



Privacy Policy

Entity: Northern Plateau Wealth Management Pty Ltd
ABN: 12 645 462 559
AFSL: 528562

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1 Background

1.1 Overview

- (a) Northern Plateau Wealth Management Pty Ltd (NPWM) and Northern Plateau Pty Ltd (NP) adhere to the Australian Privacy Principles (**APPs**) and are bound by the *Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)* (**Privacy Act**). It is important to us that personal information collected by us is protected.
- (b) If you want more information about this Privacy Policy, or if you want to inquire about any of personal information held by us, or if you believe personal information held by us is inaccurate, incomplete or out-of-date, please contact us.
- (c) Our business is providing financial services to retail clients. When providing such services, we may have access to personal information relating to our clients.
- (d) The purpose of this Privacy Policy is to outline how we collect, use, disclose and retain personal and sensitive information. It also sets out how you can make a complaint and how you can access the personal information we hold about you.

2 What is personal information?

2.1 What is personal information?

Personal information means information or an opinion about an identified individual, or an individual who is reasonably identifiable: (a) whether the information or opinion is true or not; and (b) whether the information or opinion is recorded in a material form or not. For the purposes of this policy, personal information may include:

- (a) name;
- (b) address;
- (c) nationality;
- (d) residency status;
- (e) e-mail address;
- (f) Tax File Number; and
- (g) financial information.

2.2 What personal information could we collect?

In order for us to provide financial services to you, we may collect the following information about you:

- (a) full name, date of birth, contact details and residential address;
- (b) financial position: assets, liabilities, income, expenses and cash flow;
- (c) superannuation and insurance details;
- (d) investment objectives, risk tolerance and time horizon;
- (e) health and medical information (for insurance advice), estate planning details and family circumstances;
- (f) tax file number, tax residency and relevant tax information;
- (g) employment, business activities and source of wealth;
- (h) identity document details — type, number, issuing authority and expiry;
- (i) politically exposed person (PEP) status and sanctions screening results; and
- (j) details about family members or friends for estate planning advice.

3 Collection of personal information

3.1 Collection of personal information

We collect your personal information to fulfil our obligations as a licensed financial services provider under the *Corporations Act 2001*, the Privacy Act and the *Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006*. This includes our obligations to:

- (a) verify your identity before providing financial services (AML/CTF customer due diligence);
- (b) provide you with financial advice tailored to your personal circumstances, goals and financial situation;
- (c) manage your ongoing financial services including portfolio, insurance and superannuation reviews;
- (d) prepare and deliver Statements of Advice (SOAs) and ongoing advice documents;
- (e) meet record-keeping obligations under the Corporations Act, AML/CTF Act and ASIC regulatory requirements;
- (f) make reports required by AUSTRAC under the AML/CTF Act;
- (g) manage complaints and disputes in accordance with our internal dispute resolution obligations;
- (h) We may collect and hold personal information from you for the purposes of enabling us to provide our services to you. For example - when we provide financial services to you (eg. when we recommend a financial product to you or to arrange for you to invest in a financial product). When doing so, we may collect personal information about you as part of forming our recommendation or providing or arranging services;
- (i) If you give us personal information about you, we will only use and disclose that information for the relevant purposes set out below. You can also access the information we hold about you;
- (j) Any personal information held by us may be held in a number of ways including via hard copy, soft copy or offsite on electronic servers; and
- (k) Where we obtain sensitive information (e.g. racial or ethnic origin, political opinions, religious beliefs or affiliations or criminal record), we will only do so with your consent and where the collection of such information is reasonably necessary for us to perform our function. Note that we typically will not collect this.

3.2 How do we collect your information

We collect your personal information:

- (a) directly from you through our client agreement, fact find, risk profile questionnaire and ongoing correspondence;
- (b) from third-party sources including financial institutions, superannuation funds, insurers, ATO, public registers (ASIC) and identity verification services, where reasonably necessary; and
- (c) your other professional advisers when you give direct consent.

3.3 Dealing with unsolicited personal information

If we receive unsolicited personal information, we will within a reasonable period after receiving the information, determine whether or not we could have collected the information under Australian Privacy Principle 3 (APP3). If the information could not have

been obtained under APP 3, we will take steps to destroy or de-identify the information as soon as practicable, if it is lawful and reasonable to do so.

3.4 Notification of the collection of personal information

At or before the time we collect personal information from you, or if that is not practicable, as soon as practicable after, we will take reasonable steps to ensure you are aware of:

- (a) who we are and our details;
- (b) how we collect the personal information and whom from;
- (c) whether the collection of the personal information is required or authorised by or under an Australian law or a court/tribunal order;
- (d) the purposes for which we collect the personal information;
- (e) the main consequences (if any) if we do not collect all or some of the personal information;
- (f) any other person or body to whom we would disclose the personal information that we have collected;
- (g) information about how you may access the personal information held by us about you and how you may seek correction of such information;
- (h) how you may complain about a breach of the Australian Privacy Principles and how the entity will deal with such a complaint;
- (i) whether we are likely to disclose the personal information to overseas recipients (if so where).

3.5 Anonymity and pseudonymity

Whilst you may wish to deal with us anonymously, this is likely to limit the services we provide to you as our principal business is the provision of financial services which is personal to you. Given the legal requirements around anti-money laundering and counter terrorism financing, we are required to identify our clients when we deal with them. We cannot therefore provide financial services to you on an anonymous basis.

3.6 If you don't provide us with the information we request

It is your choice as to whether you wish to provide us with the information we request. However, we may not be able to provide you with the services you require if you don't provide us with the relevant information to help us deliver the services.

4 Use or disclosure of personal information

4.1 Use or disclosure of personal information

Personal information collected by us is used to provide financial services to you and will not be disclosed unless required in the performance of those services or otherwise permitted under the Privacy Act. We may disclose your personal information to the following categories of third parties:

- (a) **Product issuers and platforms:** where you invest in a financial product through us, including fund managers, superannuation trustees, insurance companies, managed investment scheme operators, investment platforms, brokers and intermediaries with your consent;
- (b) **Paraplanning service providers:** who assist in preparing your financial advice documents, including Statements of Advice (SOAs) on our behalf, whether located in Australia or overseas;

- (c) **Compliance and audit service providers:** who conduct file reviews and compliance monitoring of our advice processes on our behalf, including external compliance consultants engaged by us;
- (d) **Software and technology providers:** including IT, document management, CRM platform providers and practice management system providers who host and manage our client records and systems, including cloud-based companies and servers;
- (e) **Professional advisers:** including your legal, accounting, lending and audit advisers, where you have asked us to liaise with them or where it is necessary to provide you with coordinated financial services;
- (f) **Our AML/CTF reporting group:** as required under our AML/CTF Program;
- (g) **Regulators:** complaints handling authorities including ASIC, AUSTRAC, the ATO, AFCA and CSLR where required by law, court order or in connection with our regulatory obligations; and
- (h) **Artificial intelligence tools:** where we use Artificial Intelligence (AI) assisted software to help prepare financial advice documents or record client meetings (see Section 4.3 below).

If we specify that personal information is collected for a specific purpose, we will not use or disclose the information for another purpose unless you consent to the use or disclosure of the information or an exception in the APPs applies.

4.2 Direct marketing

We may use and disclose your personal information to keep you informed about the range of services that we think may be relevant or of interest to you. You can opt out of receiving information from us at any time by contacting us.

4.3 Use of artificial intelligence

- (a) We may use AI tools to assist in the preparation of financial advice documents (including SOAs), to record and transcribe client meetings, and to assist in the preparation or review of compliance documentation. These tools may be hosted by providers located overseas. Where AI tools are used, your personal information including your financial position, goals, personal circumstances and discussion transcripts may be processed by the AI system.
- (b) We take reasonable steps to ensure:
 - (i) where meeting transcription tools are used, you will be notified before the meeting commences and given the opportunity to decline recording;
 - (ii) human review is applied to all AI-assisted advice outputs before they are provided to you;
 - (iii) your personal information is not used to train AI models without your consent; and
 - (iv) AI tools used by us are subject to appropriate data handling and confidentiality obligations.

5 Security and access

5.1 Information accuracy

We take reasonable steps to ensure that all personal data collected is accurate, up to date and complete. You can ask us to correct any inaccurate information we hold or have provided to others by contacting us using the details in this policy. If the information that

is corrected is information we have provided to others, you can ask us to notify them of the correction.

5.2 Security of personal information

We take care to protect the security of your personal information. We may hold personal information in a combination of secure computer storage facilities, paper-based files and other formats. We take reasonable steps to protect personal information from misuse, loss, unauthorised access, modification or improper disclosure. In accordance with APP 11 as amended by the POLA Act 2024, our security measures include both **technical measures** (encryption of data at rest and in transit, multi-factor authentication, role-based access controls, regular security testing, and vendor security assessments for all third-party providers) and **organisational measures** (staff privacy and security training, documented incident response procedures, periodic security reviews, and contractual data security obligations on all third-party service providers including paraplanning and AI tool providers). We regularly review these measures to ensure they remain reasonable in the circumstances. Please note, we are required by law to retain your personal information for a specific amount of time. We will generally destroy or de-identify personal information if it is no longer required.

5.3 Access to and collection of personal information

- (a) You can contact us to access or correct any personal information we hold about you. However, in certain situations, we are permitted to refuse access to personal information. These situations include where:
 - (i) giving access would have an unreasonable impact on the privacy of other individuals
 - (ii) giving access would be unlawful, or where denying access is required or authorised by an Australian law or a court order
 - (iii) giving access is likely to interfere with law enforcement activities.

For other situations, please consider APP 12.

- (b) If we receive a request to access personal information, we aim to respond to that request in a reasonable timeframe. In general, we will not impose an access charge unless the request to access and correct personal information is excessively onerous.
- (c) If we refuse access to personal information, we will provide you with reasons as to why access was refused and provide you with information on how to lodge a complaint about the refusal.

5.4 Retention of personal information

- (a) We retain personal information only for as long as it is required for the purposes for which it was collected, or as required by law. We will take reasonable steps to destroy or de-identify personal information in accordance with APP 11.2 when the personal information we hold is no longer required.
- (b) If we are required to hold the personal information, the applicable minimum retention periods for financial advice businesses are seven years.

5.5 Data breach

- (a) A data breach occurs when personal information held by us is lost or subjected to unauthorised access, modification, disclosure, or other misuse or interference. Examples of a data breach are when a device containing personal information of clients is lost or stolen, or when a database containing personal information is hacked or if we mistakenly provide personal information to the wrong person.

- (b) Under the Privacy Amendment (Notifiable Data Breaches) Act 2017, we have an obligation to assess within 30 days whether a data breach amounts to an 'eligible data breach' if we become aware that there are reasonable grounds to suspect that data breach may have occurred.
- (c) If we form the view that the data breach would likely result in serious harm to any of the individuals to whom the information relates despite any remedial action taken by us, then the data breach will constitute an 'eligible data breach'. If an eligible data breach occurs, we have an obligation to notify you and the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner and of the details of the eligible data breach.

6 Complaint

6.1 Complaint

If you would like to make a complaint about this policy or the personal information held by us, please contact us on the contact details below. We will acknowledge your complaint within **5 business days** and endeavour to resolve it within **30 days**. If you are not satisfied with our response, you may escalate your complaint to the **Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC)** (see Section 7.2 below).

7 Contact us

7.1 Contact

- (a) You may wish to contact us for the following:
 - (i) find out what personal information we hold about you;
 - (ii) update or correct the personal information we hold about you;
 - (iii) opt out of receiving direct marketing material; or
 - (iv) make a privacy related complaint.
- (b) Should you wish to do so, please contact us via:
 - (i) In person: Suite 3, 154 Robert Street, Atherton QLD 4883
 - (ii) Phone: 07 4091 4877
 - (iii) Postal: PO Box 658, Atherton QLD 4883
 - (iv) Email: admin@vcfa.com.au

7.2 External Dispute Resolution

- (a) If we are not able to satisfactorily resolve your complaint relating to your personal information you can contact The Privacy Commissioner in the OAIC:
The Privacy Commissioner
GPO Box 5218
Sydney NSW 2001
1300 363 992
privacy@privacy.gov.au