WEALTH DESIGNERS ADVISORY

ISSUE NO. 01 · MAY 2026

The Wealth Blueprint

Insight for the next chapter of your life — strategies, structures, and decisions that quietly compound into a better retirement.

$30k
CONCESSIONAL CAP 2025–26

$2m
GENERAL TBC FROM 1 JUL 2025

5wks
REMAINING BEFORE 30 JUNE

24–36m
INCOME RUNWAY THE PRACTICE HOLDS

INAUGURAL ISSUE
May 2026

IN FOCUS
EOFY · The Five-Year Glide Path

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Have I done enough?
And how would I know?

Welcome to the inaugural edition of The Wealth Blueprint — our monthly perspective on the strategies, structures and decisions that quietly compound into a better retirement. This issue lands with around five weeks remaining in the financial year — historically the most consequential window of the year for our clients. Choices made between now and 30 June set the trajectory for the next decade of compounding, contribution capacity, and tax outcomes.

> *We have written it for two audiences at once: the families we already advise, and the accountants and other professional partners we collaborate with on shared cases.*

The brief for both is the same — distilled, practical thinking from inside an SMSF Specialist practice, written for people who are five to fifteen years from the work they choose, rather than the work they have to do.

If anything in here prompts a question about your own situation, the diary is open.

Troy

Troy Gudgeon · Director
Wealth Designers Advisory · Brisbane & Sydney

IN THIS ISSUE

What we're reading, watching, and writing about *this month.*

01 · MARKET LENS

May 2026 — three structural shifts *now in play.*

The first quarter of 2026 has reinforced a theme we have been writing about for the better part of two years: the next decade will not look like the last.

RBA CASH RATE	ASX 200 DIV YIELD	TOP-5 ASX INDEX WEIGHT	10-YR AGB YIELD
3.85%	4.1%	31%	4.6%
Held · 6 months	+0.3% YoY	Concentration rising	Real returns positive

Indicative figures at time of writing. For illustration only.

i.

Higher-for-longer is now policy reality.

The RBA's positioning has confirmed what bond markets started pricing late last year — the era of free money is genuinely behind us. Cash and term-deposit returns are once again paying enough to matter, and the long-duration assets that punished conservative portfolios in 2022–23 have repriced.

ii.

Equity returns are concentrating in narrower bands.

A handful of mega-cap technology names continue to do the heavy lifting on the major indices. A passive index purchase today is, in practical terms, an active bet on the same five or six companies. Diversification has rarely required more deliberate effort.

iii.

Australia remains a high-yield outlier.

Franked dividends, residential property, and the structural strength of the resources sector continue to give Australian portfolios a yield profile most developed markets envy. For income-focused retirees, this matters more than headline growth numbers.

OUR PRACTICE VIEW

We are not making tactical bets — we are making sure *the right things are true.*

We are not making tactical bets on rates or markets. We are making sure every client portfolio is doing three things deliberately.

01

Earning a sensible cash yield on the defensive sleeve.

After a decade in which cash was a drag, the defensive sleeve has a real job again. We want it paid for the work it is doing.

02

Holding genuinely diversified growth exposure.

Not closet-index concentration. When five names drive the return, the “diversified” growth portfolio is doing less than the label suggests.

03

Holding 24–36 months of pension drawdowns in cash & defensives.

So we are never forced sellers of growth assets in a poor market year. This single discipline does more for retirement outcomes than any tactical call we could make.

A NOTE ON WHAT WE DO NOT DO

We do not forecast markets. We engineer the conditions under which forecasting becomes optional.

A portfolio that can fund 30 years of retirement without forced selling does not need a correct view on next year’s returns. That is the point of the architecture in this issue.

02 · EOFY 2026

Six strategies *worth your attention.*

With five weeks remaining in the financial year, the highest-leverage actions for our client base sit in six places. None are exotic. All are time-bound.

01

Maximise the concessional contributions cap.

LEVERAGE · PRE-RETIREES

Standard cap for 2025–26 is **$30,000**, inclusive of employer SG. For most pre-retirees, the real opportunity is the gap between SG already paid and the full cap — additional salary sacrifice or a personal deductible contribution before 30 June can deliver tax savings of up to 32% on the marginal rate differential.

02

Use carry-forward unused cap, if eligible.

LEVERAGE · TSB < $500K

Anyone with a Total Super Balance under **$500,000 at 30 June 2025** can sweep up unused concessional cap from the previous five financial years. We have identified clients with over **$130,000** of unused cap available — deployed well, that can be a decisive single-year tax outcome.

03

Bring-forward non-concessional contributions.

LEVERAGE · INHERITANCE · DOWNSIZER · SALE

Non-concessional contributions of up to **$360,000 over a three-year period** remain available to those under the relevant Total Super Balance threshold. Particularly powerful for clients receiving an inheritance, downsizing, or selling an investment property.

04

Review spouse contribution splitting.

LEVERAGE · COUPLES

Splitting up to **85%** of the prior year's concessional contributions to a spouse's account is one of the most under-used equalisation strategies we see. It supports the lower-balance spouse approaching the Transfer Balance Cap, and can materially improve a couple's lifetime tax position.

05

Confirm any Notice of Intent to claim a deduction.

LEVERAGE · OPERATIONAL

Personal deductible super contributions only attract the deduction if a **valid Notice of Intent** is lodged with the fund and acknowledged before lodging the tax return. Every year we see otherwise excellent strategy fail at this final step.

06

Realise — or defer — capital gains with intent.

LEVERAGE · PRE-RETIREES WITH NON-SUPER ASSETS

Pre-retirees with significant non-super assets should be sequencing CGT events deliberately — using carry-forward losses, harvesting gains in lower-income years, or deferring into the first year of retirement when marginal rates fall. Rarely improvised well in the last week of June.

The figures above are current at the time of publication and reflect indexation to date. Eligibility for several of these strategies depends on your Total Super Balance, age, and work-test status — please don't act on any of them in isolation.

02 · EOFY 2026 · REFERENCE

Caps & thresholds *at a glance.*

Built so a client, an accountant, or a Responsible Manager can scan the levers in ten seconds. Eligibility-tested in advice; treat the table as orientation, not authority.

Contributions & pension thresholds — 2025–26

LEVER	2025–26 FIGURE	ELIGIBILITY GATE	WHY IT MATTERS
Concessional cap (annual)	**$30,000**	SG counted toward the cap	Marginal-rate tax saving on each dollar deferred
Carry-forward unused cap	**5 years back**	TSB < $500,000 at 30 Jun 2025	Can compress years of cap into a single high-income year
Non-concessional cap (annual)	**$120,000**	TSB < general TBC	After-tax capital relocation into a tax-advantaged structure
NCC bring-forward (3-yr)	**up to $360,000**	Under 75, TSB-tested	Lumpy events: inheritance, downsizer-adjacent, asset sales
Downsizer contribution	**$300,000 / member**	Age 55+, primary residence 10y+	Does not count toward NCC cap or TSB test
General Transfer Balance Cap	**$2,000,000**	Personal cap indexed individually	Ceiling on capital moved into retirement-phase pension
Spouse contribution split	**up to 85% of prior CC**	Receiving spouse under preservation age (typ.)	Equalises balances; protects against TBC asymmetry
Personal deduction (NoI)	**Procedural**	Acknowledged before lodgement	Without the NoI, the deduction simply does not exist

PRACTICE NOTE

The five-week window matters because the levers are sequential.

Carry-forward and NCC bring-forward both depend on TSB at 30 June 2025. CGT timing depends on contract date, not settlement. Spouse splits are made after year-end but reference prior-year contributions. We work the order backwards from 30 June so each lever pulls cleanly without disqualifying the next.

03 · STRATEGY IN FOCUS

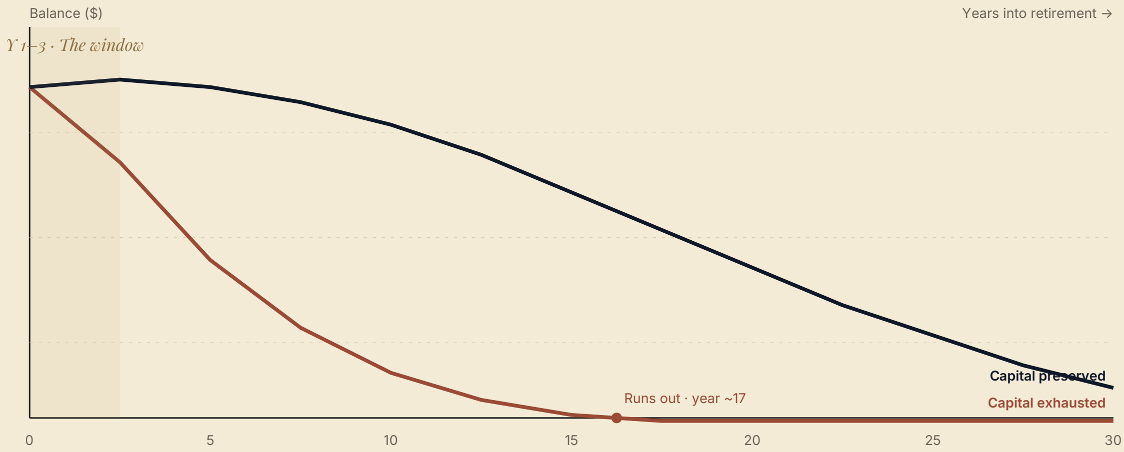
The Five-Year *Glide Path.*

For clients within five years of retirement, the single largest controllable risk is sequencing risk — the danger that a poor run of investment returns in the first few years of drawdown permanently damages the portfolio's ability to support a 30-year retirement.

The mathematics is unforgiving. Two retirees with the same average annual return over 30 years will end with vastly different outcomes if the order of those returns differs. The retiree who experiences poor markets in years 1–3 — and is forced to sell down assets to fund pension payments — may run out of money **fifteen years before** the retiree who got lucky with the timing. Same average return. Different lives.

Two retirees, same average return, different lives.

Illustrative balance over 30 years of pension drawdowns. Both portfolios earn the same 7.0% average annual return; only the order of returns differs.



Good sequence — strong early returns
Poor sequence — weak early returns

The Five-Year Glide Path is how our practice manages this risk in the years where it matters most.

T-5 » T-3

Quietly reweighting.

Shift defensive allocation upward — not reactively, but by directing new contributions, dividends, and rebalancing flows. Avoids CGT events; lets the portfolio reweight organically.

T-3 » T-1

Building the income runway.

Construct 24–36 months of forecast pension drawdowns in cash, term deposits, and short-duration fixed interest. In any reasonable bear market, no forced selling.

T-0 onward

The bucket structure.

From day one of pensions, the portfolio runs on a three-bucket system. Distinct horizons, distinct purposes, and a refill discipline that neutralises sequencing risk. See over.

THE BUCKET STRUCTURE · IN DETAIL

How the portfolio funds *30 years of retirement.*

> *The discipline of refilling the buckets* **only when growth markets are healthy** *is what neutralises sequencing risk. The structure does the work; the rule does the judgement.*

This is not an exotic strategy — it is a deliberate one. The clients who execute it consistently arrive at retirement without the white-knuckle anxiety that defines the experience for so many Australians who have done everything else right but who never planned the transition itself.

04 · SMSF CORNER

Final reminders *before 30 June.*

A short note for the trustees among our readership, and for the accountants whose SMSF clients we co-advise.

i.

Minimum pension drawdowns.

BEFORE 30 JUNE

Confirm minimum payments have been made for each member in account-based pension phase. Underpayment by even one cent can be treated as the pension having ceased for tax purposes — a $1.50 administrative slip can cost tens of thousands in lost exempt fund earnings.

ii.

Contribution timing & the bank rule.

INITIATE BY 25 JUNE

Contributions are recognised in the financial year the cash is received in the fund's bank account, not the year the transfer was initiated. EFTs initiated late in June can settle in July. Lodge early.

iii.

Transfer Balance Cap headroom.

CONFIRM PER MEMBER

With the general TBC at **$2 million** as of 1 July 2025, members commencing or restructuring pensions need to confirm available cap space. Indexation is personal — it depends on your highest used balance, not the headline cap.

iv.

BDBN & reversionary nominations.

REVIEW ANNUALLY

Now is the right month to review Binding Death Benefit Nominations and reversionary pension elections before they lapse. We are seeing a steady increase in BDBN-related disputes nationally; precision in wording and witnessing has rarely mattered more.

v.

Asset valuations for the auditor.

AT 30 JUNE

Real property, unlisted assets, and collectables held by the fund must be supported by objective evidence of market value at 30 June. If you have not refreshed valuations in the last twelve months, consider whether you need to before lodgement.

04 · SMSF CORNER · FOR ACCOUNTANT PARTNERS

A short, structured note *to the accountants we work alongside.*

We co-advise a steady book of SMSF clients with accounting firms across Brisbane and Sydney. The most useful contribution we make is rarely the strategy itself — it is the timing, the documentation, and the alignment with what you are already doing for the client.

01

A clean handshake on year-end events.

Where a fund is about to commence pension phase, restructure, or take a large contribution, a 15-minute call before the trustee minutes are drafted is worth ten emails after the fact. We bring the strategy memo; you bring the tax outcome.

02

Trustee minutes that reflect the advice.

We provide a one-page strategy summary you can attach to the trustee resolution. It keeps the audit trail tight and means the fund file says the same thing the SOA says.

03

No product commissions. No cross-referral fees.

We are self-licensed. We do not pay for introductions and we do not receive product commissions. Where a client benefits from a relationship between our firms, the only beneficiary is the client.

FOR ACCOUNTANT PARTNERS

A brief call before EOFY is worth ten emails after.

If you have a shared client whose fund is approaching pension phase or restructuring, reply to this email — we will route it to Troy directly.

SMSF Specialist Adviser
SSAA · SSA™

05 · WORKING WITH US

Self-licensed. Deliberately small. *Answering to one constituency.*

We are a self-licensed practice, which means our advice answers to one constituency only — the people we sit across from. We do not receive product commissions. We are not aligned to any institution. Our recommendations reflect what we believe is best for the client in front of us.

Who we are built for.

Pre-retirees and retirees in the **50–70** age bracket. Households with meaningful super and non-super capital, a desire to work less by choice rather than necessity, and an appetite for advice that earns its keep over decades, not months.

Who we are not for.

People looking for stock tips, tactical trades, or product recommendations divorced from a strategy. We are not the cheapest provider of financial advice in Sydney or Brisbane, and we are not trying to be.

01

Discovery call.

A 30-minute conversation. No materials needed. No fee. We confirm fit in both directions, and outline what an engagement would look like.

02

Strategy meeting.

We build a draft strategy against your actual numbers. You see the architecture before you see an invoice. Fixed fee, agreed upfront.

03

Implementation & review.

We implement, document, and review on a defined cadence. Ongoing engagement is annual and renewable — not perpetual by default.

Book a Discovery Call ››

Open Client Portal ››

We work with a deliberately small number of households and a deliberately small number of professional partners. If someone in your network is approaching retirement and would benefit from a structured second opinion, we welcome the introduction.

The Wealth *Blueprint*

Issue 02 — June 2026 — lands the week of EOFY. We will be writing about the first 90 days of pension phase, the ATO's position on intra-fund transfers, and the case for keeping a small portion of the portfolio deliberately illiquid.

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By appointment
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