

## Financial advice checklist

- setting financial goals
- Budgeting
- saving and investing
- Protecting your family with insurance
- Managing tax
- Retirement planning
- Managing debt
- Planning for unforeseen events
- Accessing government benefits



### Sleep better at night

Seeing a professional financial planner can make a huge difference to your financial future. A financial planner can help you make financial decisions to give you peace of mind. Good advice is money well spent.

**For your free 'Good Advice' pack or to find a planner near you, call the Financial Planning Association on 1800 626 393 or visit [goodadvice.com.au](http://goodadvice.com.au)**



**FPA**

FINANCIAL PLANNING  
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA



**Sleep better at  
night with the right  
financial advice**

Like to be worth  
a million dollars?



Everyone has some kind of financial goal, and it doesn't hurt to aim high. In fact, you may need more than a million over your lifetime.

Think about it – what sort of lifestyle do you want in the future? What are your priorities? What do you need to achieve urgently, and what can you put off until further down the line?

Setting realistic financial goals isn't always easy. You can start by deciding what you want to achieve and how long it might take to get there. **A professional financial planner** can tell you if your goals are achievable, and advise on the best way to attain them.

Need to know your  
family is secure,  
whatever happens?



Unexpected events, like losing your job because of illness or losing your home in a fire, can have a disastrous impact which goes far beyond the immediate problem. Your family could be financially ruined, losing the standard of living you've worked so hard to achieve.

Having the right insurance will protect your financial safety as well as your family and your property. Think about the risks you face and then look around for some good financial advice. You may already have some cover through your super fund or your credit card, so it's a matter of making sure you have enough cover. **If in doubt, a financial planner can help you work it out.**



Don't want to  
worry about paying  
off your loan?



These days it's easier than ever to get into debt, and it can be much harder to get out of it. But at the right time and properly managed, debt can be a useful tool for increasing your assets. So when is the right time?

Before you take on a loan, ask yourself some searching questions. Can I afford the repayments? How will rising interest rates affect those payments? Do my total repayments exceed half of my take home pay?

Shop around for the best loans, and **think about seeking financial advice** too.





Planning on taking  
an overseas holiday  
every year?



Of course we all need holidays. And we love a trip overseas! But how many of us don't really plan? Do you pull out the credit card, and worry about it later?

Unless you're fortunate enough to receive a windfall, you really do have to save for the luxuries of life.

The best way to save for the future might take a bit of working out. Should you put more into super? What about direct shareholdings? How can you manage the risk of your investments falling in value? Should you borrow to invest? To help you decide, and to explain away some of the complexities, **it's often worth paying for some professional financial advice.**

Want to turn the  
tables on the taxman?



No one likes to pay more tax than they need to, but keeping up with the complexities of changing tax laws is no mean feat.

There are tax-effective ways of saving and investing for your future and the cost of getting the right advice can often be covered by just one smart tax move.

Co-contributions, salary sacrificing, offsetting the income from investments – these are just some of the ways you can reduce your tax bill while planning for future wealth. **There may be even more that apply to your specific situation**, and a professional financial planner can help you discover the best ways to manage tax.



Want to feel  
there's never a bill  
you can't pay?



Being able to pay bills without going into more debt is a tough call if you're spending more than you earn – and it's surprising how many people do! The best way to find 'extra' money is to follow a budget.

A budget can be an amazing tool to help you live within your means, to pay your bills on time, and to save. It helps you separate what you really need from what you just think you want – that is, the non-essentials.

Setting a budget and cutting your costs is pretty simple stuff and you can do this yourself. There's plenty of advice around if you need it – visit [www.fpa.asn.au](http://www.fpa.asn.au) for some simple budget advice.

Like to know that you  
are going to retire to  
the life you dream of?



The biggest question most of us ask is: how much money will I need for a comfortable retirement? Naturally this depends on how long you live, and how you want to live!

Deciding how much to keep in super (to save tax and access Government benefits) is part of the equation. But be sure to keep enough for emergencies and day-to-day expenses. The rules are complex, and can be expensive for those who get it wrong. **Do your homework, but get professional financial advice too.**

