

Financial planning – Six simple steps to success

It's said that every journey begins with single step. So whether your dream is to start your own business in five years, or retire and travel the world in 20 years, the first step is deciding to make your dreams a reality.

It all boils down to achieving financial freedom - the ability to enjoy life without having to worry about money. Sound impossible? It isn't.

When developing a financial plan for you, known as a Statement of Advice (SOA), a financial planner will follow a structured process to help understand your needs and recommend an appropriate strategy. At ROAN Financial Pty Ltd, we believe that financial freedom can be achieved with the six-step financial planning process

Step 1: Gather your financial information

Seeking professional advice on our health, or on legal issues, is second nature to most people, but for some reason people are often reluctant to seek advice about one of the most important aspects of life; their financial security. Life today is increasingly complex, so it's not surprising that more and more people are seeking, and benefiting from, professional financial advice.

So, if you've taken the decision to see a financial planner, congratulations. You have taken the first step on the road to financial freedom. If you haven't, don't despair. It's never too late to see a financial planner and start your plan for achieving financial freedom.

Step 2: Goal setting

Setting clear aims at early stage ensures you achieve your investment and lifestyle goals. At this second meeting, you'll discuss your financial needs and the needs of your family, and work with your financial planner on forming your goals for the future.

Your initial consultation

This meeting involves no obligation. You'll spend an hour or so getting to know your financial planner and discussing your situation and needs.

Your financial planner will also give you a copy of his Financial Services Guide and Advisors Profile, which explains the services they offer and other important information.

Step 3: Identifying the issues

Sound financial planning covers a wide range of issues, including investments, estate planning, retirement planning and risk insurance. Your planner will help you identify all the issues, so that you can start to grow your wealth, and also to protect it, into the future.

Step 4: Prepare your financial Plan (Statement of Advice)

Your personal financial plan or Statement of Advice sets out the strategies and investments that will help you achieve your goals. It will also suggest specific ways in which you can protect your financial security and that of your family.

When planning your investment portfolio, your financial planner will take into account long-term trends in the investment market as well as current legislation on superannuation, retirement income, estate planning, risk insurance, taxation and Centrelink. Your planner will also review research provided by specialist investment analysis to identify appropriate investments based on your needs.

Step 5: Implement the recommendations based on your financial plan

When you're completely satisfied that the Statement of Advice addresses all your needs and goals, you authorise your financial planner to place funds into the agreed investments on your behalf. Your planner will also provide you with details of any risk insurance purchased as part of your Statement of Advice.

Step 6: Review and revise the plan at regular intervals, or when circumstances change.

We believe in building long-term relationships with our clients. Your financial planner will keep you informed on the progress and performance of your investments through regular contact and reports. He will also contact you to discuss any important issues that arise.

Life is constantly changing, so to ensure that your Statement of advice meets your needs, your planner will meet with you at least annually to review any changes in your circumstances and ensure your Statement of Advice is still appropriate.

Our promise

By working hand-in-hand with your financial planner, you can begin the journey towards achieving your dreams with the confidence that a professional is available to help you, every step of the way. If you haven't already spoken to a financial planner and would like to arrange a free no obligation consultation, phone 02 63618100.