

Response ID ANON-DUXZ-42BG-T

Submitted to Northern Australia Insurance Inquiry
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About you

What is your name?

Name:
Nikolai

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? :

I knew there where hurricanes but I used to live in the Philippines where there where just as many typhoons. When I purchased a house I was shocked at the price of insurance and the limited choice of companies who will insure at all!

We had to take out a bare bones policy and increase the excess to its maximum (\$5000) just to be able to Afford it.

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 Exmouth and the choice is severely limited.

It's made even more tedious by the fact that one has to go through tedious preliminary questions with insurance companies before they run the answers and tell you they "don't cover that area"

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 am covered for my House and that's it. I wanted contents too but it became too expensive.

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?:

The severely limited options mean that in many cases these things must be ignored simply because the insurer is the only option.

Without competition there is free reign.

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? :**

As yet I have not had to test the mechanics of my policy.

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?:**

Many insurers said they wouldn't offer insurance "to that area".

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? :**

The usual policy documents

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 once was in contact with a regulatory body in Western Australia who helped me with insurance companies to call but when I tried to find them again online sometime later I couldn't.

My current insurance company was found through word of mouth

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?:**

My business is with a broker.

But with home insurance he was asking some crazy details which I couldn't provided.

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?:**

Many times the time difference between wa and the offices over east are a big factor in being able to reach the company

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?:**

Some info once asked was impossible to gather.

"Was your house rewired? And when?"

"What cyclone rating is the shade area?"

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?:**

Na

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? :**

So much effort to compare policies when you have to give lots of information only to be told that the area isn't covered.

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?:

My house has withstood all the major recorded cyclones but apparently this isn't a factor as much as it's age.
Modifications arnt really an issue.

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? :

I'd love a northern specific guide to making things safer or some other help.

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?:

We have had to switch to monthly payments

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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