

Professional Indemnity Insurance for Barristers

When only an expert will do

With the rising tide of litigation, professional indemnity insurance is extremely important. That's why it's good to know you can speak to someone who talks your language.

Direct Service

Suncorp Insurance is one of the largest professional indemnity insurers for Australian barristers. You have direct access to the insurer and can speak directly to an underwriter with authority to make decisions.

Some quick facts about Suncorp Insurance

- Providing professional indemnity insurance for barristers since 1992
- Suncorp has dealt with over 1,850 notifications and claims for barristers
- Suncorp has paid over \$44,000,000 in compensation and defence costs for barristers arising from accusations of negligence or misconduct
- In QLD over 550 notifications and over \$11,000,000 paid
- In WA over 210 notifications and over \$5,000,000 paid
- In NSW over 840 notifications and over \$20,000,000 paid
- In other Australian jurisdictions over 240 notifications and over \$7,000,000 paid

Claim Example

Importance of Early Involvement of Insurer & Panel

The plaintiff was a party to proceedings in the Federal Circuit Court (FCC). The ultimate decision did not favour the plaintiff. The insured barrister acted for the other party in the FCC proceeding, and not the plaintiff.

The plaintiff commenced multiple proceedings in the Supreme Court. The plaintiff sued the judge who heard the FCC case, the insured barrister, their instructing solicitor, the court appointed "family consultant" and Legal Aid.

The allegation against the insured barrister was one of personal negligence.

Suncorp retained panel lawyers who adopted an early strategy to apply to summarily dismiss the proceeding.

The application was successful on the basis that the insured had no duty of care to the plaintiff and because of the presence of advocates immunity.

The proactive strategy adopted in this matter saw it resolved promptly and with limited disruption to the insured.



Your reputation is
important to you and to us.
We help you to protect it.

Claim Example continued

Vexatious Complaint

The insured acted for a client in a criminal defence matter. The client received a conviction and a fine (not a custodial sentence). The former client then sought to appeal his conviction and fine. The conviction was upheld but the fine reduced. At the time the client was very happy with the barrister.

When the barrister was seeking to have his outstanding fees paid the client brought the matter to a cost assessment application. The client also sought to frustrate the assessment by making a very lengthy complaint to the Bar Association on the basis that the barrister was incompetent and that the reduction in the fine at appeal was evidence of same. This was incorrect.

Suncorp assisted the barrister in the response to the Bar Association and the complaint was dismissed. A considerable amount of time is involved in addressing such complaints and a very careful hand needs to be employed when replying.

Suncorp's very experienced claims handlers have access to an expert panel enabling them to provide high quality advice and assistance to our insured barristers. You don't need to face a complaint alone.

Strong and secure

Suncorp Insurance is part of one of the largest general insurance groups in Australia. We've been providing professional indemnity insurance to barristers for more than twenty years.

Claims Expertise

Should you need to make a claim, you can expect fast and easy lodgment with the support of our dedicated Suncorp claims team.

We work with you in seeking fair and timely claims resolutions and take pride in a common-sense approach to claims management.

Barristers that have had claims made against them have appreciated dealing directly with our claims professionals that are based here in Australia and are only a phone call away.

With Suncorp deal with someone who understands what barristers really need when it comes to professional indemnity insurance.

Review your Limit of Indemnity

We recommend that you review your Limit of Indemnity regularly to ensure that you are adequately protected.

Is your current Limit of indemnity sufficient to cover a worst case scenario given that the Professional Standards limitation has never been tested in Court?

Product benefits

- A civil liability cover tailored to barristers' requirements
- Cover for compensation orders and costs orders
- Limits of indemnity up to \$20 million available
- Unlimited reinstatements of your limit of indemnity
- 7 year run off cover
- Loss of documents cover
- Defence costs in addition to the limit of indemnity
- Highly experienced and accessible staff and a quality claims handling service
- Credit cards are accepted to pay your premium
- Continuous cover extension – under the continuous cover extension, claims arising from innocently late reported circumstances are accepted if continuous cover with Suncorp is maintained.
- Inquiry costs extension up to the per claim limit of the policy

Need more info?

- You can access our policy wording [here](#).
- You can read our privacy statement [here](#).

How to contact us



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