

First group of graduates earn Life Risk designation

BY CAROLINE MUNRO

THE FPA's Life Risk Specialist Accreditation Program has just seen its first group of graduates, who now have earned the right to have that specialist designation behind their names.

Similar to the concept of the CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ Mark, the LRS® Life Risk Specialist designation will set graduates apart as specialists in that field.

The Program was designed for FPA practitioner members, both Associate Financial Planners (AFP) and CFP® professionals.

"Quite a large amount of time was devoted to the construction of the dedicated Life Risk education unit of the program – Life Risk Principles for Professional Planners," said the FPA's Professional Services Manager, John Green. "From the early curriculum committee work undertaken by the FPA with the assistance of senior life risk practitioners, through to the writing of each of the topics within the unit, there was a clear objective to ensure that the material was of a higher technical and practical level than what could be found



in introductory style courses to the subject. The good feedback received from students to date has confirmed that to a large extent those initial objectives have been achieved, but like any new education endeavour, improvements have already been identified for subsequent versions of the course. This constant revision of materials will ensure that the course will remain accurate and relevant for those wishing to achieve the specialist designation."

One of the graduates, Godfrey Pembroke planner Clinton Pentland CFP, said he wanted to further his skills because he is doing more work in that specific area.

"After completing the CFP Program last year, the FPA's Life Risk Specialist Accreditation Program was the next step in further developing my skill set in personal risk protection, which I believe is a vital and currently under-served area of our industry," said Pentland.

He said the course units are much more specific than CFP.

"It actually gets right down into underwriting and claims, and the history of insurance in Australia and globally. It gives you more detailed case studies, such as disability and life cover and all those sorts of things, which are probably more skimmed over in CFP.

"The Program gave me a relevant and modern insight into the real risks Australians are facing and how various strategies and tailored products can protect against these risks."

Another graduate, Caroline Bell CFP of Summerhill Financial Services, said she felt there is no other structured insurance course that goes into as much detail, and she found its 'independence' from an insurance company or broker appealing.

"It was also an opportunity to consolidate the knowledge I've accumulated over the years, making sure I'm on top of all the current issues given insurance has changed over time.

"There were also some different ways of thinking about things that I hadn't come across before, which I found

quite useful," she added.

The Program can act as a stepping-stone towards CFP certification. The first unit of the Life Risk Accreditation program is also the first CFP Certification unit, so those that hold an Advanced Diploma of Financial Services (Financial Planning) or equivalent will be eligible to continue the CFP Program throughout subsequent trimesters. For more information, visit www.fpa.asn.au/lrs. ❖

Life Risk Specialist graduates

Caroline Bell (CFP®)
 Michael Davie (CFP®)
 Brett Dillon (CFP®)
 Michael Hogben (CFP®)
 Vincent Martin (CFP®)
 Sean McGowan (CFP®)
 Daniel Musumeci (AFP)
 Glenn Paterson (CFP®)
 Clinton Pentland (CFP®)
 Pragasen Pillay (CFP®)
 Brenton Pittman (CFP®)
 Richard Purchase (CFP®)
 Peter Roan (CFP®)
 Dana Sattout (AFP)
 Mark Sullivan (CFP®)
 John Williams (AFP)
 David Brownnett (AFP)
 Christie Rigg (CFP®)
 Louise Lakomy (CFP®)