



What is **Income Protection Insurance?**

This insurance is designed to replace your income if you are unable to work due to sickness or injury. It provides a monthly payment of usually up to 75% of your pre-tax income. Its purpose is to provide you with a regular income to help you cover your living expenses so you can focus on your recovery.

Not many people risk being uninsured when it comes to their car or home. But many choose to not insure their most valuable asset – that is, their ability to earn an income.

This is despite the fact that most people will earn a fortune between now and when they retire:

How much will you earn from now until retirement+?

Income p.a.	Age Now	
	30	40
\$60,000	\$3,365,096	\$1,786,685
\$80,000	\$4,486,795	\$2,382,24
\$100,000	\$5,608,494	\$2,977,808
\$150,000	\$8,412,741	\$4,466,712

This means that most families are carrying significant financial risk should the unexpected happen. The big question you have to ask yourself is: 'Would your family be able to maintain their lifestyle if you suddenly couldn't earn an income due to a serious illness or accident?' If your answer to this question is no, you need to consider transferring that financial risk to an insurance company.

What are the taxation implications?

The premiums for income protection insurance are tax deductible for most people. However, the payments paid to you by the insurance company are regarded as personal income and taxed accordingly.

Who can qualify for income protection insurance?

You must be employed or self-employed and earning an income to qualify.

What are the basic policy options?

You can generally choose the waiting period (this is how long you must be unable to work before the insurance begins to pay you) and the benefit period (how long the policy will pay you if you are unable to work).

The cost of this insurance decreases the longer the waiting period you choose, and the shorter the benefit period you choose.

What if you already have income protection through your employer?

Some people have basic income protection insurance through their employer. But this insurance generally pays a benefit for a maximum period of only two years and is a basic type of cover. This means if you are unable to return to work after two years you may not have a source of income.

In some instances it may be appropriate to take an additional policy with a benefit period up to age 60 or 65.

How do the insurance companies view you as a risk?

Some insurance companies may charge you significantly less than other companies for the same cover, simply because they see you – or your occupation – as a lower risk. That's why you should use a financial adviser who has the ability to 'shop around' the reputable insurers to get the most suitable solution for your particular situation.