

Richard Oliver Underwriting Managers Pty Ltd

## **Financial Services Guide**

This FSG was prepared on 1 October 2021.



## Introduction

This Financial Services Guide (FSG) is designed to assist you in deciding whether to use any of the financial services, provided by Richard Oliver Underwriting Managers Pty Ltd (ROUM), that are described in this FSG. This FSG contains information on:

- The services we are authorized to provide to you
- Our remuneration
- Our internal and external dispute resolution procedures, and
- Other important information.

## Other documents you may receive from us

### Statement of Advice (SOA)

If you are an individual or small business and purchase retail or personal insurance, we may provide you with personal advice that takes into account your personal needs, objectives or financial situation. We will provide this advice in the form of a Statement of Advice (SoA), which will contain our advice, the basis of our advice, any commission, fees and any other benefits, where possible, in actual dollar amounts, and any associations we have with Insurers or other parties which may have influenced the advice provided. We will give you this SoA before we proceed to act on your instructions.

### Product Disclosure Statement (PDS)

If you are an individual or small business and purchase retail or personal insurance, where required, we will give you a Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) when recommending to you a particular insurance product. The PDS is prepared by the Insurer and contains information about the product recommended, to help you make a more informed decision about whether or not to purchase the product.

## Who is ROUM?

ROUM, a subsidiary of Willis Australia Limited, is a member of Willis Towers Watson PLC, a company incorporated in the Republic of Ireland and listed on NASDAQ and a leading global independent intermediary and risk management consultancy.

Willis Australia Limited is a member of the National Insurance Brokers Association of Australia (NIBA).

## How to contact us:

You can contact us on:

Telephone: + 61 3 8681 9909  
Fax: + 61 3 8681 9971

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

## **What financial services are we authorised to provide?**

ROUM has an Australian Financial Services Licence and the number is 238334. This license allows us to provide advice on and deal in general insurance products as an insurance broker, to retail and wholesale clients.

## **What are our services?**

We will discuss with you your insurance requirements, including the scope of cover and limits to be sought, and cost. Upon receipt of your instructions, whether written or oral, we will endeavour to satisfy your insurance requirements.

During the course of the placement of your insurance we will endeavour to keep you informed of the progress of our negotiations and identify any inability to obtain coverage sought by you. We will use reasonable endeavours to implement your insurance programme, subject to available insurers, before the intended date of inception, renewal or extension of cover (whichever is appropriate).

We will provide you with information and advice about the insurance cover available to enable you to decide whether to accept the insurance cover offered. As your insurance intermediary we will answer any questions you may have about the available cover, its benefits, restrictions, exclusions and conditions.

We do not offer advice in relation to tax, accounting, regulatory or legal matters. You should take separate advice as you consider necessary regarding such matters.

## **How can you instruct us about your Insurance?**

You may instruct us about your insurance by telephone or in person, by fax or email, or by other means as we agree with you.

## **Who do we act for?**

As an insurance broker we normally act for you as your agent.

We will tell you if we are not acting for you in providing any of the financial services.

For example, for some insurance products, insurers grant us a binding authority or similar facility to accept business on their behalf. When we place your insurance under a binding authority or similar facility, we act for you when we provide you with advice or product recommendation, but we act for the insurer when we issue the insurance contract.

We may also be granted an authority by insurers, for example under a binding authority, to settle claims on your insurance. We act for the insurer when we settle claims within the terms and conditions of the authority granted. It is our policy to refer claims to insurers for settlement decision where we are not able to settle the claims on a 100% basis.

### **What if we have a conflict of interest?**

Circumstances can arise where we may find we have a conflict of interest in, or otherwise have a material interest in or related to, a matter in which we are acting. For example, we may be asked to act on behalf of an insurer in the appointment of a loss adjuster; or, we may find that the interests of two of the clients for whom we act, conflict.

We have conflict management procedures and we seek to avoid conflicts of interest but where a conflict is unavoidable we will explain the position fully and manage the situation in such a way as to avoid prejudice to any party.

The insurance market is complex and there could be other relationships not described here which might create conflicts of interest. Whatever the circumstances, we will act in your best interests and if a conflict arises for which there is no practicable solution, we will withdraw unless you wish us to continue to act for you and provide us with your written consent to that effect.

### **What are our Professional Indemnity provisions?**

ROUM has Professional Indemnity cover in place which satisfies the requirements for compensation arrangements under section 912B of the *Corporations Act 2001*. Subject to the terms and conditions, this includes coverage for existing and former employees for insurance services conducted as employees of ROUM.

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

ROUM has a formal complaints procedure. Should you have a complaint please contact your ROUM client advocate in the first instance. Alternatively, you may contact our Complaints Officer on (02) 9285 4000 or send an email to [complaints.au@richardoliver.com](mailto:complaints.au@richardoliver.com).

We will acknowledge your complaint within one business day of receipt and advise you who the prime contact for handling your complaint is.

We aim to resolve complaints within 30 days of receipt but if your complaint is complex and may take more than 30 days to resolve, we will keep you informed on the progress and when we expect to provide our final response.

We are a member of the Australian Financial Complaints Authority (AFCA), an external dispute resolution facility. If an issue has not been resolved to your satisfaction, you can lodge a complaint with AFCA. AFCA provides independent financial services complaint resolution that is free to consumers.

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

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

**Telephone:** 1800 931 678 (free call)

**In writing to:** Australian Financial Complaints Authority, GPO Box 3, Melbourne VIC 3001.

## What about privacy?

We respect your privacy and are committed to protecting your personal information. Our Privacy Policy explains how we collect, use and disclose the personal information you provide and what we expect of you in this regard.

Please contact your ROUM client advocate or visit our website for a copy of our Privacy Policy.

By proceeding to deal with us, you confirm on your behalf and/or on behalf of those you represent, agreement to the collection, use and disclosure of personal information described within our Privacy Policy.

## What is your duty of disclosure?

In order to make our business relationship work, you must provide complete and accurate information and instructions in a timely manner, so that we can assist you fully.

Please bear in mind that there is no duty on insurers to make enquiries of you. You have a duty to disclose to the insurer before a contract of insurance is entered into, every matter that is known to you that is relevant to the decision of the insurer whether to accept the risk.

Failure to comply with your duty of disclosure may allow insurers to avoid liability for a particular claim or to void the policy. This duty of disclosure applies equally on taking out new insurance policies and on renewal or any change (variation, extension or endorsement) to your policies. We will not be responsible for any consequences which may arise from any delayed, inaccurate or incomplete information.

## What if there is a change in your circumstances?

You must advise us as soon as reasonably practicable of any changes in your circumstances that may affect the services to be provided by us or the cover provided under your insurance policy. We may need to give you advice as to the suitability of the insurance for your changed circumstances to ensure it remains appropriate for your needs, objectives and financial situation.

## How do you pay for our services?

Our remuneration will be either brokerage, which is a percentage of the insurance premium paid by you and allowed to use by the insurer with whom the insurance contract is placed, a fee as agreed with you, or a combination of fee and brokerage depending on your programme and the various businesses within our Company that provide services to you.

A policy administration fee (on a per invoice basis) may also apply. We will advise you of the amount of the policy administration fee when we provide you with the insurance quote.

The range of brokerage we earn on the insurance products we place will vary depending on the product purchased, but will generally range from 0% to 35%.

Fees and brokerage are earned for the policy period and we will be entitled to retain all brokerage and fees in respect of the full policy period in relation to policies placed by us.

You can request further particulars in relation to the remuneration we receive.

## What remuneration is received by our Employees?

Our employees receive an annual salary that may include discretionary annual bonuses based on pre-determined business performance criteria such as client service standards and business profitability. They may also from time to time be eligible to receive incentives or bonuses based on business retention or generation. In addition employees may be eligible to participate in any Willis Towers Watson share plan that may be offered on a discretionary basis from time to time.

## What other Remuneration do we receive?

### Insurers

We provide services to insurers that are not directly related to the service provided to you and we receive remuneration in recognition for those services. This remuneration may be a management or administration fee received from an insurer, or revenue based upon the volume or profitability of insurance business placed across an entire portfolio with a given Insurer over a specific period. These payments recognise the services we provide to the Insurer over that given period.

We may also receive Risk Management fees from insurers for additional services provided by us (or other Consultants) in relation to your insurance programme.

We may have contracts or other arrangements with various insurers pursuant to which we provide certain services, such as performing risk management surveys or those under binding authorities and delegated claims settlement arrangements (for example, providing statements of the business accepted, issuing certificates of insurance cover or settling claims on behalf of insurers). Under these arrangements we may be paid by the insurers for the services provided to them in addition to any brokerage we may receive for placing your insurance cover.

## Premium Funding

You may choose to use a Premium Funding Finance company (Funder) in connection with the insurance we place for you. The details of your premium funding arrangement will be set out in your separate agreement with the Funder. We will receive a commission of between 0% to 4% of the amount of funding provided to you. We may receive a fee in respect of specific services we provide to the Funder. Please ensure you review the agreement with the Funder, including the remuneration arrangements before making a final decision to use the Funder.

## Interest

In the ordinary course of business we may also receive interest on client and insurer monies from the date when we receive funds until we settle with those due to receive them. We confirm that we shall retain that interest rather than pay it to you or the insurer (as the case may be).

## Referrals

If you are an individual or small business and purchase retail or personal insurance and you have been referred to us by someone else, we may pay the referrer a share of our fee or brokerage in relation to that referral, generally ranging from 5% to 30%.

## What other Remuneration Arrangements are there within Willis Towers Watson?

### Market-Derived Income

We or other subsidiaries of Willis Towers Watson PLC (collectively referred to in this section as "Willis Towers Watson") have contracts with various insurers under which Willis Towers Watson provide certain services, such as those under binding authorities, managing general agency and lineslip arrangements (for example, providing statements of the business accepted and the issuance of certificates of insurance cover).

Willis Towers Watson may also provide reinsurance broking services for insurers. We may also enter into service agreements with certain insurers in order to assist the development of insurance products for our clients.

Under these arrangements Willis Towers Watson may be paid by the insurers for the services we provide to them in addition to any fees or commissions Willis Towers Watson may receive from you for placing your insurance cover.

### Contingent Compensation

Willis Towers Watson may accept certain forms of contingent compensation in locations where they are legally permissible, and meet standards and controls to prevent conflicts of interest. Because insurers account for contingent payments when developing general pricing, the price our clients pay for their policies is not affected if Willis Towers Watson accepts contingent payments. If a client prefers that we not accept contingent compensation related to their account, we will request that the client's insurer(s) exclude that client's business from their contingent payment calculations.

### FINMAR – FINEX Placements

A separate Business Unit within Willis Towers Watson, FINMAR Market Services, provides a wide range of services direct to certain insurers that place business for FINEX clients globally. A separate fee is paid to FINMAR Market Services by insurers for the delivery of these services to them. This fee is calculated within a range of 3.125% and 5.25% (plus applicable tax) of the overall premiums placed depending on the scale of services provided. Insurers have agreed that they will bear this fee as part of their operating costs and not to increase premiums directly payable by Willis Towers Watson's clients.

### Panels

Willis Towers Watson develops panels of insurers in certain market segments. Participating insurers are reviewed on a variety of factors. Commission rates on panel placements may be higher than rates paid on business placed outside of the panel process. ROUM discloses its commission rates to

clients on quotes obtained through the panel process prior to binding the coverage. In some instances, insurers pay an administration fee to participate in the panel process.

### Brokerage on Fee Business

In some territories outside of North America, Willis Towers Watson entities may obtain brokerage on business where our client pays us a fee. Our intention is to seek remuneration for work that is carried out for all parties in the insurance transaction but for which Willis Towers Watson entity is not otherwise sufficiently compensated. Some examples of this are the vastly increased cost of regulation, distribution and infrastructure costs. This brokerage received is a set percentage and is not contingent on achieving any level of growth, retention or profit on the business concerned. You can choose to exclude your placements from being included in any of these carrier agreements.

### Subscription Market Brokerage

Willis Towers Watson adds Subscription Market Brokerage in some of its core specialty businesses that place business into the subscription markets, predominantly in London.

The principles underlying this Subscription Market Brokerage program include the following:

- Willis Towers Watson is required to handle increased infrastructure costs such as those arising from presentations to and negotiations with multiple entities in the subscription market;
- Willis Towers Watson performs additional administrative, regulatory, accounting and support functions in order to complete subscription market placements. These functions benefit our clients and insurers;
- Working groups of underwriters in the subscription market recognize these additional costs and agree that a negotiated percentage of the premium to account for these costs is appropriate and helps assure



competitive access to that market.

Willis Towers Watson believes that the best way to defray the cost of these functions is through this brokerage. Willis Towers Watson will disclose the receipt of Subscription Market Brokerage to you. Facility Administration Charges and Profit Commissions Willis Towers Watson operates a number of “facilities” (Binders, Lineslips, Programs, MGAs and Arrangements) under which we undertake a number of tasks. Some of those tasks are purely for the benefit of our clients, others are services that an insurer would be expected to perform.

Willis Towers Watson’s remuneration may reflect this multi-beneficiary approach with what is known as a facility administration charge that covers the cost of these activities. A facility administration charge is additional to the fee or brokerage that Willis Towers Watson receives for placement and other services to clients. We will disclose any such charges to you.

These facilities typically apply to straightforward, small business lines or specialist product areas, for example, commercial combined, motor, personal lines, personal accident and terrorism.

The type of business written in these facilities tends to be high-volume, low-premium business that would not be viable for insurers to write individually on the open market. By grouping this business together, clients enjoy the benefits of a broad product, suited to their needs and the cost savings of collective buying power.

In a very limited number of cases a portion of our remuneration may be driven by the underwriting profitability of the facility. There is a potential for us to earn such “profit commissions”, but, because this business is grouped together, it is not possible to determine the extent to which the profitability of a book is affected by any single client.

