



**SHERPA**  
FINANCIAL GROUP

## **Financial Services Guide**

### **Sherpa Financial Group Pty Ltd**

Is a Corporate Authorised Representative No. 1236433 of

#### **Integrity Financial Planners Pty Ltd**

Australian Financial Services Licence No. 225051

**Integrity Financial Planners Pty Ltd**

ABN: 71 069 537 855

Head Office:

Suite 2, 1 Railway Crescent

PO Box 1140

CROYDON VICTORIA 3136

TEL (03) 9723 0522 FAX (03) 9724 9518

**Sherpa Financial Group Pty Ltd**

ABN: 87 606 750 976

Head Office:

158 Drummond Street

OAKLEIGH VICTORIA 3166

TEL (03) 9563 3066 FAX (03) 8526 8885

## About Sherpa Financial Group Pty Ltd

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Sherpa Financial Group Pty Ltd is a privately owned financial planning business that is licensed to financial services through Integrity Financial Planners Pty Ltd under the Australian Financial Services License No 225051.

As with our namesakes, the Himalayan Sherpa, we pride ourselves in guiding our clients and helping them achieve their ultimate goals. But this is not the end of the journey. Sherpa Financial Group ensures that we will be with our clients every step of the way, through the difficult landscape of today's financial environment.

Sherpa Financial Group will guide you through all the difficult aspects of the financial landscape. Our team of professionals will ensure that you reach the top of the mountain and, just as importantly, back to your home base. Our approach to delivering advice is comprehensive and holistic ensuring that our clients receive all the advice they need based on their own unique circumstances, goals, and objectives.

We have in-depth experience in financial planning and wealth management, but we also bring in other professionals as and when required for a successful financial plan. We will also work with any professionals with whom you already have a relationship. We care for all your financial and related needs, seeking to deliver value to all areas of your financial life.

Head office for Sherpa Financial Group is located at:

158 Drummond Street  
OAKLEIGH VICTORIA 3166  
TEL (03) 9563 3066 FAX (03) 8526 8885

### **NOT INDEPENDENT**

***While we will always seek to meet our legal obligations to act in our clients' best interests within the meaning of section 961B of the Corporations Act 2001, we do not fall within the definition of "independent" under section 923A. The reason we do not fall within this definition is because we give our clients the option to allow life insurance companies to pay some of our advisers' commissions for the services that we provide to our clients rather than for us to be required to directly invoice our clients and for our clients to be required to pay us directly. We remain committed to continue to give our clients this important choice.***

## About Integrity Financial Planners Pty Ltd

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Integrity Financial Planners Pty Ltd (IFP) is a privately owned financial planning business that is a holder of an Australian Financial Services Licence No. 225051.

IFP has a network of qualified and experienced authorised representatives (advisers) working in established financial planning practices throughout Australia.

We provide financial advice to help you improve your lifestyle by building wealth and/or producing income, depending on your particular needs.

It is important that you have confidence in your financial wellbeing and in your financial arrangements. IFP seeks to give you that confidence, drawing on the expertise of professional advisers.

Your adviser is a representative of IFP, and IFP is responsible for the financial services that they provide you. All IFP representatives have been individually assessed as having the competencies, knowledge, skills, and integrity necessary to deliver quality financial advice to you.

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## **The Purpose of our Financial Services Guide**

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The purpose of this Financial Services Guide (FSG) is to explain to you the financial services that IFP can provide, along with a broad general disclosure of any remuneration or benefits that IFP and its representatives would be entitled to receive, as well as any interests, relationships, or associations that IFP and its representatives have that may be capable of influencing the services you receive.

You may receive other disclosure documents from us which may include:

1. Statement of Advice – This document sets out our understanding of your current circumstances, needs and objectives that are relevant to the financial advice you are seeking from us. It also includes specific disclosure of any remuneration or benefits that IFP, and its representatives are entitled to receive, as well as any interests, relationships, or associations that IFP and its representatives have that may be capable of influencing the services you receive.
2. Record of Advice – Where we have previously provided to you a Statement of Advice, and where we are providing you with further or subsequent advice: and
  - a. your personal circumstances, needs or objectives are not 'significantly different' compared with when we provided you the Statement of Advice; and
  - b. the basis of our advice, is not 'significantly different' to when we provided you with the Statement of Advice;

then we may create a Record of Advice. If the advice recommends a change or replacement of the financial products, you currently hold, we will provide you with a copy of that advice. If the advice does not recommend a change or replacement of the financial products you currently hold, we may simply create a Record of Advice which we will retain on your client file. You may request (in writing or verbally) a copy of that Record of Advice at any time up to 7 years after the date that the advice is provided, and we will provide you a copy of that advice without further fees or costs.

3. Product Disclosure Statements - These are documents created by the product issuers (not IFP) and provide details regarding the financial products that have been recommended to you. The details include, but are not limited to, any fees and charges associated with particular products.

## The various services we can provide you

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Integrity Financial Planners Pty Ltd and its representatives can help you by providing:

<b>Financial Product Advice</b> Recommendations and professional opinions about a broad range of financial products	<b>Implementation</b> Assistance - putting in place financial strategies and acquiring, holding, or disposing of financial products consistent with our advice	<b>Ongoing Services</b> Ongoing financial services including ongoing advice and implementation services.
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IFP is licensed to provide advice and to deal and arrange in relation to the acquisition, holding or disposal of financial products on your behalf in the following areas:

- deposit and payment products such as term deposits and bank accounts
- government debentures, stocks, or bonds
- sharemarket investments and securities
- investments in managed funds and managed investment schemes
- superannuation, retirement income stream (annuities and allocated pension), self-managed superannuation funds and rollover funds
- life insurance products
- margin lending products

## Who is responsible for the financial services we provide

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Integrity Financial Planners Pty Ltd (IFP) is responsible for the distribution of this FSG and for the financial services provided by Sherpa Financial Group Pty Ltd (and any of the advisers authorised by IFP and detailed in this FSG).

## What kind of financial services is your adviser authorised to provide to you and what kinds of financial products do these services relate to

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Sherpa Financial Group, is authorised by IFP to provide financial product advice and to deal and arrange in relation to the acquisition, holding or disposal of financial products in the following classes, subject to the products being on the IFP Approved Product List:

- deposit and payment products such as term deposits and bank accounts
- government debentures, stocks, or bonds
- sharemarket investments and securities
- investments in managed funds and managed investment schemes
- superannuation, retirement income stream (annuities and allocated pension), self-managed superannuation funds and rollover funds
- life insurance products
- margin lending products

Your adviser can also provide incidental advice related to the tax implications of the recommend strategy and/or product that are the subject of their advice. Your adviser may also provide an ongoing review service. As part of this service, your adviser can conduct a review of your personal situation and the previous advice provided to you and recommend changes if appropriate. Please note that Sherpa Financial Group is not authorised to provide any services on behalf of IFP other than the types or classes financial products listed above, and then typically only to the extent that the products are on the IFP Approved Product List.

## **WARNING ABOUT CRYPTOCURRENCY**

Your financial adviser, is not authorised to, and will not, provide advice in relation to Cryptocurrency. This means they cannot provide you with advice on whether to buy, sell or hold Cryptocurrency investments. Further, due to the volatility associated with Cryptocurrency, any advice provided by your financial adviser cannot consider your Cryptocurrency assets as part of your future planning.

You should seek advice from a qualified professional before taking any action regarding your Cryptocurrency assets.

## **How can you provide your adviser with instructions**

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There are various ways in which you can provide instructions to your adviser, including face to face, in writing, by telephone, fax or other agreed means such as e-mail. We will advise you if any instructions need to be provided in writing.

## **What else can you expect to receive**

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### ***Personalised advice to suit your needs***

Our advice is tailored to meet your individual situation. We do not use a “one size fits all” formula for our clients.

We will strive to provide the advice that we believe is in your best interest and most appropriate to assist you in achieving your aims and objectives. And as a smaller group we can adapt our services to meet your particular needs.

Sherpa Financial Group is privately owned, as is IFP, with no ownership ties to any fund manager or financial institution. We are not required or influenced through ownership ties or associations to recommend or direct you towards any particular financial products.

To ensure advice is appropriate for your needs, we will ask you for personal information.

Of course you have the right not to divulge personal information but you should carefully consider any warnings we give you regarding possible consequences of us not having complete and accurate knowledge of your circumstances, needs and objectives.

### ***Referral arrangements***

Should we identify that you require specialist advice e.g., accounting, legal, insurance etc we may refer you to a professional known to us. You have complete choice in who you see for this specialist advice, and we only make a referral to assist you in complex areas we have identified that go beyond the scope of our expertise. You are under no obligation to seek advice from the person/company we recommend or refer you to.

### ***Clear and documented advice***

Where you request personal advice that addresses your specific circumstances, needs or objectives and it is our initial advice to you, it will be provided in a written Statement of Advice.

IFP takes your financial security seriously. As a consequence, IFP requires that all instructions provided by you need to be confirmed by you in writing. IFP will not normally act on telephone instruction unless such circumstances are supported by your written instructions. If you have any queries or uncertainty about this matter contact us immediately.

## About your Adviser

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Sherpa Financial Group Pty Ltd is a Corporate Authorised Representative number 1236433 of Integrity Financial Planners Pty Ltd (IFP).

Sherpa Financial Group employs a team of advisers with a range of experience and skills. This ensures we can provide you with ongoing quality advice and services and that we have access to knowledge and skills across a wide range of financial issues.

Any advice given to you by Sherpa Financial Group will be provided by a qualified person who is also an authorised representative of Sherpa Financial Group. The following people are currently authorised by Sherpa Financial Group to assist you with financial planning advice:

### ***Nikitin Lal***

Authorised Rep No. 328672

Nik has an Advanced Diploma in Financial Services (Financial Planning) and has worked in the financial services industry since 2004 and has experience in all areas of financial planning. He is committed to assisting clients in achieving their lifestyle and financial goals by delivering personalised financial planning through client's various life stages. Nik offers clients a long-term ongoing relationship and individually tailored advice that provides clients with peace of mind. Nik undertakes ongoing education through a Continuing Professional Development program and through attendance at seminars and workshops. Nik is authorised to provide financial services in all the areas that Sherpa Financial Group is authorised in except Margin Lending products.

### ***Sapan Verma***

Authorised Rep No. 1255864

Sapan has an Advanced Diploma in Financial Planning, Post Graduate Diploma in Accounting and Post Graduate Diploma in Financial Mathematics and Statistics. He is also accredited in Margin Lending, Derivatives and SMSF specialist. Sapan has worked in the financial services industry since 2004 and specialises in Investment planning for Mum and Dad investors as well as entrepreneurs and high net worth families. Sapan strives to assist clients in maximising their financial potential through implementing financial planning strategies personalised to their unique situation. In addition to comprehensive financial planning and investment management, his focus is to create strategies that add significant value both financially and from a lifestyle perspective. Sapan is authorised to provide financial services in all the areas that Sherpa Financial Group is authorised in.

**Paras Sikka (Provisional Financial Adviser)**

Authorised Rep No. 1308691

Paras holds a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Accounting and Financial Planning, and has completed his Financial Adviser Exam. As a FASEA-qualified professional, Paras enjoys working closely with his clients, forming a long-lasting relationships, and ensuring that their futures are as bright as possible, day in and day out. Experienced in designing all facets of bespoke financial planning strategies, Paras approaches his work with compassionate heart, resonating in everything he does. Having graduated from Deakin University in 2018, Paras has since expanded his breadth of knowledge and gained invaluable experience through various roles in the financial advice profession.

Paras Sikka is a Provisional Financial Adviser. This means that he is undertaking a Professional Year of supervised work and training. Paras is being supervised by Sapan Verma and Nikitin Lal who can be contacted on:

Phone: (03) 9563 3066

Email: [sapan@sherpafg.com.au](mailto:sapan@sherpafg.com.au); [nik@sherpafg.com.au](mailto:nik@sherpafg.com.au)

Sapan and Nik are responsible for the advice provided by Paras Sikka whilst he is undertaking the Professional Year.

Paras is authorised to provide financial planning advice in the following areas:

- Deposit & Payment Products
- Government Debenture, Stocks or Bonds
- Investment Life Insurance Products
- Managed Investment Schemes
- Retirement Savings Account Products
- Securities
- Superannuation (except SMSF)

No other person is authorised to provide financial services on behalf of Sherpa Financial Group

## How you pay for the financial services you obtain from us, and how we disclose IFP's remuneration and benefits

IFP may obtain the following remuneration and benefits for the services we provide to you.

	Service provided	Cost
Initial Consultation	Your initial consultation will be free. The initial consultation will include a discussion of your financial circumstances, needs and objectives and a brief discussion about possible solutions. During this discussion, you may consider and agree the nature and scope/scale of the financial services you wish for us to provide to you.	Free
Written Recommendations	If it is agreed that we will prepare a written Strategy Document and/or Statement of Advice, an appropriate fee will apply. Typically, you would expect to pay from \$7,150 (\$6,500 plus \$650 GST) up to \$44,000 (\$40,000 plus \$4,000 GST) for the analysis of strategies and preparation of this document/Statement of Advice, depending on its complexity. We would agree the scope of the advice and the fee with you prior to us undertaking the work.	From \$7,150 to \$44,000 inc GST
Implementation of Recommendations	Should you decide to proceed with the advice/recommendations in the Statement of Advice, we would charge a fee for implementing the advice. This fee will normally be up to 6.05% (5.55% plus 0.55% GST) of the value of funds invested (excluding the value of any funds invested to the extent that those funds are financed by borrowings). In terms of implementation fees, you may choose to pay the fees personally, or have the amount deducted from your financial products, if available. The fees may be reduced by the amount paid for your initial consultation.	Up to 6.05% or \$6,050 based on investment of \$100,000
Ongoing Advice and Review	Once your financial products have been acquired, you may instruct us to provide you with ongoing services, or periodic reviews of the portfolio. We can charge a fee for ongoing advice and reviews or both. The fees can range from a minimum of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual reviews: \$6,215 (\$5,665 + \$550 GST)</li> <li>Semi-annual reviews: \$8,475 (\$7,725 + \$750 GST)</li> <li>Biennial reviews: \$3,390 (\$3,090 + \$300 GST)</li> </ul> <p>Up to an annual fee of \$45,200 (\$41,200 + \$4,000 GST).</p> <p>You may choose to pay this fee personally, or it may be deducted on an ongoing basis from your financial products.</p>	From \$6,215 to \$45,200 for annual reviews inc GST
Life Insurance Commissions	Initial and ongoing commissions are payable by life insurance companies when we recommend life insurance risk products. The commission that is payable to us by the life insurance company is factored into the annual premium and as such does not represent an additional cost to you. Initial commissions are paid by life insurance companies to IFP in the first year and ongoing commissions are paid from year two onwards.	Please refer to the Life Insurance Framework Reforms below.
Additional Services	From time to time we may be able to assist you with other services. The hourly rate for financial services is \$660 plus GST \$66 per hour or part thereof.	Hourly rate applies



### **Conflicted remuneration and non-conflicted remuneration**

From 1 July 2013 the new “Future of Financial Advice” legislation (FOFA) came into effect, which prohibits IFP and its representatives from accepting “conflicted remuneration”, subject to certain exceptions. “Conflicted remuneration” is any benefit, monetary or non-monetary that could reasonably be expected to influence the choice of financial product recommended or the financial product advice. This includes commissions, bonuses and rebates, and most volume-based benefits, but there are some exceptions, such as certain levels of remuneration related to life insurance risk products.

### **Life Insurance Framework Reforms**

Under the Life Insurance Framework Reforms (effective as at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018), grandfathering arrangements may apply in certain circumstances. This means for all policies that were in place prior to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018, the rate of ongoing commission that was applicable at the time that the policy was issued, will continue to apply for the life of the policy. The grandfathering arrangement may also apply to policies issued after 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018, where you (as the client) exercise an option to establish new or additional cover under your pre-LIF policy or to fix an administrative error on your pre-LIF policy. The relevant commissions applicable to your insurance policies will be disclosed to you in your advice document and can range as follows:

<b>Policy Issue Date</b>	<b>Initial Commission (based on annual policy cost less policy fees and stamp duty) Worked example based on \$1,000 initial premium</b>	<b>Ongoing Commission (based on annual policy cost less policy fees and stamp duty) Worked example based on \$1,000 annual premium</b>
From 1 January 2020	0 – 66% or up to \$660	0 – 22% or up to \$220 per annum

*All stated commissions are inclusive of GST.*

### **Who has an interest in these services**

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Product providers or managers may deduct management and administration fees from the products recommended by IFP. Such fees must be disclosed by the product providers in their Product Disclosure Statement.

Fees paid by you for our services and commissions and brokerage paid by product providers or intermediaries, shall be paid to IFP. These amounts shall be paid by IFP to Sherpa Financial Group.

Sherpa Financial Group pays a fee to IFP for the provision of services in its capacity as an Australian Financial Services Licensee.

Sherpa Financial Group is a privately owned company. Nikitin Lal, Sapan Verma, Paras Sikka, and/or associated persons or entities may participate in the profits earned by Sherpa Financial Group.

Nikitin Lal is an employee of Sherpa Financial Group Pty Ltd and receives a salary and may receive a share of the commissions and fees as part of the overall remuneration package. Nikitin Lal is a Director of Tailored Lending Solutions Pty Ltd. Should it be appropriate, we may refer you to the services of Tailored Lending Solutions Pty Ltd. (Please note there are no referral fees paid or received for this arrangement.) Nikitin Lal, and or associated persons or entities may participate in the profits earned by Tailored Lending Solutions Pty Ltd.

Sapan Verma and Paras Sikka are employees of Sherpa Financial Group Pty Ltd and receives a salary and may receive a bonus based on performance.

Neither you nor IFP pays your adviser directly.

IFP also maintain a register of any potential Conflicts of Interest that we may have. A copy of the IFP Conflicts of Interest register can be made available to you, upon your request.

### **Other benefits we may receive**

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IFP is one of 18 shareholders and Principal Members of the Alpha Group Pty Ltd (Alpha Group). The Alpha Group receives sponsorship from various product providers and uses this sponsorship to provide Education and Training relevant to the carrying on of a Financial Services business, to Principal Members and their representatives and employees. IFP discloses sponsors and amounts received from sponsors in an Alternative Remuneration Register. IFP's representatives also maintain Alternative Remuneration Registers and record any benefit they or their employees obtain by way of Education and Training provided by Alpha Group. You may request a copy of the Alternative Remuneration Register of IFP or your adviser by placing such request in writing to your adviser.

IFP and its representatives may receive other benefits from product suppliers. These may include attendance at functions, conferences and training sessions provided by product suppliers. If applicable such benefits shall be disclosed in the Statement of Advice and recorded in IFP's register of Alternative Benefits outlining any such benefits that may be received.

### **Resolving a complaint or concern**

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If you have a concern about services provided by Sherpa Financial Group, Integrity Financial Planners or any of our representatives we will try and resolve your issues quickly and fairly. To allow us to do so you will need to take the following steps.

1. Contact IFP's Compliance Manager and provide them details of your concerns and complaint. IFP is required to reply to any complaints, concerns, allegations, or queries that you have within 30 days of the receipt of your correspondence.

The Compliance Manager  
Integrity Financial Planners  
PO Box 1140, CROYDON, VIC 3136  
Phone: (03) 9723 0522  
compliance@iplan.com.au

2. If the outcome of your correspondence with the Compliance Manager is not to your satisfaction, you may lodge a complaint in writing with the Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA).

AFCA is an external dispute resolution (EDR) scheme to deal with complaints from consumers in the financial system. It is operated by a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee authorised by the responsible minister. AFCA will undertake an independent review of your concerns.

Australian Financial Complaints Authority  
GPO Box 3, Melbourne Vic 3001  
Phone: 1800 931 678

Further information regarding the Australian Financial Complaints Authority is available from [www.afca.org.au](http://www.afca.org.au)

### **Professional Indemnity Insurance**

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IFP currently holds professional indemnity insurance for activities conducted in accordance with our AFS Licence. The insurance policy terms are generally consistent with section 912B of the *Corporations Act 2001*. Subject to the terms and conditions of the policy, the professional indemnity insurance extends to cover claims made in relation to the conduct of representatives and employees of the Licensee including those who may no longer work for the Licensee (but who did at the time of the relevant conduct).

### **Your Privacy**

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IFP and Sherpa Financial Group respects your privacy. A copy of our Privacy Statement is available on IFP's website [www.iplan.com.au](http://www.iplan.com.au) and Sherpa Financial Group's website [www.sherpafg.com.au](http://www.sherpafg.com.au). Alternatively, you can obtain a copy by calling us or asking for a copy from a staff member in our office.