

Global Income Fund Update – September 2025

As we head into the last few months of 2025 it's a good time to reflect on the global private credit market year to date and the outlook for the rest of the year and into 2026.

The private credit market; like all financial markets has been somewhat at the whim of continued noise over US tariff policy. We saw a limited reaction in early April where more liquid credit markets; such as the senior secured loan market traded off to some extent. However as the months have passed that limited sell off in more liquid markets has been reversed. To a large extent the market is ignoring the continued changes in tariff policy with many Public Equity markets at all time highs and credit spreads continuing to grind tighter.

Private or direct lending isn't exposed to volatility in the same way as the public markets and so wasn't impacted in the same way in April. However the more meaningful consequence was a further delay in the rebound of the M&A cycle and thus limiting new investment opportunities. Having said that; similar to how quickly the more liquid or public markets recovered we have also seen a meaningful pick up in activity in the direct lending markets in recent months and this has been most noticeable in the US.

As we look to the final months of the year and into 2026, absent a market shock we believe that activity levels will continue to increase in both the syndicated loan markets and the direct lending markets as the rebound in M&A and Private Equity activity continues. We view this as a positive for the Funds portfolio; it may lead to an increasing number of new investment opportunities and may also mean a continued flow of repayments on our existing loan portfolio.

Supportive to this rebound in M&A activity is the likely interest rate cuts that will come later this year in the US. This will also support existing companies through a gradual reduction in borrowing costs as well as promoting new private equity activity. It goes without saying that in an environment like this where markets are strong, we believe that maintaining investment discipline is incredibly important.

In terms of the Fund's portfolio we continue to be highly diversified across sectors and borrowers.¹ Diversification is incredibly important within Private credit due to its asymmetric return profile. With our focus on sectors such as business and financial services, IT services, software, and healthcare, we continue to believe our portfolio is relatively insulated from the effects of the tariffs that have been imposed to date by the US. We will continue to monitor the tariff situation very closely with regards to the underlying companies in the Portfolio.

1. Diversification does not ensure a profit or protect against loss.



In recent months we have continued to incorporate new direct lending positions into the portfolio such as a well-established Dutch accounting and advisory firm and one of the fastest-growing dental management companies in the United States. The direct proportion of the Fund is now well over 30%.

The fund has continued to distribute at its stated rate of RBA +4% each month and again it is important to note that our monthly published NTAs are calculated based upon third party valuations for each asset including with reference to market quotes where available.

Many thanks for your continued support, Andrew

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