
Condensed statement of comprehensive income  
For the half-year ended 31 December 2024

**Condensed statement of comprehensive income**

	01 July 2024 to 31 December 2024 \$'000	01 July 2023 to 31 December 2023 \$'000
Note		
<b>Investment Income</b>		
Interest income	54	17
Dividend and distribution income	432	126
Net gains/(losses) in the fair value of investments	4,627	1,092
Net gains/(losses) on foreign exchange	(130)	(46)
<b>Total investment income</b>	<u>4,983</u>	<u>1,189</u>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Responsible Entity's fees	315	123
Transaction costs	59	12
<b>Total operating expenses</b>	<u>374</u>	<u>135</u>
<b>Operating profit/(loss) attributable to unitholders</b>	<u>4,609</u>	<u>1,054</u>
<b>Finance costs attributable to unitholders</b>		
Distributions paid and payable	–	–
(Increase)/decrease in net assets attributable to unitholders	3 <u>(4,609)</u>	<u>(1,054)</u>
<b>Profit/(loss) for the financial half-year</b>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>
Other comprehensive income	–	–
<b>Total comprehensive income for the financial half-year</b>	<u>–</u>	<u>–</u>

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

## Condensed statement of financial position

		As at	
		31 December	30 June
		2024	2024
	Note	\$'000	\$'000
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents		3,940	2,451
Other receivables		12	8
Due from brokers - receivable for securities sold		492	169
Application receivable		3	199
Dividends/distributions receivable		69	49
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss	4	63,683	39,465
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>68,199</b>	<b>42,341</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Due to brokers - payable for securities purchased		89	368
Redemptions payable		2	—
Other payables		63	34
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss	5	3	—
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<b>157</b>	<b>402</b>
<b>Net assets attributable to unitholders - liability</b>	3	<b>68,042</b>	<b>41,939</b>

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

### Condensed statement of changes in equity

The Scheme's net assets attributable to unitholders are classified as a liability under AASB 132 *Financial Instruments: Presentation*. As a result, there was no equity at the start or end of the half-year.



Vaughan Nelson Global Equity SMID Fund  
Condensed statement of cash flows  
For the half-year ended 31 December 2024

**Condensed statement of cash flows**

	01 July 2024 to 31 December 2024 \$'000	01 July 2023 to 31 December 2023 \$'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Proceeds from sale of investments	24,070	9,463
Cash paid for purchase of investments	(44,393)	(9,979)
Transaction cost paid	(59)	(12)
Dividend/distribution received	412	128
Interest received	54	17
Responsible Entity's fee paid	(286)	(120)
Payment of other expenses	(4)	—
<b>Net cash (outflow) from operating activities</b>	<b>(20,206)</b>	<b>(503)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>		
Proceeds from applications by unitholders	22,888	214
Payments for redemptions by unitholders	(1,196)	(9)
<b>Net cash inflow from financing activities</b>	<b>21,692</b>	<b>205</b>
<b>Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents</b>	<b>1,486</b>	<b>(298)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the half-year	2,451	1,052
Effects of foreign currency exchange rate changes on cash and cash equivalents	3	—
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the half-year</b>	<b>3,940</b>	<b>754</b>

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

## Notes to the condensed interim report

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## 1 General information

The condensed interim report covers the Vaughan Nelson Global Equity SMID Fund ("the Scheme") which is an Australian registered managed investment Scheme. The Scheme was constituted on 16 February 2022. The Scheme will terminate on 16 February 2102 unless terminated earlier in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme's Constitution.

The Responsible Entity of the Scheme is Investors Mutual Limited (the "Responsible Entity") which is incorporated and domiciled in Australia. The Responsible Entity's registered office is Suite 15.01, Level 15, 39 Martin Place, Sydney, NSW 2000.

The condensed interim report was authorised for issue by the directors on 13 March 2025. The directors of the Responsible Entity have the power to amend and reissue the condensed interim report.

## 2 Summary of significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of the condensed interim report are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to the year presented, unless otherwise stated.

The condensed interim report for the half-year ended 31 December 2024 has been prepared in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* and Australian Accounting Standard AASB 134 *Interim Financial Reporting*.

The condensed interim report does not include all the notes of the type normally included in an annual financial report. Accordingly, the report is to be read in conjunction with the annual report for the year ended 30 June 2024 and any public announcements made in respect of the Scheme during the interim reporting period in accordance with the continuous disclosure requirements of the *Corporations Act 2001*.

The condensed interim report is presented in Australian dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$'000) unless otherwise stated under the option available to the Scheme under *ASIC Corporations (Rounding in Financial/Directors' Reports) (Instrument 2016/191)*. The Scheme is an entity to which the Instrument applies.

### (a) Statement of compliance

The condensed interim report complies with Australian Accounting Standards applicable to interim reporting as issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board and International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) applicable to interim reporting as issued by the International Accounting Standards Board.

### (b) Australian Accounting Standards and interpretations

The accounting policies in the condensed interim report is the same as those applied in the Scheme's financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2024.

There are no new standards, interpretations or amendments to existing standards that are effective for the first time for the financial period beginning 1 July 2024 that have a material impact on the amounts recognised in the prior year or will affect the current or future years.

### (c) Comparatives

Where necessary comparatives have been reclassified for consistency with current year disclosures.

### 3 Net assets attributable to unitholders

The Scheme'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 unitholders during the half-year were as follows:

	01 July 2024 to 31 December 2024 No.('000)	1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023 No.('000)	01 July 2024 to 31 December 2024 \$'000	1 July 2023 to 31 December 2023 \$'000
<b>Class A</b>				
Opening balance	15,969	10,030	18,587	10,754
Applications	15,173	–	18,850	–
Redemptions	(480)	–	(608)	–
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unitholders	–	–	2,275	524
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>30,662</b>	<b>10,030</b>	<b>39,104</b>	<b>11,278</b>
<b>Class B*</b>				
Opening balance	8,031	4,023	23,352	10,782
Applications	1,181	79	3,642	214
Redemptions	(188)	(3)	(590)	(9)
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unitholders	–	–	2,324	530
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>9,024</b>	<b>4,099</b>	<b>28,728</b>	<b>11,517</b>
<b>Class C</b>				
Opening balance	–	–	–	–
Applications	200	–	200	–
Increase/(decrease) in net assets attributable to unitholders	–	–	10	–
<b>Closing balance</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>–</b>
<b>Total net assets attributable to unitholders</b>			<b>68,042</b>	<b>22,795</b>

As stipulated within the Scheme's Constitution, each unit represents a right to an individual share in the Scheme and does not extend to a right to the underlying assets of the Scheme. For the half-year ended 31 December 2024, there were two separate classes of units and each unit has the same right attaching to it as all other units in the same class. Unitholders of Class A, Class B, and Class C units are entitled to being notified of any general meetings regarding of the Scheme, voting rights and dividends. The difference between the class units is in regards to fees as outlined in the Product Disclosure Statement and Information Memorandum.

\*Class B units are listed on the ASX under ASX ticker: VNGS.

#### 4 Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss

	As at 31 December 2024 \$'000	30 June 2024 \$'000
<b>Financial assets at fair value through profit and loss</b>		
Listed equities	61,767	38,902
Listed unit trusts	1,916	563
<b>Total financial assets at fair value through profit and loss</b>	<b>63,683</b>	<b>39,465</b>

#### 5 Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss

	As at 31 December 2024 \$'000	30 June 2024 \$'000
<b>Financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss</b>		
Forward currency contracts	3	—
<b>Total financial liabilities at fair value through profit and loss</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>—</b>

#### 6 Fair value measurement

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

AASB 13 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 (that is, as prices) or indirectly (that is, derived from prices) (Level 2); and
- Inputs for the asset or liability that are not based on observable market data (that is, unobservable inputs) (Level 3).

The Scheme values its investments in accordance with the accounting policies set out in Note 2 to the financial statements.

##### Fair value estimation

The carrying amounts of the Scheme's assets and liabilities at the end of each reporting period approximate their fair values.

All financial assets and financial liabilities included in the statement of financial position are carried at fair value.

Financial assets and liabilities held at fair value through profit or loss are measured initially at fair value excluding any transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition or issue of the financial asset or financial liability. Transaction costs on financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are expensed immediately. Subsequent to initial recognition, all instruments held at fair value through profit or loss are measured at fair value with changes in their fair value recognised in statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income.

##### (i) Fair value in an active market (level 1)

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities traded in active markets is based on their quoted market prices at the end of the reporting year without any deduction for estimated future selling costs.

The quoted market price used for financial assets held by the Scheme is the current bid price; the appropriate quoted market price for financial liabilities is the current asking price. When the Scheme holds derivatives with offsetting market risks, it uses mid-market prices as a basis for establishing fair values for the offsetting risk positions and applies this bid or asking price to the net open position, as appropriate.

## 6 Fair value measurement (continued)

### (i) Fair value in an active market (level 1) (continued)

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.

### (ii) Fair value in an inactive or unquoted market (Level 2 and Level 3)

The fair value of financial assets and liabilities that are not traded in an active market is determined using valuation techniques. These include the use of recent arm's length market transactions, reference to the current fair value of a substantially similar other instrument, discounted cash flow techniques, option pricing models or any other valuation technique that provides a reliable estimate of prices obtained in actual market transactions.

Where discounted cash flow techniques are used, estimated future cash flows are based on management's best estimates and the discount rate used is a market rate at the end of the reporting year applicable for an instrument with similar terms and conditions.

For other pricing models, inputs are based on market data at the end of the reporting year. Fair values for unquoted equity investments are estimated, if possible, using applicable price/earnings ratios for similar listed companies adjusted to reflect the specific circumstances of the issuer.

The fair value of derivatives that are not exchange traded is estimated at the amount that the Scheme would receive or pay to terminate the contract at the end of the reporting year taking into account current market conditions (volatility and appropriate yield curve) and the current creditworthiness of the counterparties and the Scheme. The fair value of a forward contract is determined as a net present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at appropriate market rates as at the valuation date.

#### *Valuation process for Level 3 valuations*

Valuations are the responsibility of the Board of Directors of the Responsible Entity.

The investment committee considers the appropriateness of the valuation methods and inputs, and may request that alternative valuation methods are applied to support the valuation arising from the method chosen. Any changes in valuation methods are discussed and agreed with the responsible entity's Board of Directors.

The valuations are also subject to quality assurance procedures performed within the valuation department. The valuation department verifies the major inputs applied in the latest valuation by agreeing the information in the valuation computation to relevant documents and market information. In addition, the accuracy of the computation is tested. The latest valuation is also compared with the valuations in the four preceding quarters as well as with the valuations of the two preceding annual periods. If fair value changes (positive or negative) are more than certain thresholds set, the changes are further considered by the investment committee.

There were no changes in valuation techniques during the half-year.

## 6 Fair value measurement (continued)

### (iii) Recognised fair value measurements

The table below presents the Scheme's financial assets and liabilities measured and recognised at fair value as at 31 December 2024 and 30 June 2024.

	Level 1 \$'000	Level 2 \$'000	Level 3 \$'000	Total \$'000
<b>As at 31 December 2024</b>				
<b>Financial assets</b>				
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss:				
Listed equities	61,767	–	–	61,767
Listed unit trusts	1,916	–	–	1,916
<b>Total</b>	<b>63,683</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>63,683</b>
<b>Financial liabilities</b>				
Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss:				
Forward currency contracts	–	3	–	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>As at 30 June 2024</b>				
<b>Financial assets</b>				
Financial assets at fair value through profit or loss:				
Listed equities	38,902	–	–	38,902
Listed unit trusts	563	–	–	563
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,465</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>39,465</b>

### (iv) Transfer between levels

During the half-year there were no transfers between levels.

### (v) Movement in level 3 instruments

There were no level 3 instruments held as at 31 December 2024 and 30 June 2024.

### (vi) Fair value of financial instruments not carried at fair value

The carrying value less expected credit loss of other receivables and payables are assumed to approximate their fair values. The fair value of financial liabilities for disclosure purposes is estimated by discounting the future contractual cash flows at the current market interest rate that is available to the Scheme for similar financial instruments.

## 7 Events occurring after the reporting date

No significant events have occurred since the end of the reporting period which would impact on the financial position of the Scheme as disclosed in the condensed statement of financial position as at 31 December 2024 or on the results and cash flows of the Scheme for the half-year ended on that date.

## 8 Contingent assets, liabilities and commitments

There were no outstanding contingent assets, liabilities or commitments as at 31 December 2024 and 30 June 2024.

## Directors' declaration

In the opinion of the directors of the Responsible Entity:

- (a) the financial statements and notes set out on pages 5 to 14 are in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:
  - (i) complying with Australian Accounting Standards, AASB 134 *Interim Financial Reporting*, the *Corporations Regulations 2001* and other mandatory professional reporting requirements; and
  - (ii) giving a true and fair view of the Scheme's financial position as at 31 December 2024 and of its performance for the half-year ended on that date; and
- (b) the financial statements and notes also comply with International Financial Reporting Standards as issued by International Accounting Standards Board and disclosed in Note 2(a); and
- (c) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Scheme will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the directors.



Damon Hambly  
Director

Sydney  
13 March 2025



## Independent auditor's review report to the unitholders of Vaughan Nelson Global Equity SMID Fund

### Conclusion

We have reviewed the accompanying half-year financial report of Vaughan Nelson Global Equity SMID Fund ("the Scheme"), which comprises the condensed statement of financial position as at 31 December 2024, the condensed statement of profit or loss and the other comprehensive income, condensed statement of changes in equity and condensed statement of cash flows for the period ended on that date, notes comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes and the directors' declaration.

Based on our review, which is not an audit, we have not become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the half-year financial report of the Scheme does not comply with the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- a. Giving a true and fair view of the Scheme's financial position as at 31 December 2024 and of its financial performance for the period ended on that date; and
- b. Complying with Accounting Standard AASB 134 *Interim Financial Reporting* and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.

### Basis for conclusion

We conducted our review in accordance with ASRE 2410 *Review of a Financial Report Performed by the Independent Auditor of the Entity* (ASRE 2410). Our responsibilities are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the review of the half-year financial report* section of our report. We are independent of the Scheme in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of 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 annual financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

### Directors' responsibilities for the half-year financial report

The directors of Investors Mutual Limited, as the Responsible Entity of the Scheme, are responsible for the preparation of the half-year financial reports that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the half-year financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditor's responsibilities for the review of the half-year financial report

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the half-year financial report based on our review. ASRE 2410 requires us to conclude whether we have become aware of any matter that makes us believe that the half-year financial report is not in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001* including giving a true and fair view of the Scheme's financial position as at 31 December 2024 and its performance for the period ended on that date, and complying with Accounting Standard AASB 134 *Interim Financial Reporting* and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*.



A review of a half-year financial report consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for financial and accounting matters, and applying analytical and other review procedures. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards and consequently does not enable us to obtain assurance that we would become aware of all significant matters that might be identified in an audit. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ernst &amp; Young'.

Ernst & Young

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Luke Slater'.

Luke Slater  
Partner  
13 March 2025