

We have long held the view that you cannot be a product manufacturer and provide impartial financial advice. This occurs as a result of financial planning advice including investment and product recommendations. The two functions should be separated. Indeed many financial planners do not have solid investment knowledge and rely on the institution they are aligned to for approved products. All consumers should have open access to all products that are available, just like a supermarket shelf.

In regards to protection of SMSFs and educational standards, not only should there be increased educational standards for advisors but also for trustees of a SMSF. If you are a trustee of a fund there should be minimum educational standards which may include a course on investments , leverage , risk etc. with regards to leverage there is a very dangerous precedents being set where SMSF s can directly leverage into property. There needs to be a limit on amount of leverage permissible which is lower than normal LVRs for individuals. In the future cost effective financial advice will be available via technology and online. Consumers will be able to enter all the data and goals. Recommended strategy and asset allocation will be provided cost effectively. The consumer then will be able to access product from any provider they feel most comfortable with. We have been providing independent investment advice for over 15 years believing in the principal of removing all conflicts re ! product a nd acting solely in the best interest of our clients.

Providence Wealth Advisory Group