

Financial Services and Credit Guide (Guide)

Accord Financial Solutions Pty Ltd (Accord) is a privately owned financial services firm and sources investment, insurance and credit products from any supplier who meets our specific selection criteria.

Before seeking our advice, you will have a number of questions to ask about Accord. You have the right to ask us about our charges, the type of advice we will give you and what you can do if you have a complaint about our services. Following is key information covering frequently asked questions. If you need more information or clarification, please ask us. This Guide is issued with the authority of Accord.

You should also be aware that you are entitled to receive a Statement of Advice (SoA) or Record of Advice (RoA) that takes into account your objectives, needs and financial situation when we provide you with specific financial planning advice. The Advice document will contain the advice; the basis on which it is given and information about our fees, associations, potential conflicts of interest and any other indirect benefits that may have influenced the selection of particular products.

If your adviser provides you with further advice with respect to financial products you may request a record of the advice given (if you have not previously been provided with such a record) The request may be verbal or in writing and can be made within 7 years of the advice being given.

In the event we make a recommendation to acquire a particular financial product or offer to issue or arrange the issue of a financial product, we must also provide you with a Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) containing information about the particular product that will enable you to make an informed decision in relation to the acquisition of that product.

If we have an ongoing fee arrangement with you which exceeds 12 months, then you will receive from us a Fee Disclosure Statement annually setting out the fees you have paid to us, the services that we contracted to provide and what we did provide to you over that period. A service agreement will be supplied clearly defining the services provided and the fees involved at time of engagement. The ongoing service fee is calculated on either, a time basis or the funds under advice at the time of appointment and updated at each Annual Review.

Should you choose to use our credit services, you will also receive a Credit Quote and a Credit Proposal document. The Credit Quote provides you with details of the credit services provided to you and its associated costs. We will not charge you above what is noted within the Credit Quote. The Credit Proposal provides estimates on specific details of fees, fees and charges that are payable to us, other credit providers and third party (e.g. referral party). Before we provide credit assistance to you, we assess the particular loan or lease is not unsuitable for you. To do this, we need to make reasonable inquiries and verify that the loan or lease or increase to existing credit arrangements will meet your requirements and objectives; and you can meet the proposed repayments. We won't be able to give you credit assistance if our assessment shows that you won't be able to meet the proposed repayments without substantial hardship or the loan or lease won't meet your requirements and objectives.

As a financial service provider, we have an obligation under the Anti Money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Finance Act to verify your identity and the source of any funds. This means that we will ask you to present identification documents such as passport and driver's licence. We will also retain copies of this information. We assure you that this information will be held securely. We cannot provide you with services if you are unwilling to provide this information.

Who is my adviser and who is responsible for the advice I receive?

While Accord Financial Solutions has an Australian Credit Licence and Australian Financial Services Licensee, Licence Number 323379 not all advisers have the same level of authorisations. Your Adviser will provide you with Part two of this FSG, an "Adviser profile" that will detail what services and strategies they are authorised to provide on behalf of Accord. Accord is responsible for the advice provided to you by our Authorised representatives. It will include qualifications and experience and any restrictions on the advice they can provide.

What advisory services are available to me?

- Aged Care
- Centrelink advice;
- Credit advice;
- DIY Self-managed superannuation advice;
- Estate planning advice;
- Gearing strategies;
- Life, Total & Permanent Disablement, Trauma, Business Expense and Income Protection insurance;
- Mortgage advice; (Note we may where appropriate refer you to an external mortgage broker)
- Redundancy;
- Retirement planning & strategies;
- Salary Packaging;
- Share market investment advice;
- Superannuation, rollover advice and strategies;
- Wealth Creation; and
- WorkCover Compensation Payments

What should I know about any risks of the investments or investment strategies recommended to me?

We will explain to you any significant risks of investments and strategies that we recommend to you. Some strategies are complex and multi-faceted and will require more than one meeting for explanation.

What is credit assistance?

We give you credit assistance when:

- We assist you to apply for a particular loan or lease;
- We suggest you apply for a particular loan or lease (or suggest you apply for an increase to an existing loan); or
- We suggest you remain in your current loan or lease.

Which lenders or lessors do you generally conduct most business directly or through associated entities?

Generally we will refer you to or work with your selected mortgage broker to assist you to obtain loans and leases for you from a broad range of lenders and lessors through our referral partners.

The following are the lenders or lessors with whom we have utilized in the past:

- CBA - Calia
- Macquarie Bank

Will the advice I receive be appropriate to my personal circumstances?

Yes, to do so we need to find out your individual objectives, financial situation and needs before we recommend any financial solutions to you. We will therefore request that you complete a questionnaire to provide us with this information.

You have the right not to divulge this information to us, if you do not wish to do so. In that case, we will warn you about the possible consequences of us not having your full personal information. You should read these warnings carefully.

We will usually provide you with personal advice, having regard to your objectives, financial situation and needs. We may also provide you with general advice which does not take into account your needs and circumstances but this will only be done according to your instruction.

What preliminary assessment will you need to do before giving credit assistance?

Before we provide credit assistance to you, we assess whether the particular loan or lease is not unsuitable for you. To do this, we need to make reasonable inquiries and verify that:

- The loan or lease or increase will meet your requirements and objectives; and
- You can meet the proposed repayments.

We won't be able to give you credit assistance if our assessment shows that:

- You won't be able to meet the proposed repayments without substantial hardship; or
- The loan or lease won't meet your requirements or objectives.

Can I get a copy of your preliminary assessment?

If we provide you with credit assistance, you can ask us for a copy of our preliminary assessment any time up to 7 years after we provide you with a credit quote. To request a copy, please contact us. We will provide you with a copy:

- Within 7 business days after the day we receive your request – provided you make the request within 2 years of the date of our credit quote; or
- Otherwise, within 21 business days after the day we receive your request.

How can I provide instructions to you?

You may specify how you would like to give us instructions. For example, by telephone, email, fax or other means. But in all instances, we must receive written confirmation of these instructions.

How will I pay for the service when seeking Financial Planning advice?

Accord offers a range of payment options including fee for service, payments from product providers or a combination of these methods. Your adviser will explain these to you verbally and in the Statement of Advice.

These fees are either invoiced direct to you, deducted from amounts invested or paid direct from the Investment Managers own resources.

All fees will be received by Accord initially. Accord retains between Nil and 30% of the fees received and passes to your Adviser between 70% and 100% of these amounts.

As an example where a fee of \$1,000 is received by Accord, Accord may retain between Nil and \$300 and your Adviser may receive between \$700 and \$1,000.

Please note all fees are GST inclusive.

What is your charging policy for financial planning services?

The cost of the initial meeting may be absorbed by the company (unless advice or other services are provided). If you instruct us to proceed with providing advice, a Statement of Advice (SoA) must be prepared. The cost of our service to you will depend upon the nature and complexity of the service provided and will be detailed in the SoA.

Your Adviser may charge you an upfront Fee for Service based on one of the following:

- The time they spend developing your SoA; or
- A percentage of funds invested; or
- Combination of the above.

Fee Options:

The cost to prepare a SoA will be based on the complexity and time involved and generally range between:

- Scalable or scoped Advice - \$550 - \$1,100
- Comprehensive Advice – Minimum \$1,100 to \$4,400
- Complex Strategies – A quote will be provided based on your adviser's hourly rate of up to \$330.

This initial fee may be invoiced to you or deducted from your investments.

Ongoing service fees generally range from 0% to 1.1%. A 1.1% service fee on a \$50,000 investment would equate to \$550 per annum.

For Risk Insurance product fees are paid by the product provider, and this will vary according to the nature of the product and will be detailed in the SoA. Initial fees on risk insurance generally range from 12% to 132.5% of initial premium paid, and servicing fee ranges generally from 0% to 44%. For example on a premium of \$500 the initial fees payable can be up to \$662.50, and servicing fee up to \$220 p.a.

You have a right to request for further information in relation to the remuneration, the range of amounts or rates of remuneration, and soft dollar benefits received by the licensee and/or authorised representative.

Please note that all fees are GST inclusive.

What ongoing service is provided for financial planning services?

Depending on your requirements, we can provide different levels of ongoing service. In deciding which level of ongoing service you require, you can choose how often you would like us to undertake a review of your financial situation. We recommend that reviews should be undertaken at least every 12 months. For clients with Self Managed super or Gearing Strategies we recommend reviews be six monthly. Service is available in the following ways:

- A regular scheduled review program
- You contract us to provide regular, scheduled ongoing reviews and services for a set fee.
- Adhoc – You initiate all reviews and services and the work is performed on the basis of an hourly rate.

Further details of each ongoing service offering will be provided with our initial Statement of Advice and are available on request.

How will I pay for the service when seeking Credit Assistance?

We charge a fee for providing credit assistance to you. More details about those fees will be set out in our Credit Quote we give to you when providing credit assistance.

What other fees and charges will I need to pay?

You may have to pay other fees and charges (such as application fees, valuation fees and other fees) to the lender, lessor or other parties. You should review the disclosure documents and your loan contract or lease for further details of any such fees and charges. If you are unsure, you should ask us prior to proceeding.

What fees does Accord Financial Solutions and my adviser receive for providing credit assistance to us?

Accord Financial Solutions Pty Ltd receive fees from lenders and lessors and to pay us fees in relation to loan contracts or leases for which we act as a credit representative and provide credit assistance. The total amount of fees we may receive in relation to your loan or lease may vary depending on the lender or lessor, the term, the features, the amount of the loan or lease you ultimately choose and the amount and timing of the repayments that you make.

Loan Contracts such as Home Loans, Investment Property Loans and Personal Loans

Upfront fees payable by lenders in relation to loans is calculated as a percentage of the loan amount and is generally in the range of 0% to 1.1% of the loan amount. It is usually paid after settlement of the loan. Clawback can apply within the first 5 years of the loan if partial of full repayment will be completed at any time.

Trail fees payable by lenders in relation to loans is generally calculated regularly (monthly, quarterly, bi-monthly or annually) on the outstanding loan balance and is paid in arrears. The trail fees payable by lenders is generally in the range of 0% to 1.1% per annum of the outstanding loan amount. Clawback can apply within the first 5 years of the loan if partial of full repayment will be completed at any time.

Full details of any income received by Accord Financial Solutions and portions passed through to the Credit Representative will be detailed in the credit proposal.

You can request information from us about the fees that we are likely to receive, how those fees are calculated, and our reasonable estimate of the fees or fees that will be payable. Please note that all fees noted are GST inclusive.

Will anyone be paid for referring me to you for financial planning or credit advice?

Accord is a financial services business whose success is based on referrals from existing clients and other sources. We welcome your referral and hope that you will be so impressed with our service that you would also recommend us to people you know. Where a professional referral fee is paid to a third party service provider such as an accountant this will be disclosed in the Statement of Advice (SoA).

Where you have been referred to Accord by DW Johns & Co, we disclose that the partners of DW Johns & Co have an equity interest in the business of Accord Financial Strategies and as a result may benefit from profits generated.

Where we refer you to a third party service provider such as an accountant, solicitor, real estate agent or finance provider, we may be entitled to remuneration as a result of that referral. We will advise you at the time of the referral, and in writing, if this applies to your situation.

Do you have any important Relationships?

Accord is a member of the Boutique Financial Planning Principals Group, Association of Independently Owned Financial Planners and a member of Associated Advisory Practices.

How do you handle my privacy?

We are committed to implementing and promoting a privacy policy which will ensure the privacy and security of your personal information. A copy of our privacy policy will be provided upon your request.

Do any relationships exist which might influence you in providing me with financial planning services?

Other Benefits

From time to time, your adviser or the Affiliates, Directors or other Authorised Representatives of Accord Financial Solutions Pty Ltd may receive certain “hospitality benefits” (such as tickets to sporting events, bottles of wine, clothing, hampers, etc.). The receipt of these benefits is not based upon the volume of business placed with the provider but are more an ad hoc reward. Non-cash benefits with a cash value of greater than \$300 is not permitted. Details of benefits between \$100 and \$300 will be maintained on a register. Please ask your adviser if you wish to view that register.

The Licensee, its’ Affiliates, Directors or Authorised Representatives may receive discounted fees from DW Johns & Co - Chartered Accountants.

The Licensee may also receive research, software and marketing support from product providers. The maximum value during any calendar year is approximately one thousand dollars per product provider, which is usually received in the form of subsidised training of Authorised Representatives.

What kind of compensation arrangements are in place and are these arrangements complying?

Accord confirms that it has arrangements in place to ensure it continues to maintain Professional Indemnity insurance in accordance with s.912B of the Corporations Act 2001 (as amended). In particular our Professional Indemnity insurance, subject to its terms and conditions, provides indemnity up to the Sum Insured for Accord and our authorised representatives / representatives / employees in respect of our authorisations and obligations under our Australian Financial Services Licence. This insurance will continue to provide such coverage for any authorised representative / representative / employee who has ceased work with Accord for work done whilst engaged with us.

Who can I speak to if I have a complaint about the advisory service?

We are committed to providing quality advice to our clients. This commitment extends to providing access to complaint resolution mechanisms for our clients. If you have any complaint about the service provided to you, you should contact your adviser and tell your adviser. If your complaint is not satisfactorily resolved within 5 days please contact Accord on (08) 8271 2688, by email to services@accordfs.com.au or put your complaint in writing and send it to us. We will try and resolve your complaint quickly and fairly.

If we cannot reach a satisfactory resolution, you can raise your concerns with the Financial Ombudsman Services on 1300 780 808. Accord is a member of this complaints resolution service.

Postal: Financial Ombudsman Services
GPO Box 3 Melbourne Vic 3001
Website: www.fos.org.au

The Australian Securities & Investments Commission (ASIC) also has a free call information line on 1300 300 630 which you may use to make a complaint or obtain information about your rights.

What if I have a complaint about a lender or other third party provider?

If your complaint relates to a product or service acquired through a third party (for example, a lender) we may ask you to contract the relevant third party. They will deal with your complaint under their complaints resolution process.

If you are not satisfied with the resolution of your complaint by the third party under their complaints resolution process, you are entitled to have your dispute considered by their External Dispute Resolution Scheme. Please contact the third party for further details.

Privacy Policy

This Privacy Policy sets out the information handling policies of Accord Financial Solutions Pty Ltd, an Australian Credit Licence and Australian Financial Services Licensee (No. 323379).

At Accord Financial Solutions Pty Ltd (Accord), we are committed to providing professional services and respecting the privacy of your personal information. Accord is bound by the Australian Privacy Principles under the Privacy Act. This policy explains how Accord will collect, store, verify, use and disclose the information we hold about you and the conditions under which your information may be accessed.

The Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act, 2012 sets out a number of Australian Privacy Principles (APPs). Our aim is to both support and ensure that we comply with these principles. Further information on privacy in Australia may be obtained by visiting the website of the Office of the Federal Privacy Commissioner at <http://www.privacy.gov.au>.

As a financial services organisation we are subject to certain legislative and regulatory requirements which necessitate us to obtain personal information about you, including s961B of the Corporations Act and under the National Consumer Credit Protection Act.

What type of information does Accord Financial Solutions Pty Ltd hold?

The type of information we collect and hold about you varies depending on the type of product or service you require. Accord will hold different information about you if you have a life insurance policy than if you have a managed investment or mortgage loan. Your personal information may include:

- Your name, address and contact details
- Your date of birth, age and retirement plan; and
- Your financial needs, objectives and circumstances.

We may also need health information from you to provide you with personal risk insurance advice, but not necessarily for investment products or a mortgage.

In most circumstances, the information that we hold about you will be provided by you or a 3rd party under your authority. You have a right to refuse us authorisation to collect information from a third party.

You may choose not to provide us with your personal information. Depending on the nature and quality of the information you choose to withhold, we may not be able to provide you with advice or implement strategies entirely appropriate to your financial needs and objectives.

As a financial service provider, we have an obligation under the Anti Money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Finance Act to verify your identity and the source of any funds. This means that we will ask you to present identification documents such as passports, birth certificates, marriage and driver's licences. We will also retain copies of this information. We assure you that this information will be held securely.

How does Accord Financial Solutions Pty Ltd store our documents securely?

Your personal information is maintained securely and is generally held in your client file. Information may also be held in a computer database. We will seek to ensure that the personal information collected and held by us is protected from misuse, loss, unauthorised access, modification or disclosure.

In the event you cease to be a client of this organisation, any personal information which we hold about you will be maintained for a period of 7 years in order to comply with legislative and professional requirement, following which time the information will be destroyed.

How does Accord Financial Solutions Pty Ltd use this information?

We use this information to provide you with products or services, to assess your risk tolerance and determine strategies and recommendations consistent with your financial needs, objectives and personal circumstances.

At all times your personal information is treated as confidential and any sensitive information is treated as highly confidential.

We may also use your personal information to provide you with advice, pricing and services on the following products:

- life insurance products, such as insurance for your life, permanent disability and income replacement;
- investment products and services such as managed investment funds and investor directed portfolio services;
- superannuation products, such as superannuation funds, investments for superannuation funds and investment insurance policies;
- Mortgages; and
- Financial advice and services.

We may also use the information to send you material about other products or services. If you do not want to receive this type of material, tell us and we will stop. We maintain a register for those individuals not wanting direct marketing material. Our contact details are set out below.

Will Accord disclose your personal information?

Accord may share information with organisations that assist us to administer your investments or provide you with products and services including our internal and external service providers such as administrators, financial institutions, fund managers, internal & external compliance auditors, insurance companies, mortgage providers and the Financial Planning Association (FPA). These providers are not permitted to use your information for any purpose other than the specific purpose it was provided.

There are circumstances under which Accord may disclose your personal information such as:

- when the disclosure is required by law (for example, disclosed to the Australian Taxation Office or ASIC or Centrelink); or
- Authorised by law (such as where disclosure is necessary in the public interest or to protect our interests).

We will also disclose your personal information if you give your consent for us to do so.

We do not sell mailing lists.

How does Accord Financial Solutions Pty Ltd handle a request for access to personal information?

Under the Australian Privacy Principles you are generally entitled to access the information we hold about you. Where you are entitled to access, the time we require to give you access will depend on the type of information requested. If we can, we will answer your question immediately.

We will also try to answer you in the same way that you ask, for example, if you telephone to ask for the information we will, if practicable, give you that information over the telephone. We will generally respond to a written request in writing. Sometimes, we will ask that you put your request in writing, for example, where you want copies of material or access to older information or files which are not current or it is necessary for us to retain a record of your request. We may also ask you to identify yourself to our satisfaction.

We will not charge a fee for making a request to access your personal information however we may charge a fee for accessing your personal information. If a fee is applicable, we will disclose this to you prior to providing you with the information. There are certain conditions under which we may refuse you access to your personal information, such as when your request may unreasonably impact upon another person's right to privacy. If we are entitled under the Australian Privacy Principles to refuse to give you access, we will tell you and provide reasons for our decision.

What if some of the information Accord Financial Solutions Pty Ltd holds is wrong?

Please tell us. We want our records to be accurate, complete and up to date and we rely on the accuracy of the information to provide you with appropriate recommendations. Unless we disagree with you about the accuracy, currency or completeness of a record, we will generally correct it on request, (or suggest alternative arrangements for updating our records). If we disagree with you, we will give you our reasons and record your objections on your file.

Website

Accord compliance with the Australian Privacy principles also applies to your access to our website. Our privacy policy may be accessed from the website and other information is also posted there for your convenience.

Some areas of our website require you to be a client of Accord and you will be issued with a user name and password which are strictly for your personal use only. Accord will not be liable for any acts that arise from the use of your user name and password whether authorised by you or not or are a result of your failure to maintain strict security protocols over the use of your login details. Please notify Accord immediately if you become aware of a breach of your security.

Our website uses cookies which allows us to identify your browser while you are using our site. Whilst cookies do not identify you, they allow us to track usage patterns. If you do not wish to receive cookies, you can instruct your web browser to refuse them.

How do I make further enquiries or complain about a breach of privacy?

If you require more information about the way Accord manages personal information or wish to make a complaint about a breach of your privacy, you should contact us at:

Accord Financial Solutions Pty Ltd
Suite 6, Level 1, 206 Greenhill Road, EASTWOOD SA 5063
PO Box 2145 Kent Town SA 5071
Phone: (08) 8271 2688
Fax: (08) 8271 5688 Email: services@accordfs.com.au

Changes to this Privacy Policy

We reserve the right to review and amend this Privacy Policy from time to time. We encourage you to check our website regularly for any updates to our Privacy Policy.

Additional Privacy Information

Further information on privacy in Australia may be obtained by visiting the Web site of the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner at <http://www.oaic.gov.au>