

Financial Services Guide

Bendigo Insurance Brokers Pty Ltd

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This Financial Services Guide (**FSG**) applies from the date of its preparation and remains valid unless a new version is issued to replace it. All new versions will be published on our website. You may also obtain a printed copy by contacting your broker, emailing us or calling. We may also give you a supplementary FSG that will not replace this FSG but will cover services not covered by this FSG.

Lack of Independence

Why we are not independent, impartial or unbiased in relation to the provision of personal advice and the impact of this on you.

This is because we or our representatives receive remuneration from:

- the issuer of the product you buy
- other third parties for related services provided in connection with the personal advice e.g. premium funders.

This remuneration does not impact the price you pay for the product you buy nor reduce our obligation to always act in your best interests. This document explains how this remuneration is calculated and how we manage any possible conflict of interests. You are always entitled to request information on your fees and commissions in respect to the products you buy.

We are not independent, impartial, or unbiased in relation to some policies we arrange or provision of personal advice. This is because we may be paid, compensated or we may otherwise benefit from performing our services. We may also have associations or relationships with insurance product issuers, and we may be subject to direct or indirect restrictions on the insurance products that we advise on.

Who we are and how we can be contacted

Who we are

Bendigo Insurance Brokers Pty Ltd ABN 46 005 874 902 (referred to as “Bendigo Insurance Brokers”, **we**, **our** or **us**) is an Australian Financial Services Licensee with Licence number 257989 (**AFSL**).

We are responsible for the financial services that we provide, and for the distribution of this FSG.

We are trading as:

Bendigo Insurance Brokers

We subscribe to and are bound by the 2022 Insurance Brokers Code of Practice (**Code**), available from the National Insurance Brokers Association (**NIBA**) website, www.niba.com.au.

Contact details

Address: 41 - 43 Bull Street Bendigo VIC 3550

Post: PO Box 410 Bendigo VIC 3552

Phone: 03 5440 6800

Email: info@bendigobrokers.com

Web: bendigobrokers.com

You can provide instructions to us by post, phone or by email.

If you require further information or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Purpose of this Financial Services Guide

The purpose of this FSG is to help you decide whether to use any of the services that we offer. This FSG includes important information about:

- the services we can provide you with;
- how we and our staff are paid;
- how you can contact us;
- our internal and external dispute resolution systems and how you can use them; and
- arrangements we have in place to compensate loss.

Please take the time to carefully read this FSG and keep it safely with your policy documents.

Additional documents

In addition to this FSG and as required by law, we may give you additional documents to assist you in deciding whether to use our services.

If we provide you with personal advice, we will also give you a Statement of Advice (**SOA**) or a record of advice (**ROA**). This will include the personal advice; the basis on which the advice was given, and other information on our remuneration and any relevant associations or interests.

If we arrange for you to obtain an insurance product, we also will also give you a Product Disclosure Statement (**PDS**). The PDS will include information about the product and the potential risks associated. It aims to assist you in making an informed decision about whether the product is suitable for your particular needs and circumstances.

Kinds of financial services we provide

Under our AFSL, we are authorised by ASIC to provide financial product advice for general insurance products, deal in general insurance products, and provide claims handling and settling services to wholesale and retail clients. We will do this for you as your insurance broker unless we tell you otherwise. When we act as your broker, we have a duty to act in your best interests.

How we provide our services

When we provide our services to you, we may do so via an employee, an Authorised Representative or a Distributor. Our Authorised Representatives and Distributors are not our employees.

Authorised Representatives are third parties authorised to provide financial services on our behalf. When you are dealing with an Authorised Representative, their name, contact details and authorised representative number will be provided to you.

Distributors are third parties authorised to deal in specific insurance products on our behalf. They can only provide factual information and are not authorised to provide advice.

Sometimes we may act under a binder, distribution or agency agreement with an insurer. Under these agreements, we represent and act for the insurer, not for you. We will tell you if this occurs.

Where we act under a binding authority from an insurer, we can issue, vary and/or renew and/or dispose/cancel the insurance for the insurer as if we were them. The scope of what we can do will be subject to the authority given by the insurer.

How we provide personal advice

When we provide personal advice to you, it will be based on the information you provide to us about your personal objectives, financial situation and anything else relevant. If you give us information that is incomplete or inaccurate, then any advice we provide will be limited to that information. We will also give you an SOA or ROA if required by law.

When we give advice about an insurance product, we will usually only consider the products offered by insurers or insurance providers that we deal with regularly. We do not consider or compare all available products.

Before acting on our advice, you must consider whether it is appropriate for your personal circumstances.

How we are remunerated

Our remuneration may include a commission paid by the relevant insurers when we issue or arrange an insurance product, as well as fees.

If we give you personal advice:

- if our remuneration or other benefits can be calculated at the time, we will inform you of what the remuneration or other benefits are at the same time we give you personal advice or as soon as practicable after that time;
- if our remuneration or other benefits cannot be calculated at the time, we will provide information about how the remuneration or benefits are to be calculated at the same time we give you personal advice or as soon as practicable after that time.

Otherwise, our remuneration or benefits will be as we have set out below.

Commission

We may receive a commission when you purchase an insurance product that we have arranged. The commission is calculated as a percentage of what you pay for the product (less any government fees or charges included in that amount). This percentage varies between 0% and 30%, depending on the insurance product and the insurer.

Fees

We may also charge you a brokerage or administration fee depending on the service we provide. Any fees that we charge you will be shown on the invoice we issue to you.

Commission, fees or benefits we pay to our employees or others

We may pay commissions, fees or benefits to others who refer you to us, or refer us to an insurer (**referrer**). If we do, we will make these payments out of our own commission or fees without an additional cost to you.

We pay a market salary and sometimes a performance bonus to our employees that assist in providing our services to you.

From time to time, we or our employees may also receive additional benefits such as subsidised attendance at conferences and invitations to social events.

When giving advice about insurance products, we will inform you of any fees, commissions or other payments associated with those insurance products. This includes payments to us and to referrers. This also includes payments to any third party that we have a material association or relationship with.

Material, relationships, associations and conflicts of interest

Conflicts of interest can arise where some or all of our interests are not consistent with some or all of your interests. We have set out our relationships, associations, and our related interests below. We have a conflicts of interest policy and procedure, including training and monitoring, to ensure we are aware and manage any conflicts of interest. Our company, staff and our representatives must comply with this policy and procedure.

Ownership and related businesses

We are part of the Aviso Group Pty Ltd ABN 32 616 963 172 (**Aviso Group**) which comprises multiple brokers across Australia that are licensed to use the Aviso Group trademarks and intellectual property. More information about Aviso Group is available at www.avisogroup.com.au.

Envest holds majority and minority interests in related service providers such as insurance broking, underwriting agencies (on behalf of local and overseas insurers) and claims administration. More information about Envest is available at www.envest.com.au.

Envest is owned by the Ardonagh Group (**Ardonagh**), a global insurance distribution platform based in the UK. More information about Ardonagh is available at www.ardonagh.com.

Premium funders

If we arrange premium funding for you, we may be paid a commission by the premium funder and we may also charge you a fee. The commission that we are paid by the premium funder is usually calculated as a percentage of the insurance premium (less any government fees or charges included in that amount). This percentage typically varies between 0% and 6% of the funded premium. When we arrange premium funding for you, you can ask us what commission rates we are paid for that funding arrangement compared to the other arrangements that were available to you.

Records and privacy

Recordkeeping and access

We maintain a record of your information, including details of insurance products that you have purchased using our services. We may also maintain records of any recommendations or advice given to you. If you want to look at your file, please contact us and we will make arrangements for you to do so.

We will retain this FSG and any other FSG given to you as well as any SOA, ROA or PDS that we give or make available to you for the period required by law.

Privacy policy

We collect personal information to assist us in providing you with the services described in this FSG. We are committed to maintaining client confidentiality in the collection, use, disclosure or handling of personal information in accordance with the principles set out in the Privacy Act 1988.

We maintain a privacy policy to ensure the privacy and security of your personal information. A copy of our privacy policy is available on request and on our website.

From time to time and where we are permitted by law to do so, we may also use or disclose your personal information as part of marketing to you. Please tell us if you do not want us to use or disclose your personal information for marketing purposes. To nominate preferred days and times for receiving marketing calls or to opt-out of receiving marketing information altogether, contact your adviser by telephone, in writing or by e-mail.

Complaints and dispute resolution

Internal dispute resolution

If you have a complaint, please let us know by calling 03 5440 6800 or emailing us at info@bendigobrokers.com. We will acknowledge your complaint within 24 hours of receipt and will do our best to resolve it efficiently, effectively and fairly. If we need further information before resolving your complaint, we will contact you within 10 business days to request the relevant details.

If we cannot resolve your complaint within 14 business days, we will escalate the matter to our internal disputes team for an impartial review. You can also request that the complaint be referred to our internal dispute team for evaluation. The internal dispute team will typically provide a decision within 14 business days of receiving your complaint. A response will be provided within a maximum of 30 calendar days from the receipt of your initial complaint.

External dispute resolution

We are a member of the Australian Financial Complaints Authority (**AFCA**). If you are not satisfied with our handling of your complaint or our decision, you may refer your complaint to AFCA. It is important that you should first make your complaint to us before escalating it to AFCA, because AFCA usually encourages that complaints be dealt with us directly in the first instance. AFCA provides free, fair and independent financial services complaint resolution to all of our customers. Any decision AFCA makes that you accept is binding on us. You do not have to accept their decision and can seek remedies elsewhere.

You can contact AFCA by:

Phone: 1800 931 678 (free call)

Email: info@afca.org.au

Post: Australian Financial Complaints Authority

GPO Box 3

Melbourne VIC 3001

Web: www.afca.org.au

If you have a complaint about a policy we arranged under a binder that we are unable to resolve to your satisfaction, you may refer the complaint to the external dispute resolution provider whose name and contact details are provided in your policy schedule.

Compensation arrangements

We have professional indemnity insurance (**PI**) that covers us and our representatives (including authorised representatives) for claims about the financial services that we and our representatives provide.

Our PI policy also covers claims about the conduct of representatives who no longer work for us and satisfies the requirements for compensation arrangements under section 912B of the Corporations Act 2001.