



balance
financial planning

Financial Services and Credit Guide

Balance Financial Planning

This Financial Services and Credit Guide (FSCG) contains information that will help you decide whether to use the financial services we offer. It sets out:

- who we are and how we can be contacted
- the advice and services we provide
- information about our licensee Charter Financial Planning Limited (Charter)
- our fees and how we, your adviser and Charter, are paid in connection with those services
- how we manage your private information
- how you can complain about a matter relating to us or Charter

Documents you may receive

We will provide you with a number of documents as you progress through our financial planning process to capture each stage of your advice journey. We may provide these documents to you electronically to your nominated email address, unless otherwise agreed.

When we provide personal advice it will normally be documented and provided to you in a Statement of Advice (SOA), known as a financial plan. The financial plan contains a summary of your goals and the strategies and any financial products we may recommend to achieve your goals. It also provides you with detailed information about product costs and the fees and other benefits we and others will receive, as a result of the advice we have provided.

If we provide further personal advice a financial plan may not be required. We will keep a record of any further personal advice we provide you for seven years. You may request a copy of such records by contacting our office during that period.

If we recommend or arrange a financial product for you we will provide a product disclosure statement (PDS) or investor directed portfolio service (IDPS) guide where relevant. These documents contain the key features of the recommended product, such as its benefits and risks as well as the costs you will pay the product provider to professionally manage that product.

You should read any warnings contained in your advice document, the PDS or IDPS guide carefully before making any decision relating to a financial strategy or product.

About our practice

Summary of the business

Name	Balance Financial Planning Pty Ltd
Australian Business Number	77 629 534 121
Authorised representative number	1269808
Credit representative number	489790

Our office contact details

Address	18 Redfern Street, Cowra, NSW 2794
Phone	02 6342 4940
Fax	02 6342 1161
Email	andy@balance.accountants
Website	https://balance.accountants

This guide provides information about our advisers including their contact details, qualifications, experience, the services they may offer and financial products they can provide advice on.

Our advice and services

We can provide you with personal and general advice about specific services and financial products listed below. We can also arrange for financial products to be issued without advice from us.

Individual advisers within our practice may not be qualified to provide advice in all of the services and products noted below. Their individual profile guides will note any limitations to the advice they are qualified to provide. At all times we will ensure the appropriate adviser is available to you to provide advice consistent with your goals.

The following table sets out the areas of advice we can help you with as well as the products and services we can arrange.

Any additional advice or services we can offer you, or limitations to the list below, will be outlined in **Our financial advisers and credit advisers** on page 12.

We can provide advice on	We can arrange the following products and services
— Investments strategies (strategic asset allocation)	— Superannuation, including retirement savings accounts
— Budget and cash flow management	— Self-managed superannuation funds (SMSF)
— Debt management (including borrowing for personal purposes)	— Managed investments
— Salary packaging	— Deposit and payment products (for example term deposits, cash management accounts and non-cash payment products)
— Superannuation strategies and retirement planning	— Retirement income streams, including pensions and annuities
— Personal insurance	— Personal and group Insurance (life cover, disability, income protection and trauma)
— Centrelink and other government benefits	— Life investment products including whole of life, endowment and bonds
	— Arranging for listed securities, shares and debentures to be bought and sold via a platform and broker.
	— Investor directed portfolio services
	— Limited selection of investment guarantees

Charter maintains an approved products and services list from a diversified selection of approved Australian and International providers, including companies related to Charter. These have been researched by external research houses as well as our in-house research team.

Charter periodically reviews these products to ensure that they remain competitive with similar products that address similar client needs and objectives. Generally, we recommend products that are on the approved products and services list. However, if appropriate for your needs, we may, subject to Charter's approval, recommend other products.

A copy of the approved products and services list can be supplied to you upon request.

If we recommend a new platform or portfolio administration service, we use those approved by Charter.

As at November 2020, the lenders whose products are most commonly recommended by accredited mortgage consultants authorised by Charter are CBA, ANZ, Bankwest, AFG Home Loans, ING and NAB.

Tax implications of our advice

Under the Tax Agent Services Act 2009, Balance Financial Planning Pty Ltd is authorised by the Tax Practitioners Board to provide tax (financial) advice services on matters that are directly related to the nature of the financial planning advice provided to you. We will not consider any other tax matters in our advice to you. Where tax implications are discussed they are incidental to our recommendations and only included as an illustration to help you decide whether to implement our advice.

Transaction services

We can arrange to complete transactions for you on limited types of financial products where we can take your instructions and arrange for the transaction to be completed, without providing personal advice. If you wish to proceed without our advice, we will ask you to confirm your instructions, which will be documented in writing. We will keep a record of this documentation for seven years. You may request a copy of such records by contacting our office during that period.

Your relationship with us and using our services

You can contact us directly with any instructions relating to your financial products. This includes giving us instructions by telephone, mail or email. We can only accept your instructions via email once you have signed an authority form.

We will work with you to agree what advice and services we will provide and when and how often we will provide them.

Where you agree to annual advice and services, the details will be documented and provided to you in an advice or service agreement. This includes the frequency of contact between us, service standards that may apply, any fee arrangements and how the agreement can be terminated.

If at any time you wish to terminate your relationship with us, please contact us using the details shown in this guide.

Providing information to us

It is important that we understand your circumstances and goals, so that we can provide you with appropriate advice and services. You have the right not to provide us with any personal information. Should you choose to withhold information, or if information you provide is incomplete or inaccurate the advice or services we provide you may not be appropriate for you.

It is also important that you keep us up to date by informing us of any changes to your circumstances so we are able to determine if our advice continues to be appropriate.

Our fees

The actual fee charged to you will depend on the nature of the advice or service we provide. We will discuss and agree the actual fees with you before we proceed. The following section outlines the types of fees that may apply.

The fees charged for our advice and services may be based on a combination of:

- A set dollar amount; or
- A percentage based fee.

Our agreed advice and service fees may include charges for:

- Initial advice;
- Ongoing or annual advice and services.

Please note that for services in relation to insurance, banking deposit products, some loan products and older investment products, commissions may be paid by the product provider as follows:

- Initial commission - a percentage of the value of your investment contributions; and
- Ongoing commission - a percentage of the value of your investment balance, usually calculated at the end of each month in which you hold the investment.
- From 1 January 2021, most benefits given under existing grandfathered arrangements for conflicted remuneration in relation to financial product advice provided to retail clients will cease.

Payment methods

We offer you the following payment options for payment of our advice and service fees:

- BPAY, direct debit (savings), credit card or cheque; and
- Deduction from your investment (subject to the advice and service provided).

All permissible fees and commissions will be paid directly to Charter as the licensee. They retain an amount (a licensee fee) to cover their licensee costs and the balance is passed on to us. The amount is determined annually, based on a number of factors, including our business revenue and the number of advisers in the practice.

For more information on our services, please see our **Schedule of fees** attached or available on request.

Fixed service fees

We offer the following services at these fees:

Service	Fee amount
Annual Review	The fee is dependent on a number of factors such as number of reviews required, complexity of advice and funds under management. The amount of fees will depend on the service offering and these will be provided in a separate advice or services agreement.

Other costs

Where other costs are incurred in the process of providing our advice and services to you, you will be liable for these costs. However, we will agree all additional costs with you prior to incurring them.

Other benefits we may receive

The following are monetary and non-monetary benefits we may receive other than those explained above. These are not additional costs to you.

In addition to the payments we may receive for our advice and services, we may receive other support services or recognition from the licensee to help us grow our business. This could include training, badging rights, technology, financing, events or other recognition we are eligible for. These benefits such as prizes, awards, events may be given to us in recognition of financial planning excellence or innovation including if we qualify under the licensee's excellence program, or for business operational costs. These benefits are paid either at the licensee's discretion or depending on meeting certain qualifying criteria including the quality of our services and advice provided to our clients. We may receive benefits from products that may include non-monetary benefits that are valued at less than \$300. We may also participate in business lunches or receive corporate promotional merchandise tickets to sporting or cultural events and other similar items.

Certified quality advice program

On meeting eligibility criteria and gaining access into the program, we may become eligible for discounts on licensee fees, a 10% increase in purchase price under the buyout option and a 10% increase in DMA payment should we qualify. Eligibility is assessed on professional operations and processes, high quality advice standards and education.

Buyout option

If we leave the financial services industry, we are eligible to sell the register rights of our client base to Charter Financial Planning Limited. The valuation of these rights is based on a multiple of the annual financial planning revenue generated by our practice.

Personal and professional development

Charter provides personal and professional development opportunities in the form of education and professional development programs, offered annually to qualifying practices.

Charter Leaders program

Each year, practices that meet particular criteria may be awarded entry into the Charter Leaders program. The criteria is based on a combination of factors including the quality of advice provision of services and business goals. The Charter Leaders program provides access to personal and professional development courses organised by Charter. Charter may subsidise the cost of these courses up to amounts as determined by Charter from time to time.

Business support

We might receive financial and non-financial assistance from the licensee including financing or subsidies or reimbursements for accounting, legal and bank fees or technology support; marketing, badging rights, or other once-off transitional support costs, to help us grow our business or implement appropriate succession planning options.

Provided we met specific qualification criteria Charter will support our practice with up to \$3,750 per authorised representative that was with us in December 2017. This support is to assist us in meeting the training and education requirements for financial advisers as required by Financial Adviser Standards and Ethics Authority. Any support provided by Charter is paid directly to the education provider and not to us.

Placement fees

From time to time Charter will receive fees from brokers or product issuers (including AMP group companies) for arranging client participation in Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) of financial products. The fee, which is generally a percentage of the fee paid to the broker, varies from offer to offer and by the level of participation by Charter. We may share in this fee based on the level of participation by our clients.

Relationships and associations

It is important that you are aware of the relationships that Charter has with providers of financial services and products as they could be seen to influence the advice you receive.

About our licensee

Charter Financial Planning Limited

ABN 35 002 976 294

Australian Financial Services Licensee and Australian Credit Licensee No: 234665

Charter:

- Approved the distribution of this guide
- Authorised us to provide advice and other services as described in this guide
- Authorised us to provide credit assistance services to you

Charter's registered office is located at 33 Alfred Street, Sydney, NSW 2000.

About the AMP Group

Charter is a member of the AMP group of companies. We can provide advice on products from a wide range of financial product providers, some of which are related or associated with Charter namely:

- | | |
|---|--|
| — NMMT Limited | — AMP Superannuation Limited |
| — AMP Bank Limited | — ipac asset management limited |
| — SMSF Administration Solutions Pty Ltd | — Multiport Pty Limited |
| — AMP Capital Investors Limited | — AMP Capital Funds Management Limited |
| — Australian Securities Administration Limited (ASAL) | — Cavendish Superannuation Pty Ltd |
| — National Mutual Funds Management Limited | — SuperConcepts Pty Ltd |
| | — N.M. Superannuation Pty Limited |

If we recommend a product issued by the AMP Group or a third party product issuer, they will benefit from our recommendation by receiving product, administration and investment fees, as well as fees paid by fund managers to distribute their product. These fees are all disclosed in the relevant PDS or IDPS guide.

Authorised representatives and/or staff employed in our business may hold shares in AMP Limited, whose share price may be favourably affected by the sale of products issued by AMP Group companies.

Our other business activities and relationships

Other business interests

In addition to providing the services listed in this guide, we have a relationship with Balance Accountants Pty Ltd which provides Accounting Services. Charter has no involvement in these activities and is not responsible for any services, advice or products provided by this business.

We control a percentage of the equity interests in the business providing the services listed above. As a result, we will benefit from fees, dividends or income received from the business's profits that may result from any payments or other benefits received in respect of the services provided to you.

Aggregated CAR arrangements

Peter Bergin owns a percentage of the equity interests in Pinnacle Advisory Services Group Pty Ltd. Pinnacle Advisory Services Group Pty Ltd is also authorised by Charter to provide financial advice. Our revenue results may be aggregated with Pinnacle Advisory Services Group Pty Ltd 's revenue results for the purpose of determining licensee fees and/or the recognition payments (as outlined under Other benefits) that we and Pinnacle Advisory Services Group Pty Ltd may receive.

These benefits include reduced licensee fee.

Confidence in the quality of our advice

If at any time you feel like you are not satisfied with our services, the following will help you understand your options and find a resolution.

- Contact your adviser and tell them about your complaint.
- If your complaint is not satisfactorily resolved within three business days, please contact Charter:
 - Phone 1800 812 388
 - Email advicecomplaints@amp.com.au
 - In writing:

Charter Financial Planning Limited
Attention: National Manager, Advice Complaints
33 Alfred Street
Sydney NSW 2000
- They will try to resolve your complaint quickly and fairly. They will provide you with a decision in respect to your complaint within 45 days of us receiving it.
- We note that in some circumstances, it may not be possible for us to completely resolve a complaint within the 45 days. If you do not agree with our decision in respect of your complaint, or are otherwise unsatisfied with our response after the 45 day period, you may escalate your complaint to one of the following External Dispute Resolution Schemes listed below.

Any issues relating to financial advice, investments, superannuation, insurance matters, or credit matters	Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA) GPO Box 3 Melbourne VIC 3001 1800 931 678 www.afca.org.au info@afca.org.au
Any issue relating to your personal information	The Privacy Commissioner GPO Box 5218 Sydney NSW 2001 1300 363 992 privacy@privacy.gov.au

You may also contact the **Australian Securities & Investments Commission (ASIC)** on 1300 300 630 (free call info line) to make a complaint and obtain information about your rights.

Professional indemnity insurance

We maintain professional indemnity insurance to cover our advice and the recommendations provided by your adviser. Charter is also covered by professional indemnity insurance and this satisfies the requirements imposed by the Corporations Act 2001 and National Consumer Credit Protection Act. The insurance covers claims arising from the actions of former employees or representatives of Charter, even where subsequent to these actions they have ceased to be employed by or act for Charter.

Your privacy

We are committed to protecting your privacy. Below we outline how we maintain the privacy of the information we collect about you.

Privacy collection statement

As part of the financial planning process, we need to collect information about you. Where possible we will obtain that information directly from you, but if authorised by you we may also obtain it from other sources such as your employer or accountant. If that information is incomplete or inaccurate, this could affect our ability to fully or properly analyse your needs, objectives and financial situation, so our recommendations may not be completely appropriate or suitable for you.

We are also required under the Anti-Money-Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act (AML/CTF) 2006 to implement client identification processes. We will need you to present identification documents such as passports and driver's licences in order to meet our obligations.

We keep your personal information confidential, and only use it in accordance with our Privacy Policy. Some of the ways we may use this information are set out below:

- Your adviser and Charter may have access to this information when providing financial advice or services to you;
- Your adviser may, in the future, disclose information to other financial advisers, brokers and those who are authorised by Charter to review customers' needs and circumstances from time to time, including other companies within the AMP group (the Group);
- Your information may be disclosed to external service suppliers both here and overseas who supply administrative, financial or other services to assist your adviser and the Group in providing financial advice and services to you. A list of countries where these service providers are located can be found in the Group Privacy Policy;
- Your information may be used to provide ongoing information about opportunities that may be useful or relevant to your financial needs through direct marketing (subject to your ability to opt-out as set out in the Group Privacy Policy); and
- Your information may be disclosed as required or authorised by law and to anyone authorised by you.

Your adviser and Charter will continue to take reasonable steps to protect your information from misuse, loss, unauthorised access, modification or improper disclosure. You can request access to the information your adviser or Charter holds about you at any time to correct or update it as set out in the Group Privacy Policy. The Group Privacy Policy also contains information about how to make a complaint about a breach of the Australian Privacy Principles.

For a copy of Group's Privacy Policy visit <http://www.amp.com.au/privacy> or you can contact us.

Our financial advisers and credit advisers

About Andrew Pullen

Experience	Andrew Pullen holds a Bachelor of Business – Accounting/Finance and is also qualified as a Chartered Accountant, as well as having completed a Diploma of Financial Planning. Upon spending the better part of a decade learning and experiencing the business from the inside out at another company, Andrew then decided to begin his own practice, opening in 2012. Whilst conceding that running an accounting practice is quite a time-consuming endeavour, Andrew unwinds on his bicycle when time affords, and recharges by spending time with his young family.
Phone	02 6342 4940
Email	andy@balance.accountants
Authorised representative number	1245236
Credit representative number	489790

Qualifications (Finance related)

Diploma of Financial Planning

Bachelor of Business (Accounting)

Bachelor of Business (Economics)

Professional memberships

CA - Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand

Professional designations

CA - Chartered Accountants

The advice and services I can provide

I am authorised to provide all the services listed in the **Our advice and services** section of this guide.

I am also a credit representative of Charter and am authorised to provide strategic debt advice regarding how to structure debt, suitability of existing loan structures and repayment options. I am not authorised to provide credit assistance. If you require advice involving mortgages or other lending products, I can refer you to an accredited mortgage consultant.

How I am paid

I receive the following from our practice:

- equity in the practice
- share of revenue

Based on the above, the following contains my remuneration details:

- Andrew is remunerated as a shareholder of Balance Financial Planning Pty Ltd.
- Balance Accountants receive 50% of the net revenue and profit of Balance Financial Planning Pty Ltd.

My other business activities and relationships

In addition to providing the services listed in this guide, I have a relationship with Balance Accountants Pty Ltd. Charter has no involvement in these activities and is not responsible for any services, advice or products provided by this business.

I control a percentage of the equity interests in the business providing the services listed above. As a result, I will benefit from fees, dividends or income received from the business's profits that may result from any payments or other benefits received in respect of the services provided to you.

Schedule of fees

These prices should be used as a guide only. We will discuss your individual needs and agree our fees with you. The actual agreed fees will depend on factors such as the complexity of your circumstances and goals and the scope of the advice.

Initial fees

These are fees paid when you have agreed to receive our advice:

Initial service	Fee amount
SoA	Dependant on complexity. Agreed on prior to preparation.

Ongoing service fees

We provide ongoing services for clients with existing ongoing fee arrangements to help you stay on track to meet your goals. Our ongoing service fees vary depending on the scope and complexity of services provided. The cost of these services are as follows:

Ongoing service	Fee amount
Ongoing advice	Percentage of funds under management. For example, if your account balance was \$100,000, and your ongoing advice fee was 1% of funds under management, the dollar cost would be \$1,000 per annum.

The amount of fees will depend on the service offering and these are provided in a separate advice or services agreement. Note that ongoing service are closed to new clients and are applied to existing 'ongoing advice agreements' prior to 1 March 2020.

Annual advice and service fees

We also offer services for the below costs for a fixed period of 12 months. The cost of those services are as follows:

Service	Fee amount
Advice Review	The fee is dependent on a number of factors such as number of reviews required, complexity of advice and funds under management.
Investment Portfolio Review	The fee is dependent on a number of factors such as number of reviews required, complexity of investments and funds under management.

The amount of fees will depend on the service offering and these will be provided in a separate advice or services agreement.

Commissions

We do not receive commissions on investments through new superannuation, managed funds or retirement products. However, some products, particularly older products, may attract commissions and will cease with effect from 1 January 2021.

Any commission amounts will be disclosed to you when providing my advice. The following table is a guide of commissions we may receive.

Product type	Initial commission	Ongoing commission	Example
Insurance (including those held within superannuation)	Up to 66% of the first year's premium for new policies implemented from 1 January 2020. We may receive commissions on increases or additions to existing policies of up to 130%.	Up to 33% of the insurance premium each following year.	On insurance policies implemented from 1 January 2020, if your insurance premium was \$1,000, we would receive an initial commission of up to \$660. We would receive an ongoing commission of up to \$330.00 pa.
Loans	Up to 1.10% of the initial loan balance. AFG retains 1.5% and passes the remainder on to Charter. Charter then retains 0% and we will receive the remaining 100%.	Up to 0.55% of the outstanding loan balance each year. AFG retains 1.5% and passes the remainder on to Charter. Charter then retains 0% and we will receive the remaining 100%.	If your loan balance was \$100,000, initial commission would be up to \$1,100. AFG would retain up to \$16.50 and Charter receives \$1,083.50. Charter then passes \$1,083.50 (\$1,083.50 x 100%) on to us. On an annual basis, the commission on a \$100,000 loan balance would be up to \$550, of which AFG retains up to \$8.25 and Charter receives \$541.75. Charter then passes \$541.75 (\$541.75 x 100%) to us.
Deposit bonds	Up to 22% of the deposit bond fee. AFG retains 1.5% and passes the remainder on to Charter. Charter then retains 0% and we will receive the remaining 100%.	N/A	For example, if your deposit bond fee is \$400, the commission would be up to \$88. AFG would retain up to \$1.32 and Charter receives \$86.68. Charter then passes (\$86.68 x 100%) \$86.68 to us.

All fees and charges include GST.

If an agreed advice fee is charged then we may rebate all or some of the commission.