

# Privacy Policy



Unique Advisers Pty Ltd

AFSL 328140

ABN 38 131 483 111

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## 1.0 Purpose

The purpose of the privacy policy is to outline how Unique Adviser Pty Ltd (UA) and its officers, advisers, agents and employees collect, use and retain personal and sensitive information. UA obtains and retains that personal and sensitive information in accordance with the Australian Privacy Principles (APPs). The APPs were introduced by the Privacy Amendment (Enhancing Privacy Protection) Act 2012 (Cth) (Privacy Amendment Act). The Privacy Amendment Act introduced significant changes to the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth) (Privacy Act). The Privacy Amendment Act includes new, harmonised, privacy principles that regulate the handling of personal information by businesses. This policy provides guidance on how to meet the privacy obligations imposed by the APPs, the Privacy Amendment Act and the Privacy Act.

## 2.0 Policy

### 2.1 Whom does this policy apply to?

This policy applies to all officers, advisers, agents, employees, clients and shareholders of UA.

The Privacy Amendment Act states that the APPs apply to individuals, body corporates, partnerships, unincorporated associations or trusts unless they are a small business operator. A small business operator is defined as a business with an annual turnover of \$3,000,000 or less for a financial year, unless an exemption applies. UA acknowledges that some advisers and agents may operate businesses that would come within the small business exemption, however as advisers authorised with UA they may still be obliged to comply with the APPs. If in doubt, advisers or agents should contact the Professional Standards department.

The APPs and the Privacy Act extend to an act done, or practice engaged in that has an Australian link. An organisation has an Australian link where it is:

- (a) an Australian citizen or a person whose continued presence in Australia is not subject to a legal time limitation;
- (b) a partnership formed, or a trust created in Australia or an external Territory;
- (c) a body corporate incorporated in Australia or an external Territory; or
- (d) an unincorporated association that has its central management and control in Australia or an external territory.

Where an organisation does not fall within one of the above categories it will still have an Australian link where:

- (a) it carries on business in Australia or an external Territory; and
- (b) the personal information was collected or held by the organisation or small business operator in Australia or an external Territory, either before or at the time of the act or practice.

### 2.2 Definition

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.

### **3.0 Our commitment**

We recognise that privacy is important. UA includes all subsidiary companies.

We are bound by, and committed to supporting, the APPs set out in the Privacy Amendment Act. The information set out below is largely a summary of the obligations under the APPs.

For clarity, for the purposes of the Privacy Act, the obligations imposed upon UA will also be applicable to its advisers and agents.

### **4.0 APP 1 – Open and transparent management of personal information**

The object of APP 1 is 'to ensure that APP entities manage personal information in an open and transparent way'.

APP 1 imposes three separate obligations, to:

- (a) take reasonable steps to implement practices, procedures and systems that will ensure the entity complies with the APPs and any binding registered APP code, and is able to deal with related inquiries and complaints;
- (b) have a clearly expressed and up-to-date APP Privacy Policy about how the entity manages personal information; and
- (c) take reasonable steps to make its APP Privacy Policy available free of charge in an appropriate form and, where requested, in a particular form.

In accordance with the above requirements, it is the policy of UA that:

- (a) all persons to whom this policy applies are required to inform themselves of their obligations under the APPs;
- (b) UA will make available training as and when required to ensure persons to whom this policy applies are aware of their obligations under the APPs;
- (c) all clients of UA its advisers and agents are entitled to access their private information upon request;
- (d) any complaints by clients in relation to the handling of their private information should be referred immediately to the Privacy Officer – Professional Standards;
- (e) how UA manages private information will be set out in this policy;
- (f) this policy will be freely available on any website operated by companies within UA. Further, advisers and agents to whom this policy applies should also include a link to the policy on any website operated by them; and
- (g) on request, clients are to have free access to this policy in any form requested, so long as it is practical to do so.

UA, its advisers and agents may collect and hold personal information such as a person's name, address, date of birth, income, tax file number (TFN) and such other information that may be required from time to time in order to provide services to clients. This is collected directly from its clients and personal information is held by either companies within UA or its advisers and agents.

Any personal information collected by UA is solely for the purpose of providing services to its clients and is not disclosed unless required in the performance of those services (for example, a financial adviser disclosing a client's information to a financial institution in order to place an investment on behalf of that client). Any client may seek access to their personal information by contacting the appropriate company within UA, or by contacting an adviser or agent of UA directly. If a correction is required to that personal information the client may make that amendment by notifying the appropriate company within UA, or by contacting an adviser or agent of UA directly.

If a client considers that a breach of the APPs has occurred they can direct their complaint to the Privacy Officer – Professional Standards.

The relevant contact details are:

Unique Advisers  
Privacy Officer – Professional Standards  
36 A Langston Place  
Epping NSW 2121  
P: (02) 9869 4533

If a client is not satisfied with the outcome of their complaint they may lodge a complaint with the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner (OAIC). Further information is available from the OAIC's

website at [www.oaic.gov.au](http://www.oaic.gov.au).

The UA will only disclose personal information of its clients to overseas recipients where such disclosure is required to give effect to the instructions of a client (for example, where a client receiving financial advice wishes to invest in overseas equities). It is not practical to list all countries to which this information may be disclosed due to the variety of overseas financial services available to clients.

## **5.0 APP 2 – Anonymity and pseudonymity**

APP 2 provides that individuals must have the option of dealing anonymously or by pseudonym.

However, those options are not required where:

- the entity is required or authorised by law or a court or tribunal order to deal with identifiable individuals; or
- it is impracticable for the entity to deal with individuals who have not identified themselves.

As the companies within UA largely deal with clients in financial services, it is unlikely that it would be practical for services to be provided to those clients without them having identified themselves.

Further, in most situations companies within UA will be required under the terms of the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006 (Cth) (AML/CTF Act) to appropriately identify clients.

### **6.0 APP 3 – Collection of solicited personal information**

APP 3 outlines when you may collect solicited personal information.

UA is required to only collect information that is reasonably necessary for one or more of its functions. As outlined in clause 5.0 above, it is anticipated that personal information will be required to be collected due to the financial services provided by companies within UA. Information such as name, date of birth, address, income, TFN and other personal information will often be required for services such as:

- financial advice;
- mortgage broking;
- insurance;
- financial product management; and
- other miscellaneous financial services.

Where personal information is required to be obtained from clients in order for them to be provided services from companies within UA, those clients must consent to the collection of their personal information.

Under APP 3 UA must have the client's consent to the collection of their personal information.

### **7.0 APP 4 – Dealing with unsolicited personal information**

APP 4 outlines the steps that must be taken if unsolicited personal information is received. This means that information has been received where an APP entity took no active steps to collect the information.

If a member of UA or its advisers and agents collects any unsolicited personal information it should immediately assess whether that information could have been obtained in accordance with APP 3. If the information could not have been obtained under APP 3 (for example, a client provides extra information that would not normally be required without being prompted to do so) then steps must be taken to destroy or de-identify the information as soon as practicable, if it is lawful and reasonable to do so.

If the information could have been collected in accordance with clause 6.0 then it should be dealt with in accordance with APPs 5 – 13. Please see below for details.

### **8.0 APP 5 – Notification of the collection of personal information**

If personal information about an individual is collected then reasonable steps must be taken to notify the individual, or otherwise ensure that the individual is aware of certain matters. These matters include:

- the identity and contact details of who collected the information;
- the fact and circumstances of collection;
- whether the collection is required or authorised by law;

- the purposes of collection;
- the consequences if personal information is not collected;
- the usual disclosures of personal information of the kind collected by the entity;
- information about the privacy policy; and
- whether it is likely that personal information will be disclosed to overseas recipients, and if practical, the countries where they are located.

If a member of UA or its advisers and agents collects personal information they are obliged under this Policy to provide the above information.

### **9.0 APP 6 – Use or disclosure of personal information**

If information has been collected for a primary purpose, the entity must not use or disclose the information for another purpose unless:

- the person consents to the use or disclosure of the information; or
- one of the exceptions allowed applies.

As the exceptions set out in the APPs are relatively complex, they have not been provided within this Policy.

If a member of UA or its advisers and agents seeks to disclose personal information, for any other reason than the primary reason it was collected, then they must first contact the Professional Standards department to have such disclosure authorised.

### **10.0 APP 7 – Direct marketing**

If personal information about an individual is held, that information must not be disclosed for the purpose of direct marketing.

Any direct marketing proposal should first be approved by Professional Standards.

For the purposes of this Policy, any marketing material made available by a member of UA that is explicitly provided for clients, eg monthly magazines, are able to be distributed. If a member of UA or its advisers and agents do send marketing material to clients, the clients should be able to easily opt out of having that material sent to them. This may be done by contacting UA by post, or phone. Please see below for details.

Similarly, any client of UA or its advisers and agents may opt out of receiving any direct marketing materials by contacting Professional Standards at:

Privacy Officer – Professional Standards

Unique Advisers  
 Privacy Officer – Professional Standards  
 36 A Langston Place  
 Epping NSW 2121  
 P: (02) 9869 4533

### **11.0 APP 8 – Cross-border disclosure of personal information**

There are obligations under the APPs to ensure that personal information is not transferred to another country. It is the policy of UA that no personal information should be transferred outside of Australia without the client's prior approval, and subject to receiving prior confirmation from the Operations Manager – Professional Standards.

For the purposes of this Policy, if personal client information is required to be transferred overseas in relation to an investment in a financial product, any member of UA or its advisers and agents are advised that the obligations under the APPs have been met so long as that financial product is one approved by UA for use.

### **12.0 APP 9 – Adoption, use or disclosure of government related identifiers**

An organisation must not adopt a government related identifier, such as a tax file number, as its own. Practically, this means that you could not for example, use a tax file number as a client reference for filing purposes.

Further, unless permitted you should not disclose a government related identifier to a third party.

### **13.0 APP 10 – Quality of personal information**

As part of the obligations under the APPs, you should take steps to ensure that all personal data collected is accurate, up to date and complete. Therefore, UA or its advisers and agents should seek to update the personal information of its clients as often as possible. At a minimum, it is expected that personal information is updated annually wherever possible.

### **14.0 APP 11 – Security of personal information**

Reasonable steps should be taken to ensure the security of all client personal information is kept secure. What these reasonable steps will be will vary depending on the situation. However, some practical steps that may be applicable are:

- Personal information stored on a computer is password protected and not available on a public network.
- Personal information stored in hard copy is kept in a lockable cabinet.

Further, if personal information has been obtained, it should be destroyed or de-identified once it is no longer required. Please note that there are certain obligations imposed that require client information to be retained for a certain period of time. You should contact Professional Standards if you have any queries as to how long personal information should be retained for.

### **15.0 APP 12 – Access to, and correction of, personal information**

If a member of UA, or its advisers and agents holds personal information about an individual, then on request by the individual they must give access to that information.



There are exemptions to the above rule, such as if disclosing that information would post a serious threat to the individual or if giving access would be unlawful. Further information as to when access is not required can be obtained from the Professional Standards department.

If a request for information is received, it must be dealt with in a reasonable period of time.

An access charge may be applied to personal information however it must not be excessive and must not apply to the making of the request.

If access to personal information is refused then the individual must be informed in writing that sets out why access was refused and how an individual is able to lodge a complaint about the refusal.

#### **16.0 APP 13 – Correction of personal information**

If personal information is held and either:

1. It is apparent that the information is inaccurate, out of date, incomplete, irrelevant or misleading; or
2. The individual requests the entity to correct the information; then steps must be taken to ensure that the information is accurate, up to date, complete, relevant and not misleading.

Any request to correct information should be dealt with within a reasonable period after the request was made.

#### **17.0 Privacy complaints**

If individuals wish to complain about any breach or potential breach of this Privacy Policy or the Australian Privacy Principles, our Professional Standards team can be contacted phone (03 9029 0224), or in writing to 36 A Langston Place Epping NSW 2121.

The complaint will be considered within seven days and responded to accordingly. It is our intention to use our best endeavours to resolve any complaint to an individual's satisfaction; however, if they are unhappy with our response, they are entitled to contact the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner who may investigate the complaint further.

#### **18.0 Non-compliance with this policy**

Non-compliance with this Policy may result in disciplinary action and could include the termination of a relationship with UA if the breach is considered serious.

If you are uncertain about how this Policy applies to a particular circumstance, or you have any questions about the Policy, speak to a member of the Professional Standards team.

#### **19.0 Review**

This Policy will be reviewed by the UA Compliance Committee at least annually or as changing circumstances warrant.