



# Financial Services Guide

## AFS Licensee

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AFSL Name: Coverforce Aughtersons

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**The financial services referred to in this financial services guide (FSG) are offered by:**

Coverforce Aughtersons AFSL 227200 ABN 90 007 367 535 (Aughtersons)

9/2 Nelson Street, Ringwood VIC 3134

P: 03 9879 7699

E: info.ca@coverforce.com.au

<b>Lack of Independence</b>
<p>Why we are not independent, impartial, or unbiased in relation to the provision of personal advice and the impact of this on you</p> <p>We, Coverforce Aughtersons, are not independent, impartial, or unbiased pursuant to section 923A of the Corporations Act because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>&gt; We may receive remuneration, commission, gifts or other benefits when we provide personal advice to you in relation to insurance products and other financial products;</li><li>&gt; We may be subject to direct or indirect restrictions relating to the financial products in respect of which personal advice is provided; and/or</li><li>&gt; We may have associations or relationships with issuers of insurance products and other financial products.</li></ul> <p>Further information about these benefits and relationships is set out in this Financial Services Guide.</p> <p>If you have any questions about this information, please ask us.</p>

**Andrew Ramsden** is the authorised representative of **Aughtersons** (AR number: 000341106):

Suite 9/2 Nelson Street, Ringwood VIC 3134

P: 03 9879 7699

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**This FSG sets out the services that we can offer you. It is designed to assist you in deciding whether to use any of those 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.
- > 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 Aughtersons. “You” and “your” refer to you as our client or the insured person.

**Further information when personal advice is given**

We will provide you with further information whenever we provide you with 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 other policies available, other than from those insurers we deal with regularly.



### PRODUCT DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (PDS)

If you are a retail client and we offer to arrange the issue of an insurance policy to you, we will also provide you with, or pass on to you, a Product Disclosure Statement (PDS), unless you already have an up-to-date PDS. The PDS will contain information about the particular policy which will enable you to make an informed decision about purchasing that product.

### From when does this FSG apply?

This FSG applies from 8 June 2023 and remains valid unless a further FSG is issued to replace it. We may give you a supplementary FSG. It will not replace this FSG but will cover services not covered by this FSG.

### How can I instruct you?

You can contact us to give us instructions by post, phone, fax or email mentioned on page 1 of this FSG.

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

Aughtersons is responsible for the financial services that will be provided to you, or through you to your family members, including the distribution of this FSG.

Aughtersons holds a current Australian Financial Services Licensee No: 227200. The contact details for Aughtersons are on the front of this FSG.

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

Aughtersons is authorised to deal in and provide financial product advice and services to wholesale and retail clients. We will do this for you as your broker unless we tell you otherwise. Sometimes we will act under a binder or agency arrangement that Aughtersons has with an insurer. When we act under a binder or agency, 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 agency arrangement to arrange your insurance or advise you about your insurance needs.

### Will I receive tailored advice?

Aughtersons holds an Australian Financial Services Licence (AFSL). This allows Aughtersons to provide personal financial product advice.

We may need information about your personal objectives, details of your current financial situation and any relevant information, so that we can arrange insurance policies for you, issue insurance policies to you, or to give you advice about your insurance needs. We will ask you for the details that we need to know.

In some cases we will not ask for any of this information. If we do not ask, or if you do not give us all of the information we ask for, any advice you receive may not be appropriate to your needs, objectives and financial situation.

You should read the warnings contained in any SOA, or any other warnings that we give you, carefully before making any decision about an insurance policy.

Where we provide you with advice about your insurance arrangements, that advice is current at the time that we give it. We will review your insurance arrangements when you inform us about changes in your circumstances, at the time of any scheduled status review or upon renewal of your insurances.

### 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.

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

We maintain a record of your personal profile, including details of insurance policies that we arrange 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 Statement of Advice or Product Disclosure Statement 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, [www.aughtersonsinsurance.com.au](http://www.aughtersonsinsurance.com.au). If you wish to look at your file, please ask us. We will make arrangements for you to do so.

### 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. However, in some cases we will also charge you a 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.

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 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 Aughtersons 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?

Our commission will be calculated based on the following formula:

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

In this formula:

X = our commission

Y% = the percentage of 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 commissions 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 Aughtersons, 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.

We do not often pay any commissions, fees or benefits to others who refer you to us or refer us to an insurer. If we do, we will pay commissions to those people out of our commission or fees (not in addition to those amounts), in the range of 10% to 50% of our commission or fees.

Aughtersons' 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. Aughtersons' 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 Aughtersons conflicts of interest policy. Aughtersons 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 Aughtersons Conflicts Manager in writing.

If we give you personal advice, we will inform you of any fees, commission or other payments we, our associates or anyone referring you to Us (or Us to any insurer) will receive in relation to the policies that are the subject of the advice.



See below for information on the Steadfast association and commission.

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

Aughtersons is a Steadfast Group Limited (**Steadfast**) Network Broker. As a Steadfast Network Broker, Aughtersons have access to services including model operating and compliance tools, procedures, manuals and training, legal, technical, HR, contractual liability advice and assistance, group insurance arrangements, product comparison and placement support, claims support, group purchasing arrangements and broker support services. These services are either funded by Steadfast, subsidised by Steadfast or available exclusively to Steadfast Network Brokers for a fee.

Steadfast has arrangements with some insurers and premium funders (Partners) under which the Partners may pay Steadfast commission fee to access strategic and technological support and the Steadfast Broker Network. Steadfast is also a shareholder of some Partners.

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

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 and Aughtersons 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 Aughtersons become entitled to the commission.

Aughtersons' commission rates for premium funding are in the range of 1% to 4% of funded premium. When we arrange premium funding for you, you can ask us what commission rates Aughtersons are paid for that funding arrangement compared to the other arrangements that were available to you.

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.

Aughtersons subscribes to the Insurance Brokers Code of Practice.

### The Coverforce Group and other related entities

Aughtersons is part of a group of financial services companies (collectively referred to as the Coverforce Group). The Coverforce Group also includes the following companies:

- Coverforce Insurance Broking Pty Ltd (ABN 11 118 883 542);
- Coverforce Partners Pty Ltd (ABN 57 089 245 465); and
- Coverforce Pty Ltd (ABN 31 067 079 261)

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, Distributors and Authorised Representatives must comply with.

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

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

1. Contact your consultant and/or Coverforce Compliance on [compliance@coverforce.com.au](mailto:compliance@coverforce.com.au) about your complaint. We will do our best to resolve it quickly.

If your complaint is not satisfactorily resolved within 5 days, your complaint will be escalated to our Compliance Manager. You can contact the Compliance Manager on 1300 503 503 or put your complaint in writing and email it to [compliance@coverforce.com.au](mailto:compliance@coverforce.com.au) or send it to the Complaints Manager at the address noted at the beginning of this FSG. We will try and resolve your complaint quickly and fairly.

2. Aughtersons is a member of the Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA). If after 30 days, your



complaint is still not resolved in a manner acceptable to you, you have the right to refer the matter to the AFCA. AFCA provides fair and independent financial services complaint resolution that is free to customers. The AFCA can be contacted at:

Mailing address:

Australian Financial Complaints Authority,  
GPO Box 3, Melbourne, VIC 3001

**P:** 1800 931 678

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

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

### What arrangements are in place to compensate clients for losses?

Aughtersons has a professional indemnity insurance policy (PI policy) in place.

The PI policy in place covers Us and our employees for claims made against Us by clients as a result of the conduct in the provision of financial services. The PI policy will cover us for claims relating to the conduct of representatives who no longer work for us.

This policy satisfies the requirements for compensation arrangements under section 912B of the Corporations Act.

### Cooling off Period

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.

### Making a claim

Please contact Us or your Insurer immediately if you need to lodge a claim. Further details on how to make a claim on your policy can be found in the relevant Product Disclosure Statement.

### Duty to take reasonable care not to make a misrepresentation

A contract of insurance is a consumer insurance contract if the insurance is obtained wholly or predominantly for personal, domestic or household purposes of the insured. It includes general insurance contracts (such as consumer credit, motor vehicle, home and contents, sickness and accident and travel insurances) and life insurance contracts.

When you apply for home insurance, car insurance or any other insurance that is wholly or predominantly for personal, domestic or household use we will ask you specific questions that are relevant to the insurers decision to insure you and on what terms including the premium that the insurer will charge.

When you take out, renew, extend or vary your insurance policy, it is important that you understand you are answering questions for yourself and anyone else to be covered by the policy.

You should always provide us with complete and honest answers to all the questions we ask you, by answering questions about yourself and other named policyholders to the best of your knowledge.

This is your duty to take reasonable care not to make a misrepresentation.

If you breach your duty, the insurer may be entitled to refuse to pay your claim, reduce the amount payable for a claim or cancel your policy.

If your breach is fraudulent, your policy may be cancelled from the beginning.



### **Changes to your circumstances**

During the term of your contract of insurance, we ask that you inform your insurer of any changes to the details on your Certificate of Insurance that are no longer accurate.

Any changes may affect the premium and excesses applied to your policy or 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.

### **Any questions?**

If you have any further questions about the financial services Aughtersons provides, please contact Us at the contact details noted on page 1 of this document.

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