**Go above and beyond for your client.**

Tools you can customise by OnePath Life Insurance

**CATEGORY – Wading through the complexity**

TOPIC – Top 3 things you need to know about TPD

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Use or customise the below post most likely to resonate with your clients via social media such as LinkedIn or Twitter. Your posts can link directly to the articles on our website, or you can customise a link to your own white-labelled versions of the articles.

***Tip:*  Spread the word with #clarity**

#clarity is a hashtag we’ve added to the material to promote life insurance education. We encourage you to get on board and help grow engagement and confidence in the life insurance industry by using it when you post on social media.

**SOCIAL MEDIA POST**

Total and permanent disability (TPD) cover is one of the most complicated types of life insurance, so it’s important you understand what you’re covered for and what that means at claim time. Read more #clarity

<Link to the article below either on your website or within the social platform>

**FLYER/NEWSLETTER/WEBSITE ARTICLE**

This article has been white-labelled to allow you to use the content (without having to seek our permission) as a customer flyer, newsletter or on your website.

***Tip*: Complement your advice**

You could also use the articles to complement your advice, sending specific articles to clients who have expressed concerns about their insurance or who have yet to take up insurance you have recommended.

**ARTICLE**

**TPD cover 101**

A permanent disability will change what the rest of your life looks like. It can also make life much more expensive in terms of medical care and home modifications – which is why TPD cover is so valuable.

When you’re looking at TPD cover, there are 3 key things you need to understand so you know what you’re covered for, and what that means at claim time:

1. How your claim will be assessed – Any or own occupation
2. How long your claim will take – Maximum medical improvement
3. How your cover is structured – Stand-alone or linked

### 1****.**** Any or own occupation

When you start a TPD cover policy, you may be given a choice of definition that will apply at claim time. The two main choices are:

* **Own occupation** – Where your claim is assessed against your ability to perform the specific requirements of the job you currently do, or
* **Any occupation** – Where your claim is assessed against your ability to perform any job you are qualified or suited to based on your education training or experience

Say you’re a cabinet maker who permanently lose the use of one of their hands. Under an own occupation definition, you’re likely to be considered totally and permanently disabled as you’ll never be able to perform your current job again. But under an any occupation definition, you may still be able to work for a building supply company providing advice or as a TAFE teacher which means you may not be considered totally and permanently disabled.

With a greater likelihood of a claim being accepted, an own occupation definition typically adds to the cost of TPD, and it may not be available to all occupations.

**2. Maximum medical improvement**

TPD cover claims can take longer to pay than other types of life insurance, mainly because of the complexity involved in determining whether a disability is permanent.

Generally a TPD claim will only be paid when you obtain “maximum medical improvement”. That means you need to have had any operations, rehabilitation or medical procedures recommended by your treating doctors.

As you can imagine, a TPD cover claim can take months or even years to play out, and it does have a higher decline rate than other cover types because of the difficulty in proving permanency. For those reasons, TPD cover is often taken in conjunction with [trauma cover](https://onepath.webflow.io/article/top-3-things-you-need-to-know-about-trauma-cover) – which can provide more immediate financial support for a defined list of serious medical conditions.

### 3. Linked covers

TPD cover may be purchased as a stand-alone policy or as a ‘linked policy’ that’s connected to [life cover](file:///\\auintranetdfs\2k\Zurich_Shared_Folder\insurance%20product\Cust%20Engmt%20&%20Retention\02.Campaigns%20&%20Projects\01.Customer\Customer%20Engagement%20Program\PP2%20-%20Content%20Strategy%20&%20Campaign\article\top-3-things-you-need-to-know-about-life-cover) or [trauma cover](file:///\\auintranetdfs\2k\Zurich_Shared_Folder\insurance%20product\Cust%20Engmt%20&%20Retention\02.Campaigns%20&%20Projects\01.Customer\Customer%20Engagement%20Program\PP2%20-%20Content%20Strategy%20&%20Campaign\article\top-3-things-you-need-to-know-about-trauma-cover).

Linking policies reduces your premium, but there are major implications at claim time.

Say you have a $200,000 TPD cover policy linked to a $500,000 life cover policy. If you make a successful claim on your TPD cover, your life cover benefit will reduce by the $200,000 paid out (i.e. to $300,000).



Depending on your situation you may be eligible to buy back this extra life cover at some point, but it’s important to note that your life cover is significantly reduced in the meantime.

**Did you know?**

There’s a common exclusion on TPD cover policies that means you generally won’t be covered if your disability is caused by any self-inflicted act. You can find details of any exclusions in the Product Disclosure Statement (PDS).

**Want to know more?**

If you’d like to discuss any of the content in this article and how it may apply to you, please call me on XXXXXXXXXX.