



ACORN WEALTH

GROW, PROTECT, ENJOY

Financial Services Guide

Version 7

Date: 1 July 2024

Important Information about our Licensee

Financial Services Guide

This Financial Services Guide (FSG) is designed to clarify who we are and what we do, and help you decide whether to use our services.

To make things simple, this guide explains:

- the services and types of products we're able to offer you
- how we and our associates are paid and any other benefits we may receive
- any potential conflicts of interest we may have
- how we protect your privacy and handle your personal information
- how we resolve disputes, and what you should do if you have one.

Please read through the whole FSG, as it's full of useful information – and is also worth holding on to for future reference. The Privacy Notification on page 12 is worthwhile reading as it gives you further clarity on how we handle your personal information. And of course, if you ever have any questions, please contact us.

Other documents you may receive

In addition to this FSG, if we provide you with financial advice, we will also present you with a written Statement of Advice (SOA).

This will describe:

- advice and strategies we recommend, and the reasons why;
- the financial products and services we recommend and the reasons why;
- any fees or commissions we will receive; and
- any associations we have with financial product providers or other parties that may influence the advice we provide.

After that, any time you receive further financial advice from us, we will either provide you with another SOA or give you (or keep our own) written Record of Advice (ROA). You can request a copy of this by contacting us any time up to seven years from the date of the advice provided. Please refer to the "Contact us" section of this FSG for our contact details.

To help you make an informed decision about a financial product you generally will be given a Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) which outlines the product features and costs in detail. In certain circumstances it is not a requirement that you be given a PDS (including, for example, where you already have one).

Giving us instructions

If you want to make changes to your financial plan or provide other instructions, please contact us. Please refer to the "Contact us" section of this FSG for our contact details.

Generally, you will need to give us instructions in writing (e.g. fax, email or letter) or another method agreed with us.

Not Independent

We provide services in relation to products in our Approved Product List, which doesn't include all possible products available in the market. In addition, we may receive commission on life insurance products as explained in this FSG under the heading 'How we charge for our services'. For these reasons, we do not refer to ourselves or our advice as independent, impartial or unbiased.

About us

We are authorised representatives of Consultum Financial Advisers Pty Ltd ABN 65 006 373 995, Australian Financial Services Licence Number 230323 (“**Consultum**”) of Suite 3, Level 8, 309 Kent St Sydney NSW 2000.

Consultum works closely to support advisers to build an end to end integrated solution so they can help clients to achieve their financial needs and objectives. All Consultum financial advisers have a legal obligation and an ethical duty to act with integrity and in the best interests of you, their clients.

Approved Product List

Our Approved Products List (APL) is a list of what we consider to be sound quality, fully researched products, but doesn't include all possible products available in the market. Only products and services that have been examined by our experienced research team are placed on our APL.

When selecting products for you, we are generally limited to the range of investment products and a selection of 12 insurance providers on the APL.

Your adviser will first source from the APL before providing any recommendations. They will only recommend a product or service after considering its appropriateness in relation to your individual objectives, financial situation, needs and best interests. Where your strategy requires products and services other than those on the APL to act in your best interests, our research team will be consulted and we will seek to find an alternative solution.

Consultum Financial Advisers is a wholly owned subsidiary of Rhombus Advisory Pty Limited (Rhombus Advisory). Rhombus Advisory provides various services and support to Consultum Financial Advisers to enable it to operate its business and support its clients.

About us

Who we are

Acorn Wealth, formerly known as VGB Wealth Pty Ltd and Vickery Galvin Brittain Financial Services Pty Ltd, has been operating since 2000 and provides financial planning services to a broad range of clients.

The Financial Services we offer are provided by: -

- VGB Wealth Pty Ltd ACN 126 014 499 ATF VGB Financial Principles Trust ABN 60 998 537 402
Trading as **Acorn Wealth**
Authorised Representative No. 316698
- Vickery Galvin Brittain Financial Services Pty Ltd
ABN 59 091 442 545
Authorised Representative No. 240611

The following financial advisers are authorised to provide the financial services referred to in the 'What we do' section of this FSG to you on behalf of Consultum:

- **Michelle Galvin CFP®**
Authorised Representative No. 252514



Michelle has been a Financial Planner since 1992 and is a Certified Financial Planner with a Graduate Diploma in Financial Planning.

Michelle's main focus is to provide high quality advice in all facets of financial planning, retirement, wealth creation and risk management.

Her interests include dining out, art appreciation, live theatre and spending time with her family.

- **Jonathan (Jon) Brittain AFP®**
Authorised Representative No. 298031



Jon has been a Financial Planner since 2004. He holds Diploma, Advanced Diploma and Graduate Diploma qualifications in Financial Planning. Jon is a member of the Financial Planning Association of Australia (FPA) and holds various specialist advice accreditations.

Jon provides comprehensive financial advice to clients with a focus on investment and superannuation planning, wealth creation, retirement planning and risk management.

Married to Carmel with two adult children, Jon loves spending time with family and friends. His hobbies include cycling, hiking, tennis and gardening.

- **Mark McNeany CFP®**

Authorised Representative No. 319426



Mark is a Certified Financial Planner (CFP), practitioner member of the Financial Planning Association, and holds a Bachelor of Arts from Latrobe University as well as Diploma and Graduate Diploma qualifications in Financial Planning.

Mark began working in financial services with National Mutual in 1987 and prior to joining VGB in 2021, was Director and Adviser within his own business Vertex Group, which he co-founded in 2002.

Mark concentrates on providing high quality, tailored advice in the areas of superannuation, retirement planning, investment and risk protection.

Mark is married with 3 children and enjoys getting together with family and friends and also having a hit of golf when he gets the chance.

- **Suzanne Poulton GradDipFinPlan**

Authorised Representative No. 442789



Suzanne has been in the Financial Planning industry since 1996 and transitioned to a Financial Adviser role in 2015. She holds a Graduate Diploma of Financial Planning and an accreditation in Aged Care Financial Advice.

During her time in the industry, Suzanne has worked in various financial planning practices specialising in retirement planning, Centrelink and aged care.

Suzanne strives to build strong client relationships and obtain the best outcome for clients.

Suzanne's hobbies are all crafts, cooking and catching up with family and friends over wine and a charcuterie board.

Consultum has authorised us to provide you with this Financial Services Guide.

What we do

We are authorised by Consultum to provide financial advice in relation to:

- Wealth Accumulation
- Income & Asset Protection
- Tax Strategies
- Superannuation
- Retirement & Redundancy Planning
- Estate Planning
- Government Benefits
- Debt Management

and to provide financial advice and deal in the following financial products:

- Basic Deposit Products
- Non-basic Deposit Products
- Non-cash Payment Products
- Life Products – Investment Life Insurance
- Life Products – Life Risk Insurance
- Superannuation
- Retirement Savings Accounts
- Managed Investment Schemes, including Investor Directed Portfolio Services (IDPS)
- Government Debentures, Stocks or Bonds
- Securities
- Standard Margin Lending Facilities

We are not authorised to provide any other financial services or financial products on behalf of Consultum.

Where we are unauthorised to provide you with a financial service or financial product that you are interested in, we will advise you of this and refer you to an alternative source of advice.

Corporate Superannuation Fund - Trustee Arrangements

Where we assist you in relation to a corporate superannuation fund we may receive a payment from the fund Trustee or Administrator, for services we provide to the employer sponsor and/or members within participating corporate super funds. The payment is based on the number of members within the relevant corporate plan.

Where these arrangements are in place, there are some restrictions on the type of advice we can provide you and in some cases we may be unable to provide you advice as to whether to join or consolidate your super into the fund. Where we can provide you with advice we will provide further information about the limitations and any potential Trustee payments in our Statement of Advice.

Contact us

For more information on anything you have read in this FSG, to obtain a copy of our privacy policy or if there is anything else we can help you with, please contact us at:

Suite 3, 202 Ferntree Gully Rd,
Notting Hill VIC 3168
Phone: 03 9544 8863
Fax: 03 9544 8892
Email: admin@acornwealth.com.au
Website: www.acornwealth.com.au

Your confidence in our advice

Your satisfaction is very important to us and we have procedures in place to resolve any concerns promptly and fairly.

Our complaints procedure

If you're unhappy with the advice you receive, or other aspects of our service please follow the steps outlined below.

1. Please let your financial adviser know in the first instance. You can also raise your complaint at any time by contacting us at:

Dispute Resolution Team

Consultum Financial Advisers Pty Ltd
Suite 3, Level 8, 309 Kent Street,
Sydney NSW 2000

Email: advicecomplaints@rhombusadvisory.com.au

Phone: 02 9127 7699

2. If your complaint isn't resolved within 30 days or to your satisfaction, then you may refer the matter to the Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA):

Website: <https://www.afca.org.au>

Email: info@afca.org.au

Telephone: 1800 931 678 (free call)

In writing to: Australian Financial Complaints Authority Limited
GPO Box 3, Melbourne VIC 3001

AFCA provides fair and independent financial services complaint resolution that's free to consumers. Time limits may apply to lodge a complaint with AFCA, so you should act promptly. You can check the AFCA website to find out if a time limit applies or when the time limit relevant to your circumstances expires.

Consultum holds professional indemnity insurance that satisfies the requirements of section 912B of the Corporations Act. This insurance also covers the conduct of our advisers who were authorised by Consultum at the time of providing the advice but are no longer authorised representatives of Consultum at the time of your complaint.

Payments and benefits we receive

You can pay for the services you receive on a fee for advice basis. This allows you to know that you are paying for our advice irrespective of any product you use, clarifies the services you are entitled to, and ensures all recommendations are driven by your needs.

We will agree with you the amount you pay based upon:

- a flat dollar fee;
- an hourly rate;
- the amount you invest; or
- a combination of the above.

You can pay in the following ways:

- by direct invoice from us;
- in some circumstances, where possible, as a fee for advice that will be deducted from your investments as a one-off payment or in instalments;
- where applicable, via commission we may receive from a financial product provider when you commence an investment and ongoing commission during the life of the investment;
- where applicable, via commission we may receive from a financial product provider when you commence an insurance contract and ongoing commission annually during the life of the insurance contract; or
- a combination of the above.

If you are not already on a fee for advice package, you can move to this payment at any time.

Please refer to the “How we charge for our services” section of this FSG for further information.

Other payments we may receive

We will provide you with details of all fees, commissions or other benefits we may receive when we provide advice to you and, where possible, will give actual dollar amounts. If we cannot provide this accurately, we will provide worked-dollar examples.

Even if you don't receive personal financial advice from us, you can still request the details of any fees, commissions or other benefits we receive in relation to any other financial service we provide you.

Benefits we may receive

Sometimes in the process of providing advice, we may receive benefits from product providers.

Conferences

We may attend conferences and professional development seminars that have a genuine education or training purpose. Consultum, or our employer, may pay for the costs of our travel and accommodation, and events and functions held in conjunction with the conference or seminar.

Non-monetary benefits

We maintain a public register outlining the alternative forms of remuneration that are payable to, and by us, e.g. benefits valued between \$100 and \$300, and those that relate to genuine education or training and technology software or support.

You can view an extract of the register by contacting us. Please be aware that Consultum may charge you for the cost of providing this information to you.

Sponsorship

Consultum receives cash payments from product providers who sponsor and attend training presentations, conferences and/or professional development days. Amounts vary between product providers and Acorn Wealth does not directly share in the sponsorship payment; however, we may indirectly benefit as these payments subsidise the costs associated with these training and professional development events.

Referrals

Referrals from a third party

At present we do not have any referral arrangement in place to pay a third party referrer a referral fee, commission or other benefit. If this changes, we will make you aware of this prior to providing advice, or further advice, to you.

Referrals to a third party

We have referral arrangements in place with third party providers. If we refer you to one of these providers, we may receive a payment, fee, commission or other benefit from those providers.

Details of these arrangements are set out in the table below and specific details of any referral payments we may receive will be provided in our advice documents to you. Alternatively, you can request further details about our referral arrangements prior to us providing you with financial advice.

Table - Details of referral arrangements in place:

Name of referral partner	Services	Payment we will receive for referral	Example
IOOF Finance Choice Pty Ltd (IOOF FC)	Assistance with credit products and services	A payment equal to 20% of the upfront commission received by IOOF FC from a lender in connection with any referral we make.	If IOOF FC were to receive an upfront commission of \$100 from a lender, we would receive \$20 of that commission.

Please note that Consultum is not responsible for the advice and services provided by these providers.

Death & TPD Succession/Estate planning

In the event of our death or permanent disablement, Consultum may acquire our client servicing rights. This helps manage the transition of ownership to ensure you continue to receive advice.

In addition, we are part of a corporate structure and have a succession agreement in place to manage the transition of ownership should we leave the business.

The value of any sale is based on an independent valuation of the business.

How we charge for our services

Fees are calculated based on the level of service needed and the complexity of the advice given, to provide value to you. All fees and commissions are inclusive of GST and the fees could be greater than those disclosed below in complex cases. In these instances, we will inform you of the exact fee payable promptly in writing.

Initial consultation	Up to \$880 (discount applied to Advice Preparation fee should you proceed with our advice)
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Advice preparation	<p>If you elect to pay us a fee for advice the following fees will apply. The fees will depend on the size of the investment portfolio and the complexity of the advice:</p> <p>The minimum fee charged is \$3,300 while the maximum fee is \$11,000.</p> <p>For example, complex advice that contain multiple goals, strategies and/or tax structures including but not limited to; self-managed superannuation Funds, family trusts and companies, are likely to be charged closer to the maximum. Less complex advice that addresses limited goals, strategies and tax structures are likely to be charged closer to the minimum.</p>
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Implementation	<p>If you elect to pay us a fee for implementing the advice, then the fees can range from \$990 to \$4,950.</p> <p>Borrowed funds – if we recommend you acquire investments using borrowed funds then your implementation fee will be a minimum of \$990 and a maximum of \$4,950.</p>
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Client Service Agreements	<p>You can elect to enter into a 12-month Client Service Agreement as part of your financial planning strategy so you can receive advice services such as a meeting to review your plan. Details of the services will be set out in your 12-month Client Service Agreement.</p> <p>The fee can range from a minimum of \$1,200 while the maximum is \$33,000. The fee applied will be commensurate to the level of service needed and the complexity of the advice provided and will be outlined and agreed with you in the Agreement.</p> <p>For example, for investments valued at \$200,000 the annual fee would be in the vicinity of \$3,300 pa.</p> <p>Borrowed funds – if we recommend you acquire investments using borrowed funds then your annual fee will be a minimum of \$1,200 and a maximum of \$33,000 pa.</p>
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Ad hoc advice	Where you do not wish to participate in a 12-month Client Service Agreement but require ongoing advice on an ad hoc basis, an hourly fee of up to \$880 may apply.
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Execution only service	Where we provide a financial service to facilitate buying or selling of a specific financial product as instructed by you, a one-off minimum of \$220 and a maximum of \$440 fee may apply.
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Insurance products

Where we arrange a life insurance product for you, the relevant insurer will pay an initial commission to us. The commission is calculated as a percentage of the premium paid (and may include health, occupational, frequency and modal loadings and policy fees, but excludes stamp duty).

Annual commission will also be paid when you renew your policy each year.

The rates of initial and ongoing commission will depend on the date the policy is issued and are set out in the table below:

Date policy is issued	Initial Commission (% of annual policy cost including GST)	Ongoing Commission (% of annual policy cost including GST)
Before 1 January 2018 or before 1 April 2018 (where the application was received before 1/1/18)	up to 130%	up to 33%
From 1 January 2018	up to 88%	up to 33%
From 1 January 2019	up to 77%	up to 33%
From 1 January 2020	up to 66%	up to 33%

We may receive commission at pre 1 January 2018 rates if:

- you increase your cover, add new cover or otherwise amend a policy purchased by you before 1 January 2018; and
- that policy amendment results in commission receivable by us, and
- that policy amendment is eligible for pre-1 January 2018 commission rates.

Example (all figures include GST):

You purchase the policy for \$1000 on 1 December 2019. We may receive an initial commission of up to \$770 ($\$1000 \times 77\%$) in the first year and ongoing commissions of \$330 per annum ($\$1000 \times 33\%$) for as long as you continue to hold the policy.

If you increase your cover on 1 July 2020 for a cost of \$500, we may receive an initial commission of up to \$330 ($\$500 \times 66\%$). The ongoing commissions on the additional cover may be up to \$165 ($\$500 \times 33\%$). This is in addition to the ongoing commissions of \$330 per annum when the policy was purchased. Total ongoing commissions payable to us may be up to \$495 ($\$1500 \times 33\%$).

Please note that the initial and ongoing commissions on life insurance products are paid to us by the product provider and are not an additional cost to you.

Privacy Notification

Your personal information will be handled in accordance with our privacy policy, which is located on our website. We will generally collect personal information directly from you. We may collect personal information about you from a third party if we believe you have authorised that third party to provide the information to us.

The main reason we collect, use and/or disclose your personal information, is to provide you with the services that you request. In addition, as a financial service provider, we are obligated to verify your identity and the source of any funds. We provide financial services under the Australian Financial Services License of Consultum Financial Advisers Pty Ltd who monitors our compliance with the law and provides us with a range of support services, including the financial planning software we use. As a consequence, Consultum has access to your personal information and may use that information to facilitate the provision of financial services to you and to ensure we are complying with our obligations.

We may also disclose your information to external parties such as your accountant, banks, insurers, and product providers.

In order to keep our costs competitive, our Practice uses specialist business support resources that are located in the following country/countries: Phillipines

The organisation/s we have contracted to support our business have confirmed to us they will adhere to the Australian Privacy Principles when dealing with your personal information. They will not contact you or share your information with any other party unless they have your express approval.

Please refer to our Privacy Policy For more information about how we will handle your personal information, including how to access or correct your personal information.

Complaints

If you have a complaint about a privacy issue, please tell us about it. You can find out how to make a complaint and how we will deal these complaints, by reading our Privacy Policy (by contacting us) or by referring to the 'Your confidence in our advice' section of this FSG.

Further information

If you have any questions or comments about our Privacy Policy and procedures, please contact us by using the contact details set out in the 'Contact us' section of this FSG.

For more information about your privacy, you can also visit the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner's website at www.oaic.gov.au