

## Response ID ANON-DUXZ-42RF-9

Submitted to Northern Australia Insurance Inquiry  
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## About you

What is your name?

Name:

[REDACTED]

I do not want my name to be published.

Do not publish my name

What is your email address?

Email:

[REDACTED]

What is your suburb/town and postcode? (Only one is required.)

Suburb/town::

Postcode::

[REDACTED]

If you live in northern Australia, please tick all descriptions that apply to you.

[REDACTED]

What type of residence do you live in?

[REDACTED]

What insurance do you currently have? Please tick all descriptions that apply to you.

[REDACTED]

What is important in your decisions about insurance?

1. How important is the price ('premium') in your decision?

You could also tell us: Did you know about the price of insurance in your town before you moved there? Has price changed a lot? Have you tried to get a lower price? :

Price of insurance is very important . Property values have dropped, rental return is less than a quarter of what it used to be 10 years ago. Insurance is required if a property is to be rented out and managed by an agent.I have stayed with the same insurer since acquiring the property in 2005 and the yearly premium has gone up to \$5592 in 2017. This is just building insurance.Have obtained quotes from a couple of other insurers but they are grossly dearer than my current one.

2. How much choice of insurers do you have?

You could also tell us: Where you live, how much choice is there between insurers? Do you think different insurers offer different policies (i.e. is coverage different)? :

My telephone enquiries have shown me no increased level of insurance whilst quoting me

a higher premium.My motor vehicle insurers ( 2 so far)in Victoria ask me to consider obtaining home insurance to reduce overall premiums till i tell them the property is in Nickol, then i am told they do not cover NW Australia.

3. What are you covered for?

You could also tell us: Can you get the sort of insurance you want? Do you want flood insurance? How confident are you that you know what you are covered for and what limits you have? If you have made a claim, were you covered for what you thought you were?:

I made a claim for damaged asbestos boundary fence replacement 2015 after i called my insurer in WA to make sure the work could go ahead. I was told to go ahead and later send the invoice.The other party were the WA Housing Commission When the bill came for my half i called the insurer and was told that the cost of replacement was too high and i cannot be covered, i emailed to protest stating that i had faithfully paid yearly premiums for almost 10 years and had not expected to be refused claim when i had agreed for fence replacement after assurance of cover over the phone. I was advised to put a detailed claim on paper and send, after due consideration the insurer sent me the full payment less the excess.

4. How important is customer service and claims handling reputation?

**You could also tell us: How much does an insurer's reputation matter? How much does customer service matter? Have you seen an insurer behaving in a way that you think is unfair or confusing?:**

Customer service is very important. Good or bad service will keep or lose a customer for them. But i have no choice of insurer and also after my claim was honoured i knew i would continue with them, if they had not i know i would have tried looking for another insurer and i told them that at the time of the dispute

**5. Have you seen an insurer behaving in way that you think is unfair or confusing?**

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See above

**6. Has an insurer told you that they won't insure you or renew your insurance policy? If they have, what were the reasons they gave you?**

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no

**How you get information about insurance and how easy it is to understand?**

**7. What information does your insurer give you and how useful is it?**

**You could also tell us: Does your renewal notice say if price has changed and the reason? Does it say how premiums are calculated? What could insurers do to make it easier to understand their products? :**

Premiums increase every year, no reason is given. No information is given on how premiums are calculated. Information regarding what is covered and what is not is sent with each renewal notice and is easy to understand

**8. Where else do you see or look for information?**

**You could also tell us: How much effort is it to look for better or cheaper policies? What sort of advertising do you see? Have you used websites, tools or calculators? If you live in Queensland, have you heard about or used the North Queensland Home Insurance website? What did you think about it?:**

At present o do not feel i will get a cheaper cover so i do not look for other providers or policies,its a struggle to keep to keep this property...

**9. Have you used, or thought about using, a broker? Why or why not?**

**You could also tell us: Did it make it easier for you to get a policy that you were more confident suited your needs?:**

I have taken the recommendation of a broker and contacted an insurer but found the premiums for my current are a lot cheaper!

**10. Is there information to meet the needs of all consumers?**

**You could also tell us: Who can you ask if you need help understanding insurance? Is there information for people who are unable to read or write or use a language other than English? Do insurers have an office in your area or do they visit? Is mail, phone or internet access an issue in remote areas?:**

**11. What special information do owners or managers of strata units need?**

**You could also tell us: How difficult is it to get clear and useful information about strata insurance? How transparent is the information provided to strata unit owners?:**

**12. Have you seen examples of tools, technology or information in other industries that should be used to make insurance easier to understand?**

**Have you seen examples of tools, technology or information in other industries that should be used to make insurance easier to understand?:**

**Have you switched insurers?**

**13. Have you considered switching insurance in recent years? Did you go ahead and switch? Why or why not? Please tell us about your experience.**

**You could also tell us: Did you consider switching policies with the same insurer, to a different insurer, or both? How did you find and compare policies? How many quotes did you compare? Was it a lot of effort? How does the use of standard definitions, such as for 'flood', make it easier to compare? Was your focus on price or coverage or both? Did you use a broker to help you? :**

see previous replies

**What can households and insurers do to make insurance more affordable?**

**14. Have you considered renovating or altering your home, or building a new home to, to reduce the risk of storm or cyclone damage? Did you go ahead?**

**You could also tell us: How did you find out about building for your local conditions? How did you decide that it was a 'worthwhile' investment? If you made any alterations, did this have any impact on your insurance premium? Has it already, or will it, save you money in the long run?:**

have not looked into renovation

Insurers can look into a no claims bonus/premium reduction idea

**15. What are insurers doing to make it easier and could they do more?**

**You could also tell us: Would your premium be lower if you made your house or belongings safer? Can you pay fortnightly or monthly and how much extra does it cost to do so? Does your insurer offer Centrepay to eligible customers? Have you seen new or different policies to target particular consumers, such as tenants, households on a low income, or people with only a small amount to insure? :**

nil

**16. What are you doing to manage the cost of insurance?**

**You could also tell us: Have rising premiums motivated you to spend more effort looking for better policy options? Have you, or would you, reduce your level of coverage to save? Who else can you get help from?:**

have to wear it, no way out.

**Other issues**

**17. If you have a view or experience to share that you haven't already covered in another question, please tell us about it. (Optional)**

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