

# **General Insurance Factsheet**

Zurich is committed to customer service and is a member of the Insurance Council of Australia and a signatory to the General Insurance Code of Practice.

The Code applies differently to Retail Insurance<sup>1</sup> and Wholesale Insurance, as defined in the Code and the Code establishes a number of standards including those in relation to Retail Insurance set out below. The information below relating to financial hardship and the external dispute resolution arrangements set out in the Complaints Resolution Process section applies in connection with both Retail Insurance and Wholesale Insurance, as defined in the Code.

#### **Resolving your Claim**

In the event of a claim, we will:

- accept or deny your claim and notify you within 10 business days if we do not require further information, assessment or investigation;
- notify you within 10 business days of receiving your claim of the further information we require to decide on your claim;
- if necessary, appoint an assessor, adjuster or investigator and advise you of their appointment within 5 business days;
- keep you informed at least every 20 business days of the progress of your claim. We will review your claim once we do not require further information, assessment or investigation unless we advise you otherwise. We will accept or deny your claim within 10 business days of those conditions being met;
- make a decision within 4 months of receiving your claim or 12 months under Exceptional Circumstances as set out in the Code;
- notify you if these timeframes are not practical for your claim and seek to agree on alternative timeframes with you.

If we are unable to meet these timeframes, agree alternative timeframes or agree on a hardship application or payment, you may make a complaint under our Complaints Resolution Process, outlined below.

In the event of your claim being declined, we will provide you with written reasons for our decision and you can request a copy of the information that we have relied upon in assessing your claim, including reports from external third parties.

#### **Vulnerable Customers**

We have policies and processes in place, including training for our staff, to support customers experiencing vulnerability which may be due to a range of factors such as:

- age;
- disability;
- mental health conditions;
- physical health conditions;
- family violence;
- language barriers;
- literacy barriers;
- cultural background;
- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status;
- remote location; or
- financial distress.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Retail Insurance refers to certain motor vehicle, home building, home contents, sickness and accident, consumer credit, travel and personal and domestic property insurance provided to, or to be provided to an individual or for use in connection with a Small Business as set out in the Code.



Please tell us if you or someone acting on your behalf needs additional support or assistance so that we can work with you to identify how best to provide that support.

If you need support to meet identification requirements, then we will take reasonable measures to support you.

If you need an interpreter, we will provide you access to one where practicable.

Our insurance products comply with relevant State or Territory anti-discrimination requirements and we will treat people with any past or current mental health condition fairly.

Further information can be found at zurich.com.au/vulnerable-customers.

### **Financial Hardship**

If you are an individual suffering Financial Hardship we will work with you to identify how best to support you, including issuing an advanced claims payment, within 5 business days of demonstrating your hardship, or offering flexibility in relation to the payment of your policy premium. Where we are seeking to recover money from you on the grounds that you caused damage or loss, the below Complaints Resolution Process section will also apply to you. We will:

- give you a form for you to apply for Financial Hardship support;
- give you contact details for the National Debt Helpline: 1800 007 007 if appropriate;
- keep you or your nominated representative informed of the progress of your application, where possible using your preferred method of communication;
- consider all reasonable evidence supporting your application;
- tell you if we need additional information to support your application, which you will need to provide within 21 days;
- put recovery action on hold if applicable while we assess your application;
- tell you in writing of our decision about whether to give you Financial Hardship support within 21 calendar days of receiving all requested information; and
- tell you in writing, about our Complaints process in case you are not satisfied with the outcome of your application;
- If you tell us that you intend to declare bankruptcy, then we will work with you to agree on the amount owed.
- If you ask us to notify any financial institution with an interest in your insurance policy that you are entitled to Financial Hardship support and, if applicable, we have released, discharged or waived a debt or obligation; we will advise them in writing.

When we first communicate with you about any money owed we will provide you with information:

- to show that the amount we are seeking to recover is fair and reasonable;
- about our Financial Hardship process; and
- about how to contact us in case you have any questions.

These Financial Hardship provisions also apply to any Collection Agent or Solicitor collecting money for us.

## **Complaints Resolution Process**

If you have a complaint about our products, services, staff or our handling of complaint, please contact us by:

Telephone: 132 687

Email: gi.feedback@zurich.com.au

Or write to us at:

PO Box 677 North Sydney, NSW 2059



We will acknowledge receipt of your complaint within 24 hours or as soon as practicable. In a number of circumstances where you don't require a written response, we will resolve your complaint within 5 business days.

Where we are unable to resolve your complaint in that way, we will respond in writing to your complaint within 15 business days if we have all the information required. If we cannot meet this timeframe because additional information or investigation is required, we will notify you within those 15 business days and seek to agree an alternative timeframe with you. We will keep you informed of the progress of your complaint at least every 10 business days unless otherwise agreed.

If you are not satisfied with our response or we cannot agree an alternative timeframe, you may have the matter reviewed through our internal complaint review process, which is free of charge. If you request your complaint to be reviewed and we have all the information required, we will respond in writing within 15 business days. If we cannot meet this timeframe because additional information or investigation is required, we will notify you within those 15 business days and seek to agree an alternative timeframe with you. We will keep you informed of the progress of your complaint at least every 10 business days and in any event, we will provide our final response to you no later than 30 calendar days after receiving the complaint.

We subscribe to the independent external dispute resolution scheme administered by the Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA), which is available to customers and third parties who fall within the AFCA Complaint Resolution Scheme Rules.

If our decision on your Complaint does not resolve your Complaint to your satisfaction, or if we do not resolve your Complaint within 30 calendar days of the date we first received your Complaint, you may refer your Complaint to AFCA.

If you wish to do so, you should refer your matter to AFCA as early as possible, as time limits can apply.

If AFCA advises you that AFCA cannot assist you, you can seek independent legal advice or access any other external dispute resolution options that may be available to you, for example by contacting the Department of Fair Trading, your Solicitor or Local Court as you may be able to have the matter resolved by:

- Small Claims Court or Tribunals
- Formal legal proceedings out of the District or Supreme Counts
- Mediation

#### **Contact details for AFCA are:**

Online: <a href="https://www.afca.org.au">www.afca.org.au</a> <a href="mailto:info@afca.org.au">info@afca.org.au</a>

Mail: Australian Financial Complaints Authority

GPO Box 3

Melbourne VIC 3001

Phone: 1800 931 678

For full details of the Code, please read the Code which is available on <a href="https://www.codeofpractice.com.au">www.codeofpractice.com.au</a>



#### **Your Privacy**

Zurich is bound by the Privacy Act 1988 (Cth). Before providing us with any Personal or Sensitive Information ('Information'), you should know that:

We collect, use, process and store Personal Information and, in some cases, Sensitive Information about you such as health information, in order to comply with our legal obligations, assess your application and, if your application is successful, to administer the products or services provided to you, to enhance customer service and product options and manage a claim ('purposes').

If you do not agree to provide us with the Information, we may not be able to process your application, administer your policy or assess your claims.

By providing us or your intermediary with your Information, you consent to our use of this Information and where relevant for the purposes, you consent to our disclosure of your Personal Information, including your Sensitive Information, to your intermediary, affiliates of the Zurich Insurance Group Ltd, other insurers and reinsurers, our service providers, our banking gateway providers and credit card transaction processors, our business partners, medical and health practitioners, your employer, policy owners, government offices and agencies, regulators, law enforcement bodies, and as required by law within Australia or overseas. These laws include the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing Act 2006, Personal Property Securities Act 2009, Corporations Act 2001, Insurance Contracts Act 1984, Autonomous Sanctions Act 2011, Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, Income Tax Assessment Act 1936, Income Tax Regulations 1936, Tax Administration Act 1953, Tax Administration Regulations 1976, A new Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999 and the Australian Securities and Investments Commission Act 2001 as those laws are amended, and includes any associated regulations. From time to time other acts may require, or authorise us to collect your personal information.

Zurich may obtain Information from government offices, the parties listed above and third parties to assess applications, administer policies and assess a claim in the event of loss or damage.

For further information about Zurich's Privacy Policy, a list of service providers and business partners that we may disclose your Information to, a list of countries in which recipients of your Information are likely to be located, details of how you can access or correct the Information we hold about you or make a complaint, please refer to the Privacy link on our homepage - <a href="www.zurich.com.au">www.zurich.com.au</a>, contact us by telephone on 132 687, by email at <a href="mailto:privacy.officer@zurich.com.au">privacy.officer@zurich.com.au</a> or by mail at 'The Privacy Officer', Zurich Financial Services Australia Limited, P.O. Box 677, North Sydney NSW 2059.