

### FINANCIAL SERVICES GUIDE

This financial service guide (**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.

#### Lack of Independence

**Why we are not independent, impartial, or unbiased in relation to the provision of personal advice and the impact of this on you.**

We, Cowden (VIC) Pty Ltd, are not independent, impartial, or unbiased pursuant to section 923A of the *Corporations Act* because:

- We may receive commission when we provide personal advice to you in relation to insurance products and other financial products; and/or
- We may have associations or relationships with issuers of insurance products and other financial products.

Further information about these benefits and relationships is set out in this Financial Services Guide.

Under the Corporations Act we are obliged at all times to act in the interest of the client. We are an unlisted public company, not owned by any other organisation.

If you have any questions about this information, please ask us.

#### 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

If 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 July 2021 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 on the contact number or details mentioned on this FSG.

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

Cowden (VIC) Pty Ltd 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. We hold a current Australian Financial Services Licensee no: 245658. The contact details for us are on 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?**

We are authorised to advise and deal in general insurance products to wholesale and/or retail clients. We will do this for you as your broker unless we tell you otherwise.

### **Will I receive tailored advice?**

Maybe not in all cases. However, 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, 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 warning 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, 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 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. 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.

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 may 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 with an approved deposit-taking institution and earn a return. We will retain any interest or return on investment earned on the premium.

### **How are any commissions, fees or other benefits calculated for provided 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 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).

To assist, as a guide for the financial year ending 30 June 2021, the average commission earned on gross amount paid by our clients was between 10% - 15%.

Any fees that we charge you for the cost of our professional advice and services varies depending on the complexity of the advice and service given.

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 part of our commission or fees to them or pay them an agreed referral fee.

Our employees that will assist you with your insurance needs will be paid an annual salary that may include bonuses based on performance criteria.

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?**

We are a Steadfast Group Limited (**Steadfast**) Network Broker. As a Steadfast Network Broker we 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 pay Steadfast a 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 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. Our commission rates for premium funding are in the range of 0% to 2% of funded premium.

When we arrange premium funding for you, you can ask us what commission rates we are paid for that funding arrangement. Global Premium Funding Pty Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cowden Limited.

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

1. Contact us and tell us about your complaint. We will do our best to resolve it quickly.
2. If your complaint is not satisfactorily resolved within 10 days, please contact our Complaints Officer, Mr Colin Cowden:
  - a. Telephone on (08) 9322 4822, or
  - b. Email at [colin.cowden@cowden.com.au](mailto:colin.cowden@cowden.com.au), or
  - c. Mail to PO Box 60, West Perth, WA 6872

We will try and resolve your complaint quickly and fairly.

3. We are a member of the Australian Financial Complaints Authority (**AFCA**). If your complaint cannot be resolved to your satisfaction by us, 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:
  - a. Telephone on 1800 931 678, or
  - b. Email at [info@afca.org.au](mailto:info@afca.org.au), or
  - c. Website on [www.afca.org.au](http://www.afca.org.au), or
  - d. Mail to GPO Box 3, Melbourne, VIC 3001

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

We have a Professional Indemnity insurance policy (**PI policy**) in place. The PI policy covers us and our representatives (including our authorised representatives) for claims made against us and our representatives by clients as a result of the conduct of us, our employees or representatives in the provision of financial services.

Our PI policy covers 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*.

### Any questions?

If you have any further questions about the financial services we provide, please contact us. Please retain this document for your reference and any future dealings with us.

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