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03.10 Guarantees

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1. About this policy

1.1 Why this policy

This policy identifies all acceptable guarantee types and their associated requirements You must read this policy in conjunction with:

- Acceptable Security Collateral
- Commitments
- <u>Document Standards</u>
- Eligibility
- Genuine Savings, Equity and Customer Contribution
- Living Expenses
- Loan to Value Ratio (LVR)
- Maximum Loan Term
- Security Collateral Value Assessment
- <u>Self-employed applicants</u>
- Serviceability Assessment
- <u>Loan Application and Approval > Validation of information provided by the customer</u>
- <u>Verifying income</u>

If the loan application requires mortgage insurance, refer to <u>Lenders Mortgage Insurance</u> where required.

1.2 What is a guarantee?

A guarantee is a contractual promise given by a third party, i.e. the guarantor, who agrees, that in the event the customers are unable or unwilling to repay the loan, the guarantor is liable for the amount of the limited guarantee.

1.3 National Credit Code and Banking Code of Practice

The National Credit Code (NCC) and the Banking Code of Practice (BCoP) provide protections to individuals who enter into a guarantee as security for a loan.

For details of the Banking Code of Practice requirements relating to Guarantees, refer to:

• Banking Code of Practice (BCoP)

Also refer to:

- Independent legal advice
- Guarantee amount-NCC and BCoP

In all instances, prospective guarantors are to be informed that they need to make any appropriate enquiries about the credit worthiness, financial position and integrity of the borrowers. This should be pointed out at application and again at approval. (The prospective guarantors are reminded of this prior to signing the Guarantee and Indemnity.)

2. Rules you must apply

2.1 Guarantee types and guarantors

For Consumer Lending policy, the Bank requires a guarantor to be an individual. An entity cannot be a guarantor.

The 'Policy rules per guarantee type' tables specify:

- and define the acceptable guarantee types and acceptable guarantors. Acceptability is also subject to:
 - appropriate assessment of the borrower and guarantor Requirements and Objectives,
 and
 - o and all credit requirements being met
- The acceptable guarantors according to the guarantee type
- Other applicable policy rules

Exceptions may be considered by Credit, subject to strong mitigating reasons being provided.

2.1.1 Guarantor direct benefit

Requirements for establishing that the guarantor will receive a direct benefit will vary from one application to another.

Westpac Group is required to demonstrate that the guarantor made a fully informed decision and will receive a measurable benefit that is comparable to the risk they are taking on. A financial benefit is the easiest to define and measure (e.g. the guarantor living in the property they are guaranteeing free of rent).

Non-financial benefit is more difficult to measure and is, therefore, unlikely to be approved where the relationship is something other than a parent guaranteeing a loan for their children or a Shared Equity Guarantee.

2.1.2 'Other' Guarantee types

Guarantee types other than those specified under 'Policy rules per guarantee type 'a are generally not acceptable unless a Guarantor direct benefit can be established.

Credit approval is required for any 'other' guarantee type, and the application must be referred to Credit for assessment before any provisional approval decision is advised to the borrower.

Regardless of the guarantee amount, the borrowers are required to contribute a minimum 5% of the value of a security collateral being purchased plus purchase costs. These funds:

- re to be visible in the applicants' assets with a comment in ApplyOnline detailing which assets are being used to meet this requirement
- **are not** required to comply with to comply with <u>Genuine Savings</u> policy.

2.1.3 Unacceptable Guarantors

- Non-Residents refer to Lending to Non-Australian Citizens policy
- Temporary Australian Residency Visa Holders refer to <u>Lending to Non-Australian Citizens</u> <u>policy</u> > Visa Matrix and Applicant via Resident Type Matrix
- Permanent Australian Residency Visa holder not holding an acceptable borrower visa type as per the <u>Lending to Non-Australian Citizens policy</u> > Visa Matrix and Applicant via Resident Type Matrix
- Entities
- Where all security collateral(s) offered have 100% guarantor ownership (i.e. The borrower must have ownership of at least one security collateral being offered)
- For Family-Security Guarantee, Guarantor relationships other than those listed are unacceptable e.g. non-quardians, uncles, aunts, grandparents, non-family members
- Any guarantor not identified as acceptable in this policy, or approved as an exception by Credit

2.2 Policy rules per acceptable guarantee type

Serviceability Assessment policy specifies when household expenses and/or commitments can be apportioned between the borrower and a non-income reliant guarantor.

For further information, refer to <u>Serviceability Assessment</u> > Rules you must apply:

• Appartiance bousehold expanses and characteristic Special same bousehold.

- Apportioned household expenses and shared commitments Spousal same household;
 and
- Apportioned shared commitment rule.

2.2.1 Spousal- Security (2.2.1 Spousal- Security Guarantee	
Definition	 The guarantor's security is used as security collateral to support the consumer mortgage application (it may also be co-owned by the borrower), and The guarantor's income is not used in the serviceability assessment. The borrower must be able to service the loan on their own, or by virtue of a company or trust completely controlled by the borrower alone. 	
Acceptable guarantor relationship to the borrower	The borrower's spouse	
Unacceptable guarantors	Refer to ' <u>Unacceptable Guarantors'</u>	
Loan product and amount	Standard policy applies	
Loan purpose	Standard policy applies	
Loan structure	A 'Spousal-Security' guarantee is required from the mortgagor who is not the borrower	
Guarantee security collateral	 Guarantee security collateral type is a: Property, or Westpac Bank Term Deposit (WBC brand only) The borrower must have ownership in at least one security collateral. and complies with: 'Acceptable Security Collateral' policy, and 'Security Collateral Value Assessment' policy 	
Guarantee limit (guarantee amount \$)	Must be equal to the loan amount Also refer to 'Guarantee amount-NCC and BCoP'	
Loan to Value Ratio (LVR)	Refer to <u>Loan to Value Ratio (LVR)</u> policy	

Guarantor's financial position and serviceability	 Borrower's income only is used for serviceability, and Guarantor must provide details related to their: Guarantee security collateral, and Existing mortgage or existing guarantee commitments against their guarantee security collateral
Guarantor's credit bureau check	Not required
Lender's Mortgage Insurance additional policy rules	Not available in OBP
Independent Legal Advice	Required Also refer to 'Independent Legal Advice'
Verificati	on activity required against the guarantor
Guarantor's commitments	 Mandatory to verify the limit and balance of any existing mortgage against the guarantee security collateral. Verification document and allowable variances are as per Commitments Policy, and It is recommended to verify the guarantee limit for any existing guarantee against the guarantee security collateral. This could be achieved via internal systems or by obtaining a copy of the guarantee documentation
Guarantor's income	Not required, except where: • the Guarantor is also being tested as per Serviceability >Rules you must apply>Apportioned household expenses and shared commitments - Spousal same household policy
Guarantor's security collateral	Title search required
Validation of information provided by the customer (guarantor)	Not required
Guarantor's Exit Strategy	Not required

2.2.2 Spousal Income Guarantee

Definition	 The guarantor's income is used in the serviceability assessment, as the borrower's capacity to service the loan commitment is dependent on the income of the guarantor, and The guarantor's security is not used as guarantee security collateral to support the loan application
Acceptable guarantor relationship to the borrower	The borrower's spouse
Unacceptable guarantors	Refer to ' <u>Unacceptable Guarantors</u> '
Loan product and amount	Standard policy applies
Loan purpose	Standard policy applies
Loan structure	Application must be for one borrower only plus their one spousal guarantor i.e. No other party on the loan
Guarantee security collateral	Not applicable-income only guarantee
Guarantee limit (guarantee amount \$)	 Must be equal to the loan amount Also refer to 'Guarantee amount-NCC and BCoP'
Loan to Value Ratio (LVR)	Refer to <u>Loan to Value Ratio (LVR)</u> policy
Guarantor's financial position and serviceability	 Borrower's and guarantor's income is used for serviceability, and Serviceability cannot be 100% reliant on the guarantor's income. The borrower must also generate an income in their own capacity which is used for serviceability, and Guarantor must provide details related to their Income (including Employment details), and Living Expenses, and Commitments, and Assets
Guarantor's credit bureau check	Mandatory
Lender's Mortgage Insurance additional policy rules	Standard policy applies

Independent Legal Advice	Recommended Also refer to ' <u>Independent Legal Advice</u> '	
Verification	Verification activity required against the guarantor	
Guarantor's commitments	Verify as per ' <u>Commitments'</u> Policy	
Guarantor's income	Verify as per <u>'Verifying Income</u> policy	
Guarantor's security collateral	Not applicable-income only guarantee	
Validation of information provided by the customer (guarantor)	Verify as per <u>'Loan Application and Approval > Validation</u> of information provided by the customer policy	
Guarantor's Exit Strategy	Verify as per <u>Maximum Loan Term</u> policy	

2.2.3 Spousal- Income + Security Guarantee	
Definition	 The guarantor's income is used in the serviceability assessment, as the borrower's capacity to service the loan commitment is dependent on the income of the guarantor, and The guarantor's security is used as guarantee security collateral to support the consumer mortgage application (it may also be co-owned by the borrower)
Acceptable guarantor relationship to the borrower	The borrower's spouse
Unacceptable guarantors	Refer to ' <u>Unacceptable Guarantors</u> '
Loan product and amount	Standard policy applies
Loan purpose	Standard policy applies
Loan structure	Application must be for one borrower only plus their one spousal guarantor i.e. No other party on the loan

Guarantee security collateral	 Guarantee security collateral type is a: Property, or Westpac Bank Term Deposit (WBC brand only) The borrower must have ownership in at least one security collateral. and complies with: 'Acceptable Security Collateral' policy, and 'Security Collateral Value Assessment' policy
Guarantee limit (guarantee amount \$)	 Must be equal to the loan amount Also refer to 'Guarantee amount-NCC and BCoP'
Loan to Value Ratio (LVR)	Refer to <u>Loan to Value Ratio (LVR)</u> policy
Guarantor's financial position and serviceability	 Borrower's and guarantor's income is used for serviceability, and Serviceability cannot be 100% reliant on the guarantor's income. The borrower must also generate an income in their own capacity which is used for serviceability, and Guarantor must provide details related to their: Income (including Employment details), and Living Expenses, and Commitments, and Assets
Guarantor's credit bureau check	Mandatory
Lender's Mortgage Insurance additional policy rules	Not available in OBP
Independent Legal Advice	Required Also refer to ' <u>Independent Legal Advice</u> '
Verific	ation activity required for the guarantor
Guarantor's commitments	 Verify as per 'Commitments' Policy It is recommended to verify the guarantee limit for any existing guarantee against the guarantee security collateral. This could be achieved via internal systems or by obtaining a copy of the guarantee documentation
Guarantor's income	Verify as per <u>Verifying Income</u> policy
Guarantor's security collateral	Title search required

Validation of information provided by the customer (guarantor)	Verify as per <u>'Loan Application and Approval > Validation of</u> <u>information provided by the customer</u> policy
Guarantor's Exit Strategy	Verify as per <u>Maximum Loan Term</u> policy

2.2.4 Family Security	Guarantee
Definition	 This guarantee type allows acceptable family members with equity available in their own property or a Term Deposit to help borrowers cover the shortfall between the security value extended against the borrower's property and the proposed loan amount. The guarantor's security is used as security collateral to support the loan application, and The guarantor's security collateral is not co-owned by the borrower (refer to Share Equity Guarantee if it is co-owned), and The guarantor's income is not used in the serviceability assessment. The borrower must be able to service the loan on their own, or by virtue of a company or trust completely controlled by the borrower alone.
Acceptable guarantor relationship to the borrower	The guarantor/s is the borrower's: • Parent/s or step-parents or legal guardian/s, or • Son/s or daughter/s or step-children • Sibling/s or step-siblings
Unacceptable guarantors	Refer to ' <u>Unacceptable Guarantors</u> '
Loan product and amount	 Loan Product Unacceptable where borrower is seeking a Bridging Loan Loan Amount Can finance up to 100% of the purchase price, refinance amount or construction cost and direct purchase costs associated with the security purchase / refinance / construction and provision of the loan: direct costs include Government costs, Solicitors costs, eligible Bank fees and Insurance costs.
Loan purpose	Acceptable:

- Purchase, construction or refinance of a property for investment, where borrowers do not have ownership of any other property at the time of application, or
- Purchase, refinance, construction of, or home improvements to a property for owner occupation where the borrower(s) collectively do not have ownership of more than one other property at the time of consumer mortgage application and the already owned property does not have sufficient equity to provide security for the new purchase without incurring mortgage insurance.

Plus:

- If Construction or Home improvements, must be by Licensed Builder (not available for Owner Builder) and funded by progress payments, and
- If existing loan increase for home improvement, an existing Family-Security Guarantee limit cannot be increased (loan will need to be re-originated)

Unacceptable: (For new originations or increases to existing loans) including but not limited to:

- Refinance of any debt other than that listed as 'acceptable' above (e.g. non-mortgage debt consolidation of any personal debts such as credit card or personal loans into the loan amount). Exceptions to this policy condition are not permitted
- Family-Security Guarantee added to an existing loan (loan will need to be fully re-originated
- Construction or Home Improvement by Owner Builder
- Cash Out
- Access to equity in the borrower's security collateral for the purpose of providing supporting security collateral to another loan. Borrower's security collateral cannot be used to support further lending while a Family-Security Guarantee is in place (via cross collateralisation or debt allocation /debt apportioning). If equity has been established in the borrower's property, the borrower(s) are encouraged to release the Family-Security Guarantee / guarantor's security property. Once the borrower is no longer receiving a benefit from a Family-Security Guarantee, application processing can continue as per standard policy for home loan option and debt allocation may be considered
- Also refer to 'Subject to Credit Approval'

Loan structure

A guarantee is required from each mortgagor who is not a borrower for a particular facility

Guarantee security collateral

- Guarantee security collateral type is a:
 - o Property, or
- Westpac Bank Term Deposit (WBC brand only) and complies with
- 'Acceptable Security Collateral' policy, and
- <u>'Security Collateral Value Assessment'</u> policy

<i>n</i> 	Only one guarantee security collateral can be offered for the
	 'Family-Security Guarantee', and No more than one 'Family-Security Guarantee' in the application Guarantee supported by 1st mortgage Guarantee supported by 2nd mortgage if the 1st mortgage is to another financial institution and is not a 'Reverse Mortgage' styled facility² Unacceptable: Individual borrower/s with more than one Family- Security Guarantee
Guarantee limit (guarantee amount \$)	 Limited to an amount that is less than the full loan amount. Note: The limited guarantee amount cannot exceed 50% of the value of the guarantor's security collateral (exceptions can be referred to Credit) Also refer to: 'Guarantee amount-NCC and BCoP' Calculating available equity, guarantee amount and LVR>Family-Security Guarantee
Loan to Value Ratio (LVR)	Refer to: • Loan to Value Ratio (LVR) policy • Calculating available equity, guarantee amount and LVR>Family-Security Guarantee
Guarantor's financial position and serviceability	 Borrower's income only is used for serviceability Guarantor must provide details related to their: Guarantee security collateral Existing mortgage or existing guarantee commitments against their guarantee security collateral
Guarantor's credit bureau check	Not required
Lender's Mortgage Insurance additional policy rules	Not available in OBP
Independent Legal Advice	Required Also refer to ' <u>Independent Legal Advice</u> '
Subject to Credit Approval	Initial purchase of vacant land with a 'Family-Security Guarantee' but without a building contract in place, and mortgage insurance is not required. Internal refinance at a future date is allowed to fund the construction of a dwelling. A new Family-Security Guarantee will need to be included

	WBC Mortgage Broking OBP Policy
	at the time the internal refinance occurs to allow for the increased loan amount.
Verit	fication activity required for the guarantor
Guarantor's commitments	 Mandatory to verify the limit and balance of any existing mortgage against the guarantee security collateral³. Verification documents and allowable variances are as per Commitments Policy Mandatory to verify the guarantee limit for any existing guarantee against the guarantee security collateral. This could be achieved via internal systems or by obtaining a copy of the guarantee documentation³
Guarantor's income	Not required
Guarantor's security collateral	Title search required
Validation of information provided by the customer (guarantor)	Not required
Guarantor's Exit Strategy	Not required

¹ The same property can be used for more than one Family- Security Guarantee (e.g. a security collateral may be offered as a Family-Security Guarantee to support other eligible family member's loan). Any associated existing Guarantee amounts must be reflected against the guarantee security collateral to support 'Available Equity' and 'LVR' calculations

² If the Family-Security Guarantor's collateral has an existing mortgage, staff are to confirm that the existing facility is not a reverse mortgage-styled facility. Where the existing facility is a reverse mortgage, the application is unable to proceed as the Bank is unable to establish a defined amount for priority under the first mortgage

³ Confirm with the guarantor the total amount of any existing debts that may be secured by the guarantee property. The guarantor may need to consider not only the current balance of the primary loan they have outstanding, but any available redraw / unused credit limits, any prior guarantees issued to other family members, business overdrafts or investment loans which may have been supported (cross-collateralised) against the guarantors security property.

2.2.5 Shared Equity Guarantee	
Definition	 A borrower is seeking to access their equity share of a property which is currently owned as, or is being purchased or constructed as 'Tenants in Common' or 'Joint Tenants' with a non-spousal party/ies (e.g. sibling, parents, friends) The 'shared equity' property is used as the guarantee security collateral to support the consumer mortgage application, and The guarantor owns a share of the property being offered as the guarantee security collateral, and The guarantor's income is not used in the serviceability assessment. The borrower must be able to service the loan on their own, or by virtue of a company or trust completely controlled by the borrower alone.
Acceptable guarantor relationship to the borrower	Any relationship except 'spouse'
Unacceptable guarantors	 The guarantor must be a natural person in their own right (i.e. cannot be a director of a company or trustees of a trust) Cross-guarantee i.e. A and B are non-spousal. A and B are purchasing (MV: 100,000) with 50-50 ownership. A and B are each taking a loan (40,000 each) in their own name A provides guarantee to B and B provides guarantee to A (guarantee equal to loan amount). i.e. A and B are cross-guaranteeing each other for their shared purchase property Also refer to 'Unacceptable Guarantors'
Loan product and amount	Loan Product: Unacceptable where borrower is seeking a Bridging Loan
Loan purpose	No rules in addition to standard policy
Loan structure	A guarantee is required from each mortgagor who shares ownership of the property and is not a borrower for a particular facility
Guarantee security collateral	 Guarantee security collateral type is a property and complies with: Acceptable Security Collateral policy, and Security Collateral Value Assessment policy, and

	 Guarantee security collateral is the only security collateral offered Guarantee supported by 1st mortgage, or Guarantee supported by 2nd mortgage if the 1st mortgage is to another financial institution and is not a 'Reverse Mortgage' styled facility¹ - subject to Credit approval 	l
Guarantee limit (guarantee amount \$)	Also refer to: • 'Guarantee amount-NCC and BCoP' • Calculating available equity, guarantee amount and LVR>Shared Equity Guarantee	
Loan to Value Ratio (LVR)	Refer to <u>Loan to Value Ratio (LVR)</u> policy	
Guarantors financial position and serviceability	 Borrower's income only is used for serviceability, and Guarantor must provide details related to their: Guarantee security collateral, and Existing mortgage or existing guarantee commitment against their guarantee security collateral 	ts
Guarantors credit bureau check	Not required	
Lender's Mortgage Insurance additional policy rules	Not available in OBP	
Independent Legal Advice	Required Also refer to 'Independent Legal Advice'	
Subject to Credit Approval	Existing commitment (guarantor or borrower) against the guarantee security collateral. Referral required to manually calculate available equity.	
Verificati	on activity required for the guarantor	
Guarantor's commitments	 Mandatory to verify the limit and balance of any existing mortgage against the guarantee security collateral¹ Verification documents and allowable variances are as per Commitments Policy Mandatory to verify the guarantee limit for any existing guarantee against the guarantee security collateral. This could be achieved via internal systems or by obtaining a copy of the guarantee documentation¹ 	

Guarantor's income	Not required	
Guarantor's security collateral	Title search required	
Validation of information provided by the customer (guarantor)	Not required	
Guarantor's Exit Strategy	Not required	

¹ Confirm with the guarantor the total amount of any existing debts that may be secured by the guarantee property. The guarantor may need to consider not only the current balance of the primary loan they have outstanding, but any available redraw / unused credit limits, any prior guarantees issued to other family members, business overdrafts or investment loans which may have been supported (cross-collateralised) against the guarantors security property.

2.3 Guarantee amount-NCC and BCoP

Under NCC a guarantee can secure an amount that does not exceed the sum of the borrower's liabilities, plus reasonable expenses of enforcing the guarantee, or any lesser amount agreed between us and the guarantor. BCoP also requires a guarantee to limit the guarantor's liability.

2.4 Calculating available equity, guarantee amount and LVR 2.4.1 Family-Security Guarantee

The amount of available equity in security collateral offered as the 'Family –Security Guarantee' must be determined, to ensure there is sufficient equity to provide the guarantee. The LVR calculation allows us to determine whether the loan requires mortgage insurance.

The table below details how to calculate available equity, guarantee amount and LVR for a loan involving a 'Family-Security Guarantee'.

Feature	Calculation	
Available Equity in the Family-Security Guarantee Collateral	Determine: A. the guarantee security collateral value B. the maximum non-LMI LVR for the guarantee security collateral as per Loan to Value (LVR) policy C ¹ . any existing commitments (such as mortgages, pledges, debts, guarantees, business overdrafts or other liabilities) which are secured by the guarantee security collateral Available Equity = (A multiplied by B) minus C ¹	

	Determine:
	A. Loan amount
	B. the non- guarantee security collateral value
	C. the maximum non-LMI application (e.g. non-
Guarantee Limit/Amount	guarantee security collateral, purpose, borrower
	type) LVR as per <i>Loan to Value (LVR)</i> policy
	Guarantee Limit/Amount = (A <i>minus</i> (B <i>multiplied</i> by C)) <i>divided</i> by C
LVR	Refer to <u>Loan to Value (LVR)</u> policy>LVR Calculation

Legend

SGB, BSA, BoM and RAMS are considered to be 'other' financial institutions.

2.4.2 Shared Equity Guarantee

The amount of available equity in security collateral offered as the Shared Equity must be determined, to ensure there is sufficient equity to provide the Shared Equity guarantee.

The table below illustrates the calculation of LVR, available equity and guarantee amount for a loan involving a 'Shared Equity Guarantee'

Feature	Calculation	
Available Equity in the Shared Equity Guarantee Collateral	Determine: A. the guarantee security collateral value B. the maximum non-LMI application (e.g. non-guarantee security collateral, purpose, borrower type) LVR as per Loan to Value (LVR) policy C¹. any existing commitments (such as mortgages, pledges, debts, guarantees, business overdrafts or other liabilities) which are secured by the guarantee security collateral D. The ownership percentage of the borrower(s) Available Equity = ((A multiplied by B) minus C¹) multiplied by D	
LVR	Refer to Loan to Value (LVR) policy>LVR Calculation	

Legend

¹ Add a 20% buffer to the value of a debt (higher of limit or outstanding balance) secured by a first mortgage to an 'other' financial institution.

¹ Add a 20% buffer to the value of a debt (higher of limit or outstanding balance) secured by a first mortgage to an 'other' financial institution.

SGB, BSA, BoM and RAMS are considered to be 'other' financial institutions.

2.5 Providing advice to borrowers and guarantors

The guarantor must be interviewed separately in the absence of the borrower. When the proposed loan is either wholly or in part secured by a guarantee, the 'Advice requirements' in the table below apply.

Applicant type	Advice requirements		
Borrower	 The prospective borrowers must be made aware of the following requirements at the time of the interview: Loans that involve individuals providing a guarantee type of 'Family-Security Guarantee', 'Shared Equity Guarantee', 'Spousal-Security Guarantee' or 'Spousal-Income + Security Guarantee' are conditional on the guarantors obtaining independent legal advice and the Bank requires evidence that legal advice has been obtained. Independent legal advice is recommended but not mandatory for individuals providing a guarantee type of 'Spousal-Income Guarantee' The solicitor's cost is the responsibility of the guarantor (or borrower). Do not provide any advice in respect to the nature and effect of the guarantee. Note: Do not entrust the customer / borrower to act as Westpac's 'agent' to procure the guarantor's signature. Hand a copy of the Guarantor's Consent to Variation, Replacement or Alteration (LD164) to each guarantor. Alternatively, the consent form can be posted to the individual guarantor. 		
Guarantor	 Individual guarantor. The guarantor/s must be interviewed separately by the broker without the borrower present. At the interview, all prospective guarantors must be made aware of that: Independent legal advice and evidence of this advice is mandatory for guarantee types of 'Family-Security Guarantee', 'Shared Equity Guarantee', 'Spousal-Security Guarantee' or 'Spousal-Income + Security Guarantee' Independent legal advice is recommended but not mandatory for individuals providing a guarantee type of 'Spousal-Income Guarantee' There are financial risks involved in providing a guarantee, i.e. when the borrower is unable to the meet their financial obligations under the loan, the guarantor may need to pay for the debt commitments on behalf of the borrower. The guarantor may request information about the proposed loan to be guaranteed. 		

2.6 Independent legal advice

'<u>Policy rules per acceptable guarantee type</u>' details when independent legal advice is required according to the guarantee type

If legal advice is required, the guarantor needs to obtain this from a solicitor independent of the bank and the borrower to understand their obligations and liability under the guarantee. The completed Guarantor's Solicitor's Certificate is to be provided to the Bank prior to settlement (i.e. release of loan funds) to evidence that independent legal advice has been received.

Waiving of independent legal advice where it is **required** under policy may only be approved by Credit on exception basis.

2.6.1 Determining written legal advice evidence requirements

The written legal advice evidence requirements vary based on the guarantor's location:

State	Requirements
Australian Capital Territory Victoria Northern Territory Western Australia South Australia Queensland Tasmania	A solicitor's or barrister's certificate Independent legal advice is difficult to get in South Australia, Western Australian and Tasmania. However, the inability to obtain this advice is not grounds to warrant a waiver
New South Wales	 Statutory declaration made by the guarantor and witnessed by: The solicitor who gave the legal advice A justice of the peace, who is a member of the Australian Institute of Conveyancers

Note: The solicitor's certificate makes provision for more than one guarantor. Nevertheless, as a matter of policy, the documentation pack will include a separate form of certificate for each guarantor (certificates that have been amended to include more than one guarantor will be accepted). It is not for the Bank to be instructing solicitors as to who might be present at the time the advice is given.

2.6.2 Independence of the solicitor

The guarantor's solicitor must be independent of the Bank and the borrower, this includes:

- The solicitor is not to be a solicitor for the Bank or for the borrower in the particular transaction
- The solicitor is not being a solicitor for any other interested party who might have previously given security. An example of an interested party is a guarantor who, having previously provided security, stands to benefit by way of reduced liability, from any additional security given by other guarantors.
- The solicitor is not to be a partner of any solicitor who acts for the borrower or other interested party.

Exemption of independence rule

The solicitor can amend the certificate to signify that they also act for the borrower. Westpac Group, as a matter of policy exception, will generally accept the solicitor's certificate in such cases.

Exemption will **not** apply, for example, if:

- A guarantor is open to influence by the others, or
- One guarantor is a spouse of the director who 'runs' the business, and is only involved in a formal manner or in some minor capacity

2.6.3 Legal advice dispensation

Request for legal dispensation will be considered by Credit on an exception basis.

2.6.3.1 Determining undue influence on the guarantor

If the Bank knows, or suspects, the guarantee relationship is one of dependency, reliance, or dominance, you must insist on independent legal advice and a solicitor's certificate. Otherwise, the courts might presume that there was undue influence and set aside the guarantee.

To help to determine whether there is undue influence, consider the following questions:

1. Might anyone, in addition to the borrower, benefit from the guarantee being given?

This could include:

- Other individuals who have already given, or are about to give, guarantees (e.g. husband and wife)
- If the borrower is a trust, a beneficiary of the trust, or
- Anybody else who has a significant direct or indirect interest in the borrower (e.g. shareholder)
- 2. What is the nature of the relationship between the guarantor and any other benefited person?

With some relationships there is a presumption of undue influence no matter (e.g. solicitor and client; parent and dependent child; trustee and beneficiary; priest and parishioner; doctor and patient). With others it depends on individual circumstances.

Where a spouse is providing a guarantee, it is strongly recommended to insist on a solicitor's certificate except where it is clear that the spouse is:

- Financially sophisticated
- Aware of the borrower's position
- Obtaining some benefit from the transaction.

Examples

Example Scenario	Description	
A Spouse guaranteeing their partner's debt	In the normal case of a spouse guaranteeing their partner's debts, the legal position is not clear. It is safer where a spouse is providing a guarantee to strongly recommend on a solicitor's certificate except when it is clear that the spouse is: • Financially sophisticated • Aware of the borrower's position • Obtaining some benefit from the transaction.	
Family-Security Guarantees	Aged parents providing a guarantee to their children.	

2.7 Financial Support Acknowledgement and Undertaking

The 'Financial Support Acknowledgement and Undertaking' must be signed by the guarantor for the below guarantee types:

- Spousal-Income Guarantee
- Spousal-Income + Security Guarantee

2.8 Accepting a guarantee- three (3) day requirement

Once the guarantor has been provided with:

- The terms and conditions of the guarantee
- Any notice of demand the Bank has made on the borrower in the past two years
- A copy of the borrower's loan contract
- A copy of the borrower's credit report
- A copy of the borrower's financial accounts or statements held in the last two years for the guaranteed loan.
- A copy of any other information the guarantor reasonably requests about the guaranteed loan

Then the guarantor has a minimum of three days to consider the guarantee they are about to provide. We must not accept the signed and returned guarantee document until after the third day.

The only exceptions we will consider and allow the guarantee to be accepted prior to three days are as follows:

- If the guarantor has obtained independent legal advice and provided evidence
- If the guarantor is acting as trustee for a trust on the loan application.

Note: accepting the guarantee document back from the guarantor is different to requiring independent legal advice. All requirements of this policy must be met.

Refer to the <u>Banking Code of Practice (BCOP)</u> on signing and when to accept a guarantee.

3. Case examples

3.1 Determining guarantee scenarios

This section does not attempt to cover every scenario where a guarantee is acceptable.

No.	Guarantee Scenario	Regulation	Structure to be used
1	 A and B own a property jointly A wishes to borrow to purchase an investment 	Regulated by Banking Code of Practice (BCoP): Yes (investment	 Guarantee required? If A and B are: Spousal- a Spousal-Security Guarantee applies if guarantor income is not being used for serviceability. The guarantee

	property in their own name • Mortgages over investment property and the property owned by A and B are to be offered as security	and owner occupied) Regulated by National Credit Code (NCC): Yes	limit/amount must be for the full amount of the loan Spousal-a Security + Income Guarantee applies if guarantor income is being used for serviceability (WBC only). The guarantee limit/amount must be for the full amount of the loan Non-spousal-a 'Shared Equity Guarantee' applies. The guarantee limit/ amount cannot exceed the borrower's share of equity in the guarantee security collateral Independent legal advice required? Yes, legal advice required for B Serviceability? Guarantor's income cannot be used in serviceability except for 'Spousal-Security + Income Guarantee' type Be aware that for Spousal-Security Guarantee' type, 'B' may be considered under 'Serviceability>Apportioned Household Expense' policy
2	 B and C offer their jointly owned property as additional security for A B and C are parents of A A is borrowing to purchase either an investment or owner occupied property. 	Regulated by Banking Code of Practice (BCoP): Yes (investment and owner occupied) Regulated by National Credit Code (NCC): Yes	 Guarantee required? Yes, from B and C supported by mortgage over their jointly owned property. A 'Family-Security Guarantee' type applies If B and C are not eligible family members to provide a 'Family Security Guarantee', this guarantee structure is outside of policy and can only be considered by Credit as an exception on a case by case basis. Independent Legal advice required? Yes, Legal advice required for guarantee from B and C. Serviceability? A must be able to service loan

Change History

Amendment number	Amendment issue date	Description of changes
1	3 November	First OBP issue online for Brokers on the OKA

Amendment number	Amendment issue date	Description of changes	
	2021	platform.	
2	8 November 2021	Links updated	
3	21 November 2021	Updated Guarantee Matrix to V7.0 to reflect "LMI not available in OBP' for 'Spousal-Security' and 'Spousal-Security + Income' guarantees (OBP capability decision)	
4	22 May 2022	 Introduction of policy rules for the (new) guarantee type 'Shared Equity Guarantee': Under section 'What is a guarantee': Clarification change from: 'A guarantee is a contractual promise given by a third party, i.e. the guarantor, who agrees to have a liability to pay for the loan, or a limited amount of the loan in the case of a Family Security Guarantee, if the customers are unable or unwilling to repay the loan. Clarification change to: A guarantee is a contractual promise given by a third party, i.e. the guarantor, who agrees, that in the event the customers are unable or unwilling to repay the loan, to have a liability to pay for the loan, or, a limited amount of the loan in the case of a Family-Security Guarantee or Shared Equity Guarantee. Added 'Shared Equity Guarantee' to the above definition Policy rules previously contained within the 'Guarantee Matrix' (which was an Excel attachment to this policy) have been relocated to the main body of this policy. The 'Guarantee Matrix' is now superseded Under section 'Guarantee Types and guarantors': deleted the instruction to refer 'Entities' to Business Banking added 'acceptability is also subject to appropriate assessment of the applicant and guarantor Requirements and Objectives, and all credit requirements being met and other applicable policy rules' added subheading 'Direct Benefit': moved existing content under this subheading Added Shared Equity Guarantee as an example of a non-financial benefit 	

Amendment number	Amendment issue date	Description of changes
		 Under section 'Unacceptable guarantors' added 'Permanent Australian Residency Visa holder not holding an acceptable borrower visa type as per the Migrant Lending Policy > Visa Matrix and Applicant via Resident Type Matrix (clarification only-no change to policy or risk appetite which previously specified 'wording 'Note: A borrower that is unacceptable as per the Visa Matrix and Applicant via Resident Type Matrix is also unacceptable as a guarantor') Under section 'Policy rules per guarantee type': added 'Serviceability policy specifies when household expenses and/or commitments can be apportioned between the borrower and a non-income reliant guarantor. Refer to Serviceability Assessment > Rules you must apply> 'Apportioned household expenses' and the 'Apportioned shared commitment rule' for these policy rules' -clarification only to direct user to other relevant existing policies Changed 'Spousal- Security Guarantee' and 'Family-Security Guarantee': From: 'The guarantor's income is not used to support the loan application' to 'The guarantor's income is not used in the serviceability assessment. The borrower must be able to service the loan on their own, or by virtue of a company or trust completely controlled by the borrower alone.' -clarification only To clarify that verification of the guarantor's 'Exit Strategy is not required' Changed 'Family- Security Guarantee': Added to the definition section:

Amendment number	Amendment issue date	Description of changes	
		 Added 'Home Improvement' to an owner-occupied property as an acceptable loan purpose-clarification only Clarified that for investment loan purpose, 'all' borrowers do not have ownership of another property at the time of application' - clarification only (policy previously stated 'the borrowers do not have') Clarified that for owner-occupied loan purpose, 'the borrowers collectively' do not have ownership of more than one property the time of application' -clarification only Clarified that for Home improvements, must be via licensed builder (owner builder unacceptable)-clarification only Clarified that for Construction, must be funded by progress payments-clarification only Deleted 'If equity has been established in the borrower's property, the borrower(s) are encouraged to release the Family-Security Guarantee / guarantor's security property. Once the borrower is no longer receiving a benefit from a Family-Security Guarantee, application processing can continue as per standard policy for home loan option and debt allocation may be considered' -deleted as this is a procedure and not a credit policy rule From 'Guarantee supported by 2nd mortgage if the 1st mortgage is not a 'Reverse Mortgage' styled facility' to 'Guarantee supported by 2nd mortgage if the 1st mortgage is to another financial institution and is not a 'Reverse Mortgage' styled facility -new words added in bold as a clarification (to align with existing 'Acceptable Security Collateral' policy wording From: Guarantee Limit (amount\$) 'Up to 50% of the value of the guarantor's security collateral' - clarification only Deleted 'Initial spousal joint property purchase, with property later to be transferred to one of the borrowers due to relationship breakdown. The Bank can consider providing finance to either party under a Family-Security Guarantee- subject to Credit approval'. 	

Amendment number	Amendment issue date	Description of changes	
		Clarification correction only, as this is refinance loan purpose is acceptable and does need referral to credit Corrections to refer to 'security collateral' - clarification only to align with OBP terminology Changed 'Spousal- Security Guarantee': From 'Note: Best practice (not mandatory) to verify the guarantee limit for any existing guarantee against the guarantee security collateral. This could be achieved via internal systems or by obtaining a copy of the guarantee documentation to 'It is recommended to verify the guarantee limit for any existing guarantee against the guarantee security collateral. This could be achieved via internal systems or by obtaining a copy of the guarantee against the guarantee security collateral. This could be achieved via internal systems or by obtaining a copy of the guarantee documentation' To specify that guarantor's income verification is not required except where the Guarantor is also being tested as per Serviceability > Rules you must apply> Apportioned Household Expense policy' –(bold wording is new and a clarification only to direct user to other relevant existing policy Changed 'Spousal- Income Guarantee' and 'Spousal- Income + Security Guarantee': From: The guarantor's income is used to support the loan application, i.e. the applicant's capacity to service the loan commitments is dependent on the income of the guarantor' to 'The guarantor's income is used in the serviceability assessment, as the borrower's capacity to service the loan commitment is dependent on the income of the guarantor' to 'The guarantor's income is used in the serviceability assessment, as the borrower only plus their one spousal guarantor i.e. No other party on the loan' -clarification only From: 'Application must be for one borrower only plus their one spousal guarantor i.e. No other party on the loan' -clarification only Included 'Exit Strategy' as a verification requirement as per existing 'Maximum Loan Term' policy and linked to the 'Maximum Loan Term' policy and linked to the 'Maximum	

Amendment number	Amendment issue date	Description of changes	
		 " 'Mandatory to verify the limit and balance of any existing mortgage against the guarantee security collateral. The allowable verification documents and allowable variances are as per the Commitments Policy>Customer Commitments Matrix>Confirm Commitment Details (link in heading above), and Best practice (not mandatory) to verify the guarantee limit for any existing guarantee against the guarantee security collateral. This could be achieved via internal systems or by obtaining a copy of the guarantee documentation Replaced with: 'Verify as per ' Commitments' Policy' . Clarification correction only as existing Commitments policy specifies that it applies to income-reliant guarantors. Added section '2.3 Guarantee amount-NCC and BCoP', specifying 'Under NCC a guarantee can secure an amount that does not exceed the sum of the borrower's liabilities, plus reasonable expenses of enforcing the guarantee, or any lesser amount agreed between us and the guarantor. BCoP also requires a guarantee to limit the guarantor's liability.' Removed existing references to the 'Commitments Matrix' (which was superseded) and replaced with links to the Commitments policy Deleted section 'Providing advice to borrowers and guarantors'- deleted as this is a procedure and not a credit policy rule Updated section 'Independent legal advice' to specify "Policy rules per acceptable guarantee type' details when independent legal advice is required according to the guarantee type' Renamed section 'Exceptions from legal advice is required according to the guarantee type' Renamed section 'Exceptions from legal advice' to 'Exemptions from legal advice' Deleted 'Mortgagor is also a co-borrower' scenario from section 'Exceptions from legal advice' Deleted the section 'Accepting a guarantee-three day requirement': Moved content from 'Process to Follow' to 'Rules you must apply' Added	
		 Updated 'Acceptable Guarantee Scenarios': Added 'This section does not attempt to cover every scenario where a guarantee is acceptable' Updated scenario 1 to: 	

Amendment number	Amendment issue date	Description of changes	
		 specify the rules for 'Spousal-Security', 'Spousal-Income+Security' and 'Shared Equity' Guarantee types add 'Be aware that for Spousal- Security Guarantee' type, 'B' may be considered under 'Serviceability>Apportioned Household Expense' policy Deleted scenario 2- as rules covered under scenario 1 (due to changes detailed above) Updated scenario 3: re-numbered as scenario 2 to include 'B and C are parents of A' to include 'A 'Family-Security Guarantee' type applies Various formatting/content repositioning only changes to improve 'readability' (no change to policy or risk appetite) 	
5	2 October 2022	Update to content in 2.1.3 Unacceptable Guarantors Old wording Non Residents Temporary Australian Residency Visa Holders Refer to Migrant Lending policy > Visa Matrix and Applicant via Resident Type Matrix Permanent Australian Residency Visa holder not holding an acceptable borrower visa type as per the Migrant Lending Policy > Visa Matrix and Applicant via Resident Type Matrix For Family-Security Guarantee - Guarantor relationships other than those listed are unacceptable e.g. uncles, aunts, grandparents, non-family members Any guarantor not identified as acceptable in this policy, or approved as an exception by Credit New wording Non Residents. Refer to Lending to Non-Australian Citizens policy Temporary Australian Residency Visa Holders. Refer to Lending to Non-Australian Citizens policy > Visa Matrix and Applicant via Resident Type Matrix Permanent Australian Residency Visa holder not holding an acceptable borrower visa type as per the Lending to Non-Australian Citizens policy > Visa Matrix and Applicant via Resident Type Matrix Entities For Family-Security Guarantee - Guarantor relationships other than those listed are	

Amendment number	Amendment issue date	Description of changes	
		unacceptable e.g. uncles, aunts, grandparents, non-family members • Any guarantor not identified as acceptable in this policy, or approved as an exception by Credit	
6	20 November 2022	Change 1 Policy Standards and Procedure rewrite	
7	19 February 2023	Change 1 Change references throughout policy from 'Apportioned household expenses' to 'Apportioned household expenses and shared commitments – Spousal same household	
8	24 April 2023	Change references throughout policy from 'Apportioned household expenses' to 'Apportioned household expenses and shared commitments – Spousal same household	
9	21 May 2023	Throughout document, redirected references and links from 'Validation of information provided by the customer' policy chapter to 'Loan Application and Approval > Validation of information provided by the customer'. Housekeeping change only	
10	8 October 2023	 Change 1 Update to Unacceptable Guarantees to include: Where all security collateral(s) offered have 100% guarantor ownership (i.e. The borrower must have ownership of at least one security collateral being offered) Change 2 Update to Spousal-Security Guarantee and Spousal-Income + Security Guarantee (WBC Only) to Include (under "Guarantee security collateral" section): The borrower must have ownership in at least one security collateral. 	
11	19 November 2023	Change 1 Updated section 2.2.4 Family-Security Guarantee – Formerly known as 'Family Pledge Home Loan Option' in SGB as follows: Old wording	

Amendment number	Amendment issue date	Description of	changes
		Guarantee limit (guarantee amount\$)	No single Family-Security Guarantee can exceed 50% of the value of the guarantor's security collateral (Exceptions can be referred to Credit) Also refer to: 'Guarantee amount-NCC and BCoP' Calculating available equity, guarantee amount and LVR > Family-Security Guarantee
		New wording	
		Guarantee limit (guarantee amount\$)	 Limited to an amount that is less than the full loan amount. Note: The limited guarantee amount cannot exceed 50% of the value of the guarantor's security collateral (exceptions can be referred to Credit) Also refer to: 'Guarantee amount - NCC and BCoP' Calculating available equity, guarantee amount and LVR > Family-Security Guarantee
		Change 2 Updated section follows: Old wording	2.2.5 Shared Equity Guarantee as
		Guarantee lim (guarantee amount \$)	Cannot exceed the borrower's share of equity in the guarantee security collateral Also refer to: 'Guarantee amount - NCC and BCoP'

Amendment number	Amendment issue date	Description of c	hanges
			Calculating available equity, guarantee amount and LVR>Shared Equity Guarantee
		New wording	
		Guarantee limi (guarantee amount \$)	 Must be equal to the loan amount Also refer to: 'Guarantee amount - NCC and BCoP' Calculating available equity, guarantee amount and LVR > Shared Equity Guarantee
12	18 February 2024	Change 1 Update section 2.4 Calculating available equity, guarantee amount and LVR > Family-Security Guarantee and Shared Equity Guarantee, to reflect correct calculations, as detailed below: Old wording 2.4.1 Family-Security Guarantee	
		Feature	Calculation
		Available Equity in the Family- Security Guarantee Collateral	Determine: A. the guarantee security collateral value B. the maximum non LMI LVR as per Loan to Value (LVR) policy C ¹ . any existing commitments (such as mortgages, pledges, debts, guarantees, pledges, business overdrafts or other liabilities) which have a right against the guarantee security collateral
			Available Equity =(A 'Guarantor's security collateral value' multiplied by B 'Non LMI

Amendment number	Amendment issue date	Description of changes	
			LVR%') <i>minus</i> C ¹ 'Existing commitments'
		Guarantee Limit /	Determine: A. Loan amount B. the non- guarantee security collateral value C. the non MI LVR for the non-guarantee security collateral as per Loan to Value (LVR) policy D. the non MI LVR for the guarantee security collateral as per Loan to Value (LVR) policy
		Amount	Guarantee Limit / Amount = (A 'Loan amount' minus (B 'Non- guarantee security collateral value' multiplied by C 'Non MI LVR% for the non-guarantee security collateral')) divided by D 'Non MI LVR% for the guarantee security collateral'
		LVR	Refer to Loan to Value (LVR) policy > LVR Calculation
		(higher of lim	buffer to the value of a debt nit or outstanding balance) first mortgage to an 'other' itution.
		considered to Within St.Geor BankSA: West	ac: SGB, BSA, BoM and RAMS are be 'other' financial institutions. rge, Bank of Melbourne and pac and RAMS are considered to ncial institutions.
		2.4.2 Shared Eq	uity Guarantee
		Feature	Calculation

Amendment number	Amendment issue date	Description of cha	anges
		Available Equity in the Shared Equity Guarantee Collateral	Determine: A. the guarantee security collateral value B. the maximum non LMI LVR as per Loan to Value (LVR) policy C¹. any existing commitments (such as mortgages, pledges, debts, guarantees, pledges, business overdrafts or other liabilities) which have a right against the guarantee security collateral D. The ownership percentage of the borrower and the guarantor/s Available Equity = (A 'Guarantor's security collateral value' multiplied by B 'Non LMI LVR%') minus C¹ 'Existing commitments' Divided by borrowers share of the property
		LVR	Refer to Loan to Value (LVR) policy > LVR Calculation
		of limit or outsta mortgage to an Within Westpac: considered to be Within St.George	ifer to the value of a debt (higher anding balance) secured by a first 'other' financial institution. SGB, BSA, BoM and RAMS are e 'other' financial institutions. e, Bank of Melbourne and c and RAMS are considered to ial institutions.
		New wording 2.4.1 Family-Secu	rity Guarantee
		Feature	Calculation

Amendment number	Amendment issue date	Description of cha	nnges
		Available Equity in the Family- Security Guarantee Collateral	Determine: A. the guarantee security collateral value B. the maximum non-LMI LVR for the guarantee security collateral as per Loan to Value (LVR) policy C¹. any existing commitments (such as mortgages, pledges, debts, guarantees, business overdrafts or other liabilities) which are secured by the guarantee security collateral Available Equity = ((A multiplied by B) minus C¹
		Guarantee Limit / Amount	Determine: A. Loan amount B. the non- guarantee security collateral value C. the maximum non-LMI application (e.g. non- guarantee security collateral, purpose, borrower type) LVR as per Loan to Value (LVR) policy Guarantee Limit / Amount
		LVR	= (A minus (B multiplied by C)) divided by C Refer to Loan to Value (LVR) policy > LVR Calculation
		(higher of limit	ffer to the value of a debt or outstanding balance) st mortgage to an 'other' tion.
		1 1	SGB, BSA, BoM and RAMS are 'other' financial institutions.

Amendment number	Amendment issue date	Description of changes	
			ge, Bank of Melbourne and ac and RAMS are considered to cial institutions.
		2.4.2 Shared Equ	ity Guarantee
		Feature	Calculation
		Available Equity in the Shared Equity Guarantee Collateral	Determine: A. the guarantee security collateral value B. the maximum non-LMI application (e.g. non-guarantee security collateral, purpose, borrower type) LVR as per Loan to Value (LVR) policy C ¹ . any existing commitments (such as mortgages, pledges, debts, guarantees, business overdrafts or other liabilities) which are secured by the guarantee security collateral D. The ownership percentage of the borrower(s) Available Equity = ((A multiplied by B) minus C ¹) multiplied by D
		LVR	Refer to Loan to Value (LVR) policy > LVR Calculation
		of limit or outst	offer to the value of a debt (higher anding balance) secured by a first 'other' financial institution.
		considered to b	:: SGB, BSA, BoM and RAMS are be 'other' financial institutions. ge, Bank of Melbourne and

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Amendment number	Amendment issue date	Description of changes
		BankSA: Westpac and RAMS are considered to be 'other' financial institutions.

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