

FINANCIAL SERVICES GUIDE

Thomas Group Accounting and Taxation Pty Limited

trading as

Thomas Group Financial Services

Version: 1.4

Date prepared: 08.10.2022

This Financial Services Guide (FSG) 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
- our fees and how we are paid in connection with those services
- how we manage your private information
- how you can complain about a matter relating to us

Documents you may receive

We will provide you with several 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 achieving your goals. It also provides you with detailed information about product costs and the fees and other benefits we and others will receive, because 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.

Legislative Notice:

Lack of Independence Disclosure Notice

We cannot call ourselves independent. Here is why.

The law makes it very difficult for most advisers to say they are independent, unbiased or impartial, even if they are not in any way linked to a financial product provider (like a bank).

If, for example, an adviser gets paid a commission to help a client arrange some insurance they are automatically prohibited from calling themselves independent. Most advisers who receive those commissions charge their clients very little (if anything) for the advice or the help they provide putting a policy into place. From time to time, we receive these commissions.

So, although we always put your interests before ours when giving advice we cannot (by law) call ourselves independent, unbiased or impartial.

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About our practice

Summary of the business

Name	Thomas Group Accounting & Taxation Pty Limited trading as Thomas Group Financial Services
Australian Business Number	13 162 819 187
AFSL Number	520446

Our office contact details

Address	Suite 4a 4 Belgrave St , Kogarah, NSW 2217
Phone	02 9553 9293
Email	clientservices@thomasgroup.com.au
Website	www.thomasgroup.com.au

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.

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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.

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.

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	— Investor directed portfolio services (for example, administration platforms)
— Superannuation strategies and retirement planning	— Deposit and payment products (for example term deposits, cash management accounts and non-cash payment products)
— Personal insurance	— Retirement income streams, including pensions and annuities
— Centrelink and other government benefits	— Personal and group Insurance (life cover, disability, income protection and trauma)
— Aged care	— 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.
	— Limited selection of investment guarantees

Thomas Group Financial Services maintains an approved products and services list which have been researched by external research houses as well as our in-house research.

Thomas Group Financial Services 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 Thomas Group Financial Services' 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 Thomas Group Financial Services.

Tax implications of our advice

Under the Tax Agent Services Act 2009, Thomas Group Financial Services 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.

Version: 1.4

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Transaction services

We can arrange to complete transactions for you on limited financial 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 or insurance premiums; and
- Ongoing commission - a percentage of the value of your investment balance or insurance premiums, usually calculated at the end of each month in which you hold the investment or on renewal of insurance products.

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 fees and commissions will be paid directly to Thomas Group Financial Services as the licensee.

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

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.

Licensee

Thomas Group Financial Services ABN 13162819187

Australian Financial Services Licensee number 520446

Thomas Group Financial Services has:

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

Thomas Group Financial Services' registered office is located at Suite 4a, 4 Belgrave Street, Kogarah NSW 2217.

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Confidence in the quality of our advice

Disputes handling & our complaints policy

We treat any complaint we receive seriously. If you are dissatisfied with your experience as our client, we ask that you communicate with us (e.g., by phone, email or in person) so we can try to resolve the issue for you. We'll do our best to help figure out the background of the matter with you.

We have adopted best practice complaints handling processes to ensure:

1. Acknowledgement of your concerns within 24 hours of receipt.
2. Speedy assessment and investigation.
3. Timely provision of a response (known as an IDR response) no more than 30 days after we receive your complaint.

If we cannot resolve the issue to your satisfaction within that time frame, we will refer you to the free industry complaints handling body known as Australian Financial Complaints Authority Limited (AFCA).

We are a financial member of AFCA, the Government approved External Disputes Resolution scheme.

AFCA can be reached at 1800 931 678

AFCA's mail address is GPO Box 3, Melbourne Vic 3001

AFAC's website is www.afca.org.au

They will try to resolve your complaint quickly and fairly.

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. Thomas Group Financial Services is also covered by professional indemnity insurance and this satisfies the requirements imposed by the Corporations Act 2001 and National Consumer Credit Protection Act.

Version: 1.4

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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 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 Thomas Group Financial Services to review customers' needs and circumstances from time to time;
- Your information may be disclosed to external service suppliers both here and overseas who supply administrative, financial or other services to assist your adviser in providing financial advice and services to you.
- Your information may be used to provide ongoing information about opportunities that may be useful or relevant to your financial needs through direct marketing.
- Your information may be disclosed as required or authorised by law and to anyone authorised by you.

Your adviser and Thomas Group Financial Services 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 Thomas Group Financial Services hold about you at any time to correct or update it as set out in the Privacy Policy. The Privacy Policy also contains information about how to make a complaint about a breach of the Australian Privacy Principles.

For a copy of the privacy policy please contact us.

Version: 1.4

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Our financial advisers

About Peter Thomas

Phone	02 9553 9293
Email	peter.thomas@thomasgroup.com.au
Authorised representative number	441343

Qualifications (Finance related)

Advanced Diploma of Accounting

Master of Commerce (Financial Planning)

Bachelor of Arts (Economics)

Graduate Certificate in Professional Accounting

Professional memberships

Aged Care Steps

FPA - Financial Planning Association

IPA - Institute of Public Accountants

The advice and services I can provide

I am authorised to provide the services listed in the **Our advice and services** section of this guide, except for the following:

Should you require advice and services that extend beyond my authority I can refer you to a suitably qualified professional.

How I am paid

I receive the following from our practice:

— salary

Advisers are paid salary and share of revenue.

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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
Initial Meetings	\$330 per hour – Financial Adviser \$220 per hour – Paraplanning \$132 per hour – Administration Staff

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 Review Fees - Starting from	\$2,200 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
Fixed fee	From \$2,200 per annum

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

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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.

Any commission amounts will be disclosed to you when providing our 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)	<p>Up to 66% of the first year's premium for new policies implemented from 1 January 2020.</p> <p>We may receive up to 77% of the first year's premium for new policies implemented between 1 January 2019 and 31 December 2019.</p> <p>We may receive commissions on increases or additions to existing policies of up to 130%.</p>	Up to 33% of the insurance premium each following year.	<p>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.</p> <p>We would receive an ongoing commission of up to \$330.00 pa.</p>

All fees and charges include GST.

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