

Part 2 – Amongst the world's best SMSF specialists

Australia is an acknowledged global leader in wealth creation products, in part due to the massive \$1.7 trillion superannuation industry that has formed since compulsory superannuation was introduced in 1992.

Around this wealth of funds has grown a substantial knowledge base that is used to make those funds grow further for all Australians.

That pool of knowledge is deep and spreads across all aspects of wealth creation and wealth planning. Whether it be setting up a savings plan for a child or embarking on your work career and planning a family. From designing your self-managed super fund (SMSF) to the day you retire and beyond you never have to face decisions alone.

And it's important to know that taking control of your income and planning lifestyle enrichment and outcomes for you and your family is not just for the wealthy. Anyone with an income or assets at any stage of life can benefit from becoming involved in personal wealth creation.

The SMSF path to financial independence

Many Australian's are increasingly turning to SMSFs to plan for financial independence. As at January 2014, the Australian Prudential Regulatory Authority (APRA) reports there are now more than 500,000 SMSFs in operation controlling \$520 billion in assets.

The average fund balance for an SMSF is just over \$1 million, although in reality about half (46.9%) have less than \$500,000 in assets.

SMSFs can be set up at any stage in your life and while they are becoming increasingly easy to manage, getting the structure right and knowing your tax obligations is vital to success.

Going down the path of an SMSF can offer you greater control over your retirement plans but you must get the basics right, and have guidance along the way to make sure your investments will give you the desired outcome of financial independence when you retire. A financial planner is a key component in making sure your SMSF achieves your goals.

Financial planners can help build your income

And studies show that using a financial adviser will yield results. A report by international research group Morningstar in late 2012 put the value a financial adviser adds to your financial planning at 1.82% a year.

To put that in context if we put \$30,000 into a cash account and earn 6% a year compound interest for 10 years the cash balance would grow to \$53,725.43. If a financial planner could add 1.82% to that annual return it would potentially grow again by an additional 18.5% to \$63,696.35.

It is not a surprising outcome. Whether you have millions of dollars or thousands most of us have no training in managing cash, let alone making it grow. But that is the job of your adviser. They have been trained with a specific skill set aimed at making you financially secure and helping you to achieve your financial goals and aspirations.

The ideal approach however is not just to receive advice, but to be involved so you understand the path to lifestyle enrichment. The journey is not hard and there is a little accountant inside each of us that wants to help shape our financial future. And it all starts with your personal balance sheet.

Initial cash account
deposit – \$30,000

Cash balance after
10 years **without** a
financial planner

Cash balance after
10 years **with** a
financial planner
adding 1.82% a year



Learn more about your cash and how BT Panorama can help



[Speak with your financial adviser](#)



[View the BT Panorama cash investments brochure](#)