

## Response ID ANON-DUXZ-42AA-K

Submitted to Northern Australia Insurance Inquiry  
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## About you

What is your name?

Name:  
Glenda Jones

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? :

Premium is obviously very important, however you also must ensure that you have adequate cover with us living in a "cyclone area".

Premiums in Karratha used to be comparative to Perth premiums, but I have just recieved renewals for 2 properties I own (both investments) here in Karratha and the combined premium for 1 year was just under \$8000.

The reason my broker gave me was the QBE have increased their premiums to "Match the market" by 40 - 50%.

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)? :

We dont have that great a choice as there are a lot of insurers who will not insure above the 26th parallel.

Most policy covers are similar in my experience.

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?:

Building  
Contents  
Portable contents  
specific contents  
fences  
rent default

tenant damage

#### 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?:**

I have had a couple of claims and personally have not had a problem with claiming.

Reputation should matter, however when you dont get much choice, that sometimes does not come into it.

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

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

No

#### 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?

**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?:**

Yes, as i go through a broker, I Have just been told that they no longer insure above the 26th parallel.

#### 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? :**

I get nothing except an inflated account every year.

#### 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?:**

I have sourced online quotes to try and find cheaper policies, always ensuring they have the cover required.

YOu have to be careful as some insurers have huge excesses for "named cyclones" ie. if the storm has a name and damages something, you could be up for \$25,000 excess, so its pointless to claim.

AND, this is never pointed out to you.

#### 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 i do use a broker.

#### 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?:**

No insurance offices in karratha to my knowledge. We did have a local EBM office, but they closed recently. They charge us like wounded bulls but we can never talk face to face with anyone.

#### 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?:**

Strata Insurance???

I am a strata manager as I own a real estate company. Strata insurance is an absolute rip off and an absolute JOKE!!!

That is, if anyone will cover you.

#### 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? :

I switch insurers all the time, trying to save money.

**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, what the insurers dont understand, or dont want to know is that every property built in Karratha has to be built to a certain code. It is very rare to have homes damaged here in cyclones due to the strict building codes.

**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? :

Nothing.

**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?:

Nothing i can do. I have to pay the premiums.

**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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