



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **ASX launches free online ETF courses**

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The Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) has launched seven new and free online courses designed to help investors understand exchange-traded funds (ETFs).

ETFs and exchange-traded commodities (ETCs) invest in a portfolio of securities, providing investors with diversification in a single transaction. They can be bought and sold on exchange just like shares. The expanding range of ETFs and ETCs allows investors to gain exposure to Australian companies, overseas stocks, listed property, currencies and precious metals, including gold.

Tony Hunter, ASX Head of Education, said: "The new ASX courses explain the essentials of investing in ETFs and explain how ETFs traded on ASX work.

"The courses are offered free and require no registration on the [asx.com.au](http://asx.com.au) website. Users will find clear and easily understood information with practical exercises to reinforce learning.

"The self-paced nature of ASX online courses means investors can work through the courses sequentially or just select the topics that interest them."

The seven short courses available cover:

- Introduction to ETFs – an overview of ETFs, their features, risks and benefits;
- What are ETFs? – a detailed course on the structure and strategy of ETFs;
- Buying, holding and selling ETFs;
- Domestic ETFs – ETFs over Australian sharemarket indices;
- International ETFs;
- Exchange-traded commodities; and
- Synthetic ETFs and currency ETFs.

ETFs were first offered for trading on ASX over certain S&P/ASX indices in August 2001. The sector has since grown strongly and now provides Australian investors with greater opportunity to diversify and internationalise their portfolios. The total suite available on ASX now stands at 55 with a combined market capitalisation of \$5.1 billion, growing by 39% in the 12 months to 31 December 2010.

For detailed information on the online courses visit: <http://www.asx.com.au/resources/online-courses.htm>.

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