

Value of advice

Financial advice can give you peace of mind knowing that professionals are looking after your best interests and that you are financially prepared for the future. In addition, the financial benefits of seeing a professional adviser can often out-weigh the cost.

What is the value of financial advice?

The 'value' of financial advice can be considered both tangible and intangible—and will have different meanings for different people.

For some, the value of advice received will be measured by how much tax was saved, the age at which retirement was reached, the improvement in benefit entitlements or the final worth of an investment portfolio. Many will measure the 'value' against the cost of paying for that advice.

For others, the focus will be relative to a sense of wellbeing, peace of mind, having financial security and control over decisions made. This 'intangible' value of this advice is harder to measure and cannot be as easily weighed up against the cost of that advice. For example, how much is the right amount to pay for peace of mind and for financial freedom? The answer to this will vary from person to person.

How financial advice can be valuable

Recent reports indicate that over 1/3rd of Australians are dissatisfied with their financial situation.

We believe that financial advice can play a significant role in helping to change this outcome. Professional financial advice can make a world of difference emotionally, behaviourally and financially.

Emotional

Financial advice can have a big impact on overall wellbeing and financial security. With the help of a qualified financial adviser you can feel greater peace of mind and gain better clarity or management over your finances. Research had found that:

- People with a financial adviser feel 15 per cent more financially secure than those without².
- Over three-quarters of people with a financial adviser say it contributes to greater peace of mind³.
- More than 80 per cent of people with a financial adviser report greater confidence with their financial decision making³.

Behavioural

Behavioural coaching is one of the most valuable services a financial adviser provides to their clients. They can help you maintain a long-term perspective and stay disciplined towards achieving your goals. For example, emotion can

play a significant role when investing in the share market. Abandoning a planned investment strategy, chasing short term market volatility or past performance, could result in costly losses, in turn impacting overall financial security. But with the steady guidance of a financial adviser you can help avoid these common behavioural tendencies.

A financial adviser will also help you to adjust your money habits, with research indicating that:

- Over 50 per cent of people say financial advice has helped them to save more³.
- Sixty percent of people with a financial adviser feel better equipped to handle sudden, one-off costs³.
- Half of people with a financial adviser say they could cover living expenses for six months or longer if they were suddenly unable to work. Compared to only a quarter of people without a financial adviser³.

Financial

In terms of financial benefits, Russell Investments estimates that financial advisers can deliver 5.2% p.a. or more of value each year for clients⁴. This means for example, a financial adviser charging an advice fee of \$3,250 to a client with a \$250,000 balance can potentially deliver \$13,250 of value – that's \$10,000 extra value to the client⁵.

Similarly, a recent Financial Services Council report by Rice Warner assessed the value derived from different levels of advice⁶. They found:

- At any age, for average Australians, financial advice will likely add value to both an individual's superannuation and personal wealth by the time they retire.
- Savings and investment advice, taken at a young age, provides the greatest increase in funds at retirement. This is because younger individuals have a greater investment period over which to compound the benefits of higher rates of return.
- Irrespective of wealth, for an individual aged 40, approximately half the value of the 'full' advice scenario is from 'simple' advice in respect of savings.
- Financial advice is not just beneficial for the wealthy, those with lower economic wealth can potentially gain more from advice than those who are wealthy. This reflects the tendency for this group to save less of their disposable income (in proportional terms) and allocate assets to safe but low-yielding asset classes (such as cash and term deposits).

1 University of Melbourne (2019) How Australians feel about their finances and financial service providers. Retrieved from www.unimelb.edu.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0005/3145613/Consumer_Research_Report.pdf

2 Australian Unity (14 May 2019) Research finds financial advice brings benefits beyond the dollar

3 AFA (2018) Value of Advice. Retrieved from www.loomisfinancial.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/afa_Value-of-Advice-report_oct_2018_final.pdf

4 Russell Investments (2020) Value of an Adviser Report. Retrieved from <https://russellinvestments.com/au/support/financial-adviser/business-solutions/practice-management/value-of-an-adviser>

5 Russell Investments (2020) In challenging times, financial advisers still deliver value of 5.2%p.a. or more to their clients <https://russellinvestments.com/au/about-us/press/2020/in-challenging-times-financial-advisers-still-deliver-value>

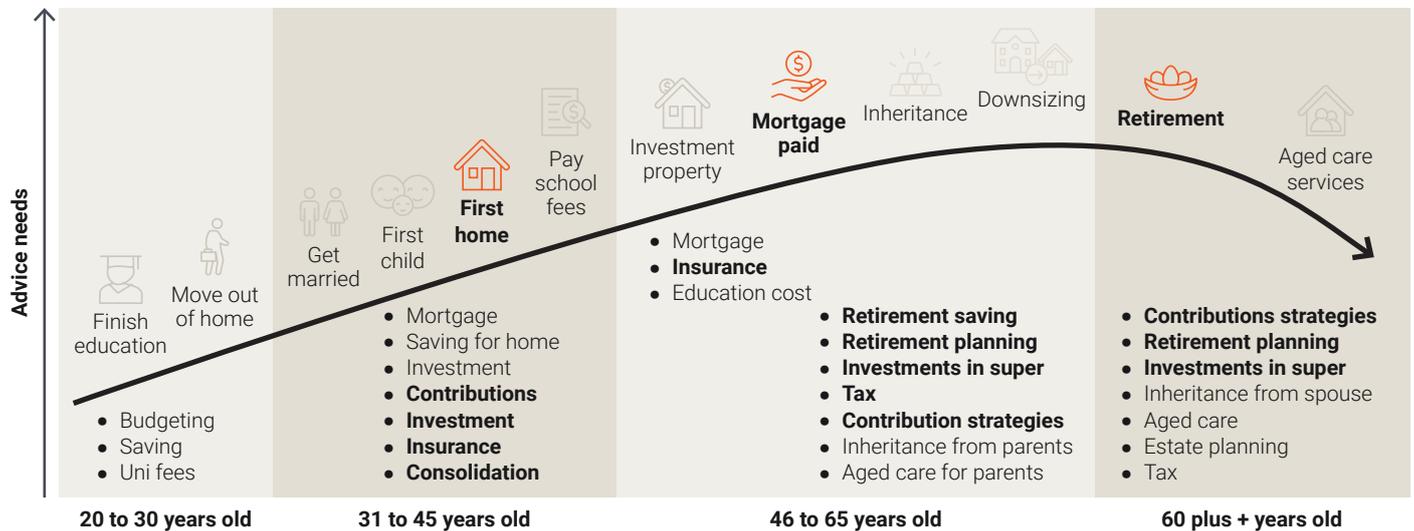
6 Financial Services Council & Rice Warner (August 2020) Future of Advice. Retrieved from <https://www.ricewarner.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/RW-Future-of-Advice-Report.pdf>

How financial advice can help at any life stage

Financial advice has tangible and intangible benefits as previously mentioned. But it can also help individuals navigate challenges and opportunities that present themselves within all life stages, as outlined in Graph 1.

A professional financial adviser can help provide a unique individual plan to help you improve your financial security throughout all life stages and keep the 'big-picture' in sight.

Graph 1: Advice needs by age



• Super advice • Non-Super advice

Source: Financial Services Council & Rice Warner (August 2020) Future of Advice.

Let us help you with big-picture financial advice:

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- Retirement communities

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