

# Personal Accident & Illness Insurance fact sheet

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## Personal Accident & Illness Insurance in a nutshell

If you suffer a serious accident or illness, Personal Accident & Illness insurance will provide a weekly benefit to help cover medical bills and everyday living expenses if you have to take time out from your business to recover.

### The low-down

As much as we strive to remain fit and healthy, it's a fact of life that accidents do happen, and people fall ill.

If you do become sick or injured, Personal Accident & Illness (PA) insurance will provide financial protection and peace of mind by paying up to 85% of your income, with a weekly benefit of up to \$3,000 per week whilst you are temporarily unable to work. Depending on the benefit period you choose, you could be covered for up to 2 years.

You can elect to take cover for accidental injury only, or for accidental injury and illness. There is also the option to include Death and Disablement cover, which provides a lump sum payment in the event you become permanently disabled or die.

It is particularly important if you are a sole-trader or contractor and not covered by Worker's Compensation.

### Do I really need it?

As a business owner you are your business' most important asset. Your business is your livelihood and without you there to keep it running, there is little in the way of support for you to fall back on if you are seriously ill or injured, unless you have some solid savings or a good insurance plan.

Time spent away from work, whether a week, a month or more, could have a direct impact on your income, as well as the financial health of your business.

Personal Accident & Illness insurance offers a smart and affordable safety net, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week; so that you can continue to afford to look after yourself and your family whilst you concentrate on getting better.

## What is typically covered?

- ✔ Loss of income if you are unable to work due to injury or serious illness (if you have selected the illness option) for up to two years
- ✔ Option to include Death and Disablement, which provides cover for accidental death, and partial or total disablement
- ✔ Depending on the policy you choose, additional benefits may include rehabilitation and return to work assistance, transport assistance, reimbursement of membership fees, and twelve (12) weeks upfront guaranteed payment
- ✔ Cover available up to 70 years of age (depending on the chosen policy)

## What isn't usually covered?

- ✘ Pre-existing conditions
- ✘ Pregnancy and childbirth
- ✘ Participation in professional sports
- ✘ Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- ✘ Criminal acts caused by you
- ✘ Suicide and intentional self-injury
- ✘ Mental illness, and mental or emotional disorders

## Did you know?

- You are not required to undergo any health or medical checks to obtain Personal Accident & Illness insurance.
- 40% of all injuries requiring hospitalisation are due to falls. (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare)
- There are 12,000 deaths per year due to injury. (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare)
- The average length of stay in hospital as a result of injury is 4 days. (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare)
- More than 11 million Australians (50%) reported having at least 1 of 8 selected chronic diseases in 2014-15. (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare)
- Ischaemic heart disease is the leading cause of death in Australia, accounting for 19,077 deaths in 2016. (Australian Bureau of Statistics)

## Claim Case Study

A self-employed electrician suffered a broken leg when he fell off a ladder whilst doing electrical work on the outside of a house, and was required to take a substantial amount of time off work to recover.

Fortunately, he had Personal Accident & Illness insurance and was able to claim \$600 per week, which greatly assisted him whilst he was off work. He claimed a total benefit of \$8,571.

Without insurance he would have suffered severe financial hardship.