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St.George Margin Lending takes out top *Money* magazine award once again

St.George Margin Lending has been named "Margin Lender of the Year" by *Money* magazine for the second consecutive year.

The Margin Lender of the Year category has featured as part of *Money* magazine Consumer Finance Awards for the past two years and St.George has picked up the top award both years.

"These awards acknowledge institutions that excel across the board, and the awards provide an invaluable service for those consumers who choose to have a relationship with just one or two institutions," said Andrew Black, General Manager, St.George Margin Lending.

"Margin Lending is a smart way to multiply investment power. By borrowing to invest, margin lending allows greater investment in shares, managed funds, master trusts and wraps than could be achieved using only personal funds. The inclusion of the Margin Lender of the Year category, provides an important piece of consumer education around margin lending," added Black.

St.George Margin Lending provides the perfect vehicle for investors who are looking for medium to long-term investment opportunities; have a relatively high, secure disposable income; are willing to bear greater risk for the chance of greater return; have adequate cash reserves or other security to meet margin calls; have some understanding of the stock market and its operations; and understand that gearing multiplies losses as well as gains.

The selection of award-winning institutions has been compiled by CANNEX and judged on *Money* magazine's criteria.

To determine the Margin Lender of the Year, CANNEX awarded points for positive features, investment menu and gearing capacity on that menu (LVR). *Money* magazine instructed CANNEX to look at two types of investors: one who wants a wide variety of investment options prefers to gear their portfolio conservatively, and the other who is interested in a more aggressive gearing strategy. Also compared were the rates offered by the margin lenders over the previous 12-month period. The points for features, LVR and rates were aggregated for each company.

“This important consumer-focused Award comes hot-on-the-heels of St.George Margin Lending being awarded a tenth consecutive *five star “superior value” rating* by independent research group CANNEX, in its latest review of Australian financial services”, continued Black.

St.George Margin Lending is part of the Wealth Management and Retail Financial Services division of the St.George Bank Ltd, Australia’s fifth-largest retail bank with \$100 billion in assets and 2.9 million customers Australia-wide.

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