

## Financial Services Guide

Version: 20 November 2023

### Licensee:

Benchmark Financial Planning Pty Ltd

ACN 130 924 444 AFSL 551748

### Contact Details

PO Box 364

Essendon North VIC 3041

Phone: 03 9379 2406

[admin@benchmarkfinancial.com.au](mailto:admin@benchmarkfinancial.com.au)

### Purpose of this FSG

This FSG will help you decide whether to use the services that we offer. It contains information about:

- The services we offer and their cost
- Any conflicts of interest which may impact the services
- How we are remunerated
- How we deal with complaints if you are not satisfied with our services.

### Our services

We are authorised to provide personal advice and dealing services in the following areas:

- Deposit and Payment Products
  - Basic Deposit Products
  - Non-basic Deposit Products
- Government Debentures, stocks or bonds
- Superannuation including SMSF
- Managed investment Schemes, including IDPS
- Life products
  - Investment Life Insurance products
  - Life Risk Insurance Products
- Standard Margin Lending
- Securities
- Retirement Savings Account Products

#### **Not Independent**

Our advice on risk insurance is not independent, impartial or unbiased as we are paid a commission by the product provider.

### The Financial Advice Process

We recognise that the objectives and personal circumstances of each client are different.

Where we provide personal advice, we will listen to you to understand your objectives and circumstances. We will also ask questions to make sure we provide advice which is in your best interests.

When we first provide personal advice to you it will be explained thoroughly and documented in a Statement of Advice (SoA) which you can take away and read.

The SoA will explain the basis for our advice, the main risks associated with the advice, the cost to you of implementing the advice, the benefits we receive and any conflicts of interest which may influence the advice.

We will provide you with a Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) where we recommend a financial product. This contains information to help you understand the product being recommended.

At all times you are able to contact us and ask questions about our advice and the products we recommend.

You can provide instructions to us in writing, via phone or via email. In some cases, we may require you to provide signed instructions.

We may provide further advice to you to keep your plan up to date for changes in your circumstances, changes in the law and changes in the economy and products.

If we provide further advice, it will typically be documented in a Record of Advice (RoA) which we retain on file. You can request a copy of the RoA document at any time up to 7 years after the advice is provided. In some cases, a new Statement of Advice will be required.

### Fees Initial Advice Fees

Our initial advice fees include meeting with you, the time we take to determine our advice and the production of the SoA. They will be based on the scope and complexity of advice provided to you. We will agree the fee with you before providing you with advice.

If you decide to proceed with our advice, we may charge an implementation fee for the time we spend assisting you with implementation. We will let you know what the fee will be in the SoA.

### Annual Advice Fees

Our annual fees depend on the services that we provide to you. They will be an agreed fixed fee or will be calculated as a percentage of your investment; and are paid either in monthly instalments or as an annual payment in advance. Our services and fees will be set out in an agreement with you.

### Insurance Commissions

We receive a one-off upfront commission when you take out an insurance policy that we have recommended. We also receive a monthly or annual commission payment for as long as you continue to hold the policy. The commission will vary depending on the recommended product and will be documented in the SoA or RoA.

### Other Benefits

We may receive other benefits from product providers such as training, meals and entertainment. Details of any benefits received above \$100 will be maintained on a register which is available to you on request.

### Adviser Remuneration

Benjamin (Ben) Marshall is the owner of the practice and he is remunerated through the profits that the practice makes.

### Making a Complaint

We endeavour to provide you with the best advice and service at all times. If you are not satisfied with our services, then we encourage you to contact us. Please call us, send us an email or put your complaint in writing to our office.

If you are not satisfied with our response, you can lodge a complaint with the Australian Financial Complaints Authority. You can contact AFCA on 1800 931 678 or via their website [www.afca.org.au](http://www.afca.org.au). AFCA provides fair and independent financial services complaint resolution which is free to consumers.

Benchmark Financial Planning is required to hold adequate Professional Indemnity insurance for the financial services that it and its current and past representatives provide.

### Your Privacy

We are committed to protecting your privacy.

We have a Privacy Policy which sets out how we collect, hold, use and disclose your personal information. It also sets out how you can access the information we hold about you, how to have it corrected and how to complain where you are not satisfied with how we have handled your personal information.

Our Privacy Policy is available on request and on our website.