

Critical Illness, 'it won't happen to me'

Around half of all Australians aged over 30 will suffer at least one of the seven health conditions that can lead to long-term disability and, consequently, a long-term loss of income.

Source: NATSEM, Health and Income in Australia, 2003.

How would your family or loved ones cope if you suffered a stroke, heart condition or were diagnosed with cancer?

Critical Illness insurance can help ease the financial impact of a critical illness on your lifestyle by paying you a lump sum when you need it most; instead of using savings or adding to the mortgage.

You probably know someone who has had a serious or critical illness.

You may have experienced friends or a family member who have suffered a critical illness. As a result you'll be all too familiar with the emotional and financial stress they may have had to endure.

Suffering a critical illness can affect you and your family in many ways: time off work, lost income, soaking up precious life savings or even having to sell your home.

And if you are off work for a while, and not financially prepared, you could spend precious time worrying about money, when you should be focussing on recovery.

How would your loved ones cope financially if something were to happen to you?

Not only might you lose your income through not being able to work, you might also have to tap into your savings, sell your home or face major costs for medical treatment and rehabilitation. Not a pretty picture.

However, for around \$2 per day¹ you could cover the premium for Critical Illness insurance and rest easy that your family are protected.

Long-term protection.

You can choose to pay for MLC Critical Illness insurance through level premiums², ensuring you can afford to protect your loved ones for the long term. As you get older you become much more likely to suffer a critical illness. So you need to be sure you can continue to afford your cover so you still have your policy when you're more likely to claim.

¹ Based on a male, non-smoker, aged 37, purchasing \$200,000 of MLC Critical Illness Plus cover as an extension to Life Cover on a level premium.

² Level premium doesn't mean your premiums are guaranteed or do not change. Level premium rates may increase over time due to rate increases, CPI increases and policy fee increases. However, unlike stepped premium, level premium (excluding CPI and the policy fee) doesn't go up by age-related increases.

Tips and traps

- Critical illness can strike at any time, at any age.
- It's important to also insure your partner. Even if they're not working, critical illness is likely to have a serious financial (as well as emotional) impact on the family.
- Ask your financial adviser about the most cost-effective way you can pay your premiums.
- You have complete flexibility with your lump sum payment. It can fund a recovery holiday at a health resort, alterations to your house such as installation of a ramp, or even to help replace lost earnings or savings.
- For a cost effective insurance solution, consider combining Life insurance with your Critical Illness insurance or include Life Cover inside your super with Critical Illness as a connected benefit.
- Different insurance products offer different cover, so when you take out insurance make sure you understand exactly what you're covered for.

Simple, flexible and affordable cover

For little more than \$2 per day¹ you can protect your loved ones with MLC Critical Illness insurance.

It's worth remembering that the good times are the right time to make decisions about your family's financial protection.

We offer a choice of cover types

- **Standard**—basic cover at an affordable price,
- **Plus**—incorporating a wider range of benefits and options.

Although MLC Critical Illness Standard appears to cover few conditions compared to MLC Critical Illness Plus, four of these conditions (heart attack, coronary artery bypass surgery, malignant cancer and stroke) account for 91% of all MLC Critical Illness claims based on statistics for the period ending 31 March 2008.

What's covered by MLC Critical Illness Plus and Standard?¹

Critical condition	Critical Illness Standard	Critical Illness Plus	Critical condition	Critical Illness Standard	Critical Illness Plus
Aorta repair ³		✓	Loss of independence	✓	✓
Aplastic anaemia		✓	Loss of speech		✓
Bacterial meningitis		✓	Major brain injury		✓
Benign brain tumour		✓	Major burns		✓
Blindness		✓	Major organ transplant		✓
Cardiomyopathy		✓	Malignant cancer ³	✓	✓
Chronic kidney failure		✓	Meningococcal septicaemia		✓
Chronic liver failure		✓	Motor neurone disease		✓
Chronic lung failure		✓	Multiple sclerosis		✓
Coma		✓	Muscular dystrophy		✓
Coronary artery angioplasty ^{3,4}		✓	Open heart surgery		✓
Coronary artery angioplasty—triple vessel ^{3,5}		✓	Out of hospital cardiac arrest		✓
Coronary artery bypass surgery ³	✓	✓	Parkinson's disease		✓
Deafness		✓	Paralysis (includes paraplegia, quadriplegia, hemiplegia, diplegia, tetraplegia)		✓
Dementia or Alzheimer's disease		✓	Pneumonectomy		✓
Encephalitis		✓	Primary pulmonary hypertension		✓
Heart attack ³	✓	✓	Severe osteoporosis		✓
Heart valve surgery ³		✓	Severe rheumatoid arthritis		✓
HIV contracted through medical procedures		✓	Stroke ³	✓	✓
HIV contracted through your work		✓	Total and permanent disability—optional— not available with standalone insurance	✓	✓
Intensive care		✓			

¹ Based on a male, non-smoker, aged 37, purchasing \$200,000 of MLC Critical Illness Plus cover as an extension to Life Cover on a level premium.

² Conditions covered by Critical Illness Standard and their definitions may change.

³ Qualifying periods apply.

⁴ Coronary artery angioplasty benefit will only apply if your Critical Illness benefit is \$100,000 or more. The benefit payable for Coronary artery angioplasty is 10% of the Critical Illness benefit up to a maximum of \$20,000. You can claim for this condition only the first time you have this operation.

⁵ The benefit payable for Coronary artery angioplasty—triple vessel is 100% of your Critical Illness benefit. It is only available the first time you have this operation.

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