

Response ID ANON-DUXZ-42MJ-8

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Do not publish my name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::

[REDACTED]

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? :

No . The price has gone from \$1200 per year to in excess of \$6000 per year. I currently have an excess of \$3000 for structure and \$1000 for contents and I am still paying in excess of \$3000 per year. I have stayed with the same insurer because so many companies refuse to insure the post code and others have even higher premiums. I will not be making any claims unless I am wiped out because I am concerned about ridiculous premium hikes if I do.

I moved from Darwin and my premiums to insure similar value property were much cheaper !

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)? :

I live in Cairns, lots will not insure this postcode. Those that do seem to offer the same things.

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?:

Yes , Home and contents. I am confident that I know what I am covered for because I have gone to a very basic cover because of the cost. Whether I will have to fight for a pay out remains to be seen. I made a claim in the past and was totally dissatisfied with the way it was handled.

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?:

Very important. There have been insurers that have after major events been very slow to settle claims and in some cases this has gone on for years. Yes I have had an experience with an insurer behave that way. It appears that it depends on the assessor that attends. I had a water leak damage my kitchen my claim was handled very different to a work mate who had the same claim similar damage same company different assessor.

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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 but I have been warned by them and had my excesses increased because I made three claim ffm in a year. Two on portable cover one on home cover.

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? :

No to all. Plain english policies.

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?:

Internet compare quotes. Challenge current insure about renewal increase some times they lower the permium on threat of leaving. I have not heard of that website but will look at it now.

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?:

yes in the end I got a better deal than he could get us. Told us to go with it.

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?:

Not applicable.

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?:

Not applicable.

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?:

No

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? :

Yes I have switched based purely on price as increases have been over the top year after year and I now only cover for total loss. Yes it is an effort and time consuming. Standard definitions make no difference as they will despite food and inundation every time and it will depend on the assessor that visits your property when you claim. Didn't use a broker this to me. Just rang company and threatened to change company and they lowered premium.

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?:

No my house is built to code and is only 25 years old and been maintained.

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? :

No to all. I pay monthly and there is a surcharge for doing this.

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?:

Maxing out excesses and not claiming anything. Taking out bare bones policies. I have reduced my level of cover.

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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the far north is being ripped off. I have never made a claim for any damage due to a natural disaster yet my premiums have risen year after year since cyclones Larry and Yasi.