



Smart  
Insurance

# solutions.

**Financial Services Guide**

**Coverforce Insurance Broking Victoria Pty Limited  
v 2.4 - 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021**



### Financial Services Guide

This Financial Services Guide (FSG) sets out the products and services that we offer you. It is designed to assist you in making an informed decision about whether to use any of those products or services and contains important information about:

- > the services we offer you;
- > how we and others are paid;
- > any potential conflict of interest we may have;
- > our internal and external dispute resolution procedures and how you can access them; and
- > arrangements we have in place to compensate clients for losses.

The information in the FSG is current at the date of issue and is general information only. In this FSG, the words "we", "our" or "us" is a reference to Coverforce Insurance Broking Victoria Pty Limited. "You" and "your" refer to you as our client or the insured person.

This FSG is also available on our website at [coverforce.com.au](http://coverforce.com.au)

The financial services referred to in this FSG are offered by:

Coverforce Insurance Broking Victoria Pty Limited  
ABN 45 127 707 813  
AFSL 345986

Level 2, 476 St Kilda Rd,  
Melbourne VIC 3004

T 03 9864 4444

E [vic\\_info@coverforce.com.au](mailto:vic_info@coverforce.com.au)

### When we provide advice

If we provide you with General Advice, or assist you in obtaining a Retail insurance product (as defined in the Corporations Act 2001), we provide you with a general recommendation or opinion about a product which does not take into consideration your financial needs, situation or objectives. In these circumstances we will provide you with a General Advice Warning. We recommend that you read the relevant Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) in order to determine if that product is right for you. The PDS will contain information about the particular policy which will enable you to make an informed decision about purchasing that policy.

We will provide you with further information whenever we provide you with Personal Advice which takes into account your objectives, financial situation and needs. This information may include the advice that we have given you, the basis of the advice and other information on our remuneration and any relevant associations or interests. This information may be contained in a Statement of Advice (SOA).

When you ask us to recommend an insurance policy for you, we will usually only consider the policies offered by the insurers or insurance providers that we deal with regularly. In giving you advice about the costs and terms of recommended policies we have not compared those policies to all other policies available, other than from those insurers we deal with regularly.

### Lack of Independence Declaration

Coverforce Insurance Broking Victoria Pty Limited (CIBV) and its related entities may receive commissions based on your premium for the duration of time you hold an insurance policy, fees based on the volume of assets under advice and gifts and other non-monetary benefits.



For these reasons, we are not independent, impartial or unbiased. As your brokers we are required to act in your best interest and will only recommend any associated products if we believe they will meet your needs.

### **How can I instruct you?**

You can contact us to give us instructions by post, phone or email on the contact number or details mentioned in the adjacent column of this FSG.

### **Who is responsible for the financial services provided?**

CIBV is responsible for the financial services that will be provided to you including the distribution of this FSG. CIBV holds a current Australian Financial Services License No: 345986. The contact details for CIBV are on the first page and the last page of this FSG.

In some cases our services may be provided by Authorised Representatives or Distributors who have been provided with specific authority to provide services on our behalf. When dealing with our Authorised Representatives or Distributors as a Retail Client they will provide you with information on their relationship with us and the services they are authorised to provide. Each of our Authorised Representatives or Distributors are authorised by us to issue this FSG to you on our behalf.

### **What kinds of financial services are you authorised to provide to me and what kinds of financial product/s do those services relate to?**

CIBV is authorised to issue, deal in and provide financial product advice in relation to General Insurance products and Life Insurance products (limited to consumer credit insurance only) to Retail and Wholesale clients. We will

do this for you as your broker unless we tell you otherwise.

Sometimes we will act under a binder or agency agreement from the insurer. When we act under a binder or agency agreement we will be acting as the agent of the insurer. This means that we represent and act for the insurer, not for you. We will tell you when we act under a binder or arrangement.

CIBV acts under a binding authority given by AAI Limited trading as Vero Insurance to act as its agent for the purpose of administering arranging, varying, issuing and renewing policies with respect to Motor Vehicle Insurance products.

CIBV acts under a binding authority given by QBE Insurance (Australia) Limited to act as its agent for the purpose of administering arranging, varying, issuing and renewing policies with respect to Motor Vehicle Insurance products.

CIBV acts under a binding authority given by Virginia Surety Company, Inc to act as its agent for the purpose of administering arranging, varying, issuing and renewing policies with respect to Warranty products.

When we provide these products to you we do so as the agent for the insurer and not for you.



### How will I pay for the services provided?

For each insurance product the insurer will charge a premium that includes any relevant taxes, charges and levies.

We often receive a payment based on a percentage of this premium (excluding relevant taxes, charges and levies) called commission, which is paid to us by the insurers.

In some cases we will also charge you an administration fee. These will all be shown on the invoice that we send you.

You can choose to pay by any of the payment methods set out in the invoice. You are required to pay us within the time set out on the invoice. We consider our remuneration is fully earned at the time the invoice is issued.

We make all attempts to provide you with the correct calculations of premium, statutory and other charges that apply to your insurance. In the event that there is an error in these amounts (either because we or a third party have made an unintentional error), we reserve the right to correct the amount. Where permitted by law, you will not hold us responsible for any loss that you may suffer as a result of any such error.

If there is a refund or reduction of your premium as a result of a cancellation or alteration to a policy, or based on a term of your policy (such as a premium adjustment provision), we will retain any fee we have charged you. We will also retain commission depending on our arrangements with the insurer, or charge you a cancellation fee equal to the reduction in our commission.

When you pay us your premium it will be banked into our trust account. We retain the commission from the premium you pay us and remit the balance to the insurer in accordance with our arrangements with the insurer.

We will earn interest on the premium while it is in our trust account or we may invest the premium and earn a return. We will retain any interest or return on investment earned on the premium.

You may also pay your invoice utilising premium funding.

If you do use premium funding you are able to pay your premium by instalments, although you will incur a fee and interest.

Any benefit we may receive as a result of premium funding being arranged for you is set out in this document.

### How are any commissions, fees or other benefits calculated for providing the financial services?

Generally we are remunerated in the following ways:

- > a commission paid to us by the relevant insurer;
- > a service fee; or
- > a combination of fees and commission.

Our commission will be calculated based on the following formula:

$$X = Y\% \times P$$

In this formula:

$$X = \text{our commission}$$



Y% = the percentage commission paid to us by the insurer. Our commission varies between 0 and 30%.

P = the amount you pay for any insurance policy (less any government fees or charges included in that amount).

Any fees that we charge you will be itemised on our invoice or Statement and for Retail Clients we disclose the dollar value of the commission earned.

If you pay by credit card we may charge you a fee which is non-refundable and reimburses us for bank fees, interests and charges associated with the use of a credit card.

If you are no longer a client of CIBV, we may charge you a fee associated with the ongoing cost of managing your claims. Depending on any written agreement with us, this fee is up to \$250 per hour.

### **Employee remuneration**

Our employees are paid a market salary and may be entitled to a performance bonus depending on the quality of work that they provide to clients during any financial year and the achievement of company goals.

Our employees may also be invited to annual conferences, receive sponsorship for conferences, functions, meals or other non-monetary benefits from external parties such as insurers, underwriting agencies or reinsurers. You do not bear the cost of these events and such relationships are managed under our conflicts of interest policy.

Our policy is that any of the above received by us or our representatives that exceed \$300 per item or transaction in estimated value are potentially material and must be disclosed to our Conflicts Manager in writing.

### **Authorised Representatives, Distributors and Referrers**

Authorised Representatives and Distributors that provide financial services to you on our behalf are also remunerated. Authorised Representatives and Distributors are not employees and are not paid a salary. Instead, they are paid a percentage of the remuneration we receive (not in addition to those amounts) based on the services they provide.

Generally they will receive between 10% and 75% of our remuneration. We may pay our Authorised Representatives and Distributors for services provided in the sale, distribution and administration of this product. These costs may be passed on to you and included as part of the total amount payable.

The remuneration paid to the Authorised Representative or Distributor is disclosed in their Profile which is provided to you at point of sale.

If you were referred to CIBV by a third party we may pay that third party a referrer fee which is calculated on a percentage of the commission that we receive, generally between 10% – 60%.

This does not impact on the amount that you are charged for your insurance and the services that we provide.



### Premium funding

If we arrange premium funding for you we may be paid a commission by the premium funder. We may also charge you a fee (or both). The commission that we are paid by the premium funder is usually calculated as a percentage of your insurance premium (including government fees or charges). If you instruct us to arrange or issue a product, this is when we become entitled to the commission.

We have preferred supplier agreements in place with Hunter Premium Funding Pty Limited, Macquarie Premium Funding Pty Ltd and QPR Limited.

Our commission rates for premium funding are in the range of 0% to 6% of funded premium. When we arrange premium funding for you, you can ask us what commission rates we are paid for that funding arrangement compared to the other arrangements that were available to you.

### The Coverforce Group and other related entities

Coverforce Insurance Broking Victoria Pty Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of Coverforce Victoria Holdings Pty Limited (ACN 610 837 431). Coverforce Insurance Broking Victoria Pty Limited is part of a group of financial services companies that consists of Coverforce Pty Limited (ACN 067 079 261), Quanta Insurance Group Pty Ltd (ACN 118 886 927), Coverforce Insurance Broking Pty Ltd (ACN 118 883 542) and Coverforce Partners Pty Ltd (ACN 089 245 465).

All mentioned companies are a part of the Coverforce Group.

If we recommend a product or service of a company in the Coverforce Group, we may receive benefits as a result of that referral including a share of any commission generated by that referral, dividends and in some cases a share of that entities profits

We ensure that all negotiations and discussions with entities in the Coverforce Group are conducted as if that entity was an unrelated party and the relationship between the entities does not influence us in our recommendation of a product to you. We will always recommend products to you that are an appropriate solution for your needs.

Where there is potential conflict of interest in our remuneration or arrangements generally with entities in the Coverforce Group we manage those in accordance with our conflicts of interest policy which all staff and both our Authorised Representatives and Distributors must comply with.

Should you have any questions in relation to our remuneration please do not hesitate to contact us.

### What do we do with our remuneration?

CIBV utilises the remuneration it receives for a variety of purposes including:

- a. staff salaries;
- b. payments to Authorised Representatives, Distributors and Referrers; and
- c. funding of normal business operating expenses including rent and IT management.



### **Do you have any relationships or associations with the insurers who issue the insurance policies or any other material relationships?**

CIBV is a Steadfast Group Limited (Steadfast) Network Broker. Steadfast has exclusive arrangements with some insurers and premium funders (Partners) under which Steadfast will receive between 0.5 – 1.5% commission for each product arranged by us with those Partners. Steadfast is also a shareholder of some Partners.

We may receive a proportion of that commission from Steadfast at the end of each financial year (or other agreed period).

As a Steadfast Network Broker we have access to services including model operating and compliance tools, procedures, manuals and training, legal, technical, banking and recruitment advice and assistance, group insurance arrangements, product comparison and placement support, claims support and group purchasing arrangements. These broker services are either funded by Steadfast, subsidised by Steadfast or available exclusively to Steadfast Network Brokers for a fee.

You can obtain a copy of Steadfast's FSG at [www.steadfast.com.au](http://www.steadfast.com.au)

In some instances we have agreements with various insurers to pay us a commission based on the volume of, or profitability, of work that we place with them. Some of those agreements include a profit share. Please let us know should you require more information about those insurers with which we have these agreements.

These arrangements do not impact on the amount you are required to pay for your insurance and does not influence us in deciding where to place your insurance.

### **What arrangements do you have in place to compensate clients for losses?**

CIBV has a professional indemnity insurance policy (PI policy) in place that complies with section 912B of the Corporations Act 2001.

The PI policy covers us and our employees (both past and present) for claims made against our employees, Distributors, Referrers and Authorised Representatives by clients as a result of negligent conduct by us in the provision of financial services.

### **What information do you maintain in my file and can I access my file?**

We maintain a record of your personal profile, including details of insurance policies that we arrange or issue for you. We may also maintain records of any recommendations or advice given to you.

We will retain this FSG and any other FSG given to you as well as any SOA or PDS that we give or pass on to you for the period required by law.

We are committed to implementing and promoting a privacy policy, which will ensure the privacy and security of your personal information. A copy of our privacy policy is available on request. A copy is also available on our website [coverforce.com.au](http://coverforce.com.au).

If you wish to look at your file please ask us. We will make arrangements for you to do so.



### **Contractual liability and your insurance cover**

Many commercial or business contracts contain clauses dealing with your liability (including indemnities or hold harmless clauses).

Such clauses may entitle your insurers to reduce cover, or in some cases, refuse to indemnify you at all.

You should seek legal advice before signing and accepting contracts. You should inform us of any clauses of this nature before you enter into them.

### **Making a claim**

Please contact us immediately if you need to lodge a claim.

If any claims are outstanding when you terminate our appointment as your insurance broker, we will provide details of the claim(s) to your new insurance broker so that they may continue to negotiate settlement on your behalf. Alternatively, we can continue to manage your claims for you at a fee of \$250 per hour.

### **Duty of disclosure**

Before you enter into an insurance contract with an insurer, you have a duty to disclose to the insurer every matter that you know, or could reasonably be expected to know, that is relevant to the insurer's decision whether to accept the risk of the insurance and, if so, on what terms. Your duty is not limited to answering specific questions in a proposal. Any additional relevant matters must also be disclosed. You have this duty until the insurer agrees to cover your risk. You have the same duty before you renew, extend, vary or reinstate an insurance contract.

Your duty however does not require disclosure of a matter:

- > that diminishes the risk to be undertaken by the insurer;
- > that is of common knowledge;
- > that your insurer knows, or in the ordinary course of its business, ought to know; or
- > as to which compliance with your duty is waived by the insurer.

For eligible contracts (where a natural person is purchasing Motor Vehicle, Home, Contents, Accident & Sickness, Consumer Credit or Travel Insurance) the insurer may provide you with a copy of all information previously disclosed to them by you, and request you provide updated information where required. If you do not advise of any changes to previous information, the insurer will be under the impression that no changes have occurred to the risk.



### **Non-disclosure**

If you fail to comply with your duty of disclosure, the insurer may be entitled to reduce their liability under the contract in respect of a claim or may cancel the contract. If your non-disclosure is fraudulent, the insurer may also have the option of voiding the contract from its beginning.

### **Material changes**

You must also notify your insurer of any significant changes which occur during the period of insurance.

If you do not, your insurances may be inadequate to fully cover you. We can assist you to do this and to ensure that your contract of insurance is altered to reflect those changes.

### **Cooling off period - retail insurance only**

If you decide that you do not need the retail insurance which has been arranged on your behalf, you have a minimum of 14 days from the earlier of the date you receive confirmation of the contract and the date it was arranged to change your mind. You must tell the insurer in writing that you wish to return the insurance contract and have the premium repaid. If you do so, the insurance contract will be terminated from the time you notified the insurer and the premium will be returned.

The insurer may retain its reasonable administration and transaction costs and a short term premium. You cannot return the contract of insurance if it has already expired or if you have made a claim under it

We note that the above is the standard cooling off period and that you should check your Insurer's Product

Disclosure Statement for the specific cooling off period that relates to your product.

### **What should I do if I have a complaint?**

Contact us and tell us about your complaint. We will do our best to resolve it quickly.

If your complaint is not satisfactorily resolved within 15 Business Days, please contact our National Compliance Manager at [compliance@coverforce.com.au](mailto:compliance@coverforce.com.au).

We will try and resolve your complaint quickly and fairly. A response will be provided to you within a maximum of 45 days from the date your original complaint was received.

If, after 45 days the dispute is still not resolved in a manner acceptable to you, you have the right to contact our external dispute resolution service. CIBV is a member of the Australian Financial Complaints Authority:

Website: [www.afca.org.au](http://www.afca.org.au)

Email: [info@afca.org.au](mailto:info@afca.org.au)

Phone: 1800 931 678 (free call)

Mail: Australian Financial Complaints Authority

GPO Box 3, Melbourne VIC 3001

Time limits can apply to complain to AFCA and so you should act promptly or otherwise visit the AFCA website to determine when the time limit relevant to your circumstance expires.



## **Client Contact Agreement**

To ensure that we provide you with appropriate products and services, you agree to us calling you to discuss any new products and services.

If you do not wish to receive such calls please advise us and we will place you on our Do Not Call Register.

## **Any questions?**

If you have any further questions about the financial services CIBV provides, please contact us.

Please retain this document for your reference and any future dealings with CIBV.

## **Changes to this FSG**

Information in this document may change from time to time. We may make changes by amending the FSG and publishing an updated version on our website. You may also obtain a printed copy of the updated information by calling your broker.

- 
-  [facebook.com/coverforce](https://facebook.com/coverforce)
  -  [twitter.com/coverforce](https://twitter.com/coverforce)
  -  [youtube.com/coverforceaustralia](https://youtube.com/coverforceaustralia)
  -  [linkedin.com/company/coverforce](https://linkedin.com/company/coverforce)

For more information

 1800 986 445

 [coverforce.com.au](https://coverforce.com.au)

This financial services guide is  
issued by Coverforce Insurance Broking Victoria Pty  
Limited

ACN 127 707 813

ABN 45 127 707 813

AFSL 345986

Level 2, 476 St Kilda Rd,  
Melbourne VIC 3004

T 03 9864 4444

E [vic\\_info@coverforce.com.au](mailto:vic_info@coverforce.com.au)

[www.coverforce.com.au](https://www.coverforce.com.au)