



Alice Uribe, *ifa*; Anthony Vaiente, Fitzpatrick's Financial Group

Chris Smith, VISIS Private Wealth; Ashley Parker, Commsec Adviser Services

## SMSF ADVISER OF THE YEAR

**WINNER**  
Chris Morcom,  
Hewison Private  
Wealth

This award recognises the adviser who demonstrates exemplary technical knowledge of SMSF practice with a strong client-centric offering.

**WITH MORE** and more SMSF trustees looking for expert advice, SMSF Adviser of the Year, Chris Morcom of Hewison Private Wealth, said the key to successful SMSF advice lies in being technically proficient.

Mr Morcom was recognised for his technical expertise in SMSF practice as well as strong customer service. He says he makes sure each client receives specifically tailored advice.

"I think when it comes to SMSF advice, the advice is tailored to each client's situation and that is the most important thing that we can offer," he said.

On receiving the award, Mr Morcom said it represents recognition of the hard work he has put in over the past 15 years.

"I hope [this award] gives my clients some peace of mind that they are with the right adviser," Mr Morcom said.

### FINALISTS:

- Cameron Howlett, Moran Howlett Financial Planning
- Chris Smith, VISIS Private Wealth
- Dennis J Maddern, Maddern Financial Advisers
- Simon Curtain, Hewison Private Wealth

## EDITOR'S CHOICE AWARD

**WINNER**  
Charles  
Badenach, Main  
Street Financial  
Solutions

This award recognises an independent financial advice community member who contributes meaningfully to political and commercial discourse.

**AS THE** name suggests, the Editor's Choice Award recognises a valuable editorial contact and supporter who is passionate about independent advice and happy to promote it publicly.

"The winner of the year's award is passionate about helping people and promotes non-conflicted advice via his roles as an adviser, author and speaker - and not to mention being very active on social media," said *ifa* editor Alice Uribe.

"The recipient is a thought leader, actively involved in community endeavours and helps small business owners, professionals, retirees and charitable foundations safeguard their financial future."

The winner of this award, Charles Badenach of Main Street Financial Solutions, was unable to attend the *ifa Excellence Awards*. However, he delivered his acceptance speech in a video, which was played at the event.

"Thank you very much for the award. It's an amazing honour. It was something I didn't expect," Mr Badenach said.

"I'd like to thank *ifa* for recognising the importance of independent and non-aligned financial advice. We think we have a big role to play going forward in the industry."

Anthony Vaiente of Fitzpatrick's Financial Group, the licensee for Main Street Financial Solutions, accepted the award on Mr Badenach's behalf.

## BEST CLIENT SERVICING - INDIVIDUAL

**WINNER**  
Chris Smith,  
VISIS  
Private  
Wealth

This award recognises the individual who demonstrated a commitment to the growth of the practice through successful delivery of customer service.

**SERVICING AND** helping clients is what financial advisers do best. Providing valuable knowledge and guidance to ensure that their clients' goals are met, advisers put in hours of hard work to ensure the best outcomes are achieved.

VISIS Private Wealth's Chris Smith, who won this year's Best Client Servicing award, was acknowledged for precisely that. Judges found that Mr Smith runs a sustainable and profitable advice practice through the successful delivery of the business' customer service proposition.

"In our industry, clients are always first and most important," Mr Smith said.

"I think the award is largely in recognition of the performance of our staff. It starts at reception, it goes all the way through the adviser, the support staff, para-planners, associate advisers, through to our general management."

### FINALISTS:

- Ben Nash, Successful Ways
- Cara Brett, Bounce Financial
- Glenn Fairbairn, Hewison Private Wealth
- Grant Dougan, VISIS Private Wealth
- Ravi Agarwal, Mediq Financial Services



Great to see @AliceUribe1 announce #ifaawards winner @CBadenach congrats & well deserved @mickjackback

- Jenny Pearse