



Target Market Determination (TMD)

MLC Personal Protection Portfolio (PPP)

Issuer: MLC Limited (MLCL)

Date of TMD: 1 July 2025

Version: 8.0

Note: this product is closed to new customers.

About this document

The Target Market Determination (TMD) sets out who this product may and may not be suitable for, as well as the likely financial situation and needs of the consumer. It also outlines the triggers to review the target market, how it is to be distributed, and certain other information.

This document is not a Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) and is not a summary of the product features or terms of the product. Consumers interested in acquiring this product should read the PDS carefully before making a decision whether to buy this product.

Key things to know

This product is closed to new customers.

Who the product may be suitable for

The target market includes consumers who wish to purchase insurance personally (non-superannuation) or purchase Life, TPD or IP insurance within their SMSF and:

- who meet eligibility, underwriting, and residency requirements
- who have the financial capacity to pay the premiums over the period they intend to hold the product, and
- who want to reduce their financial risk in the event of the life insured (either themselves or someone else) experiencing a claimable event (described under each cover type).

Who the product may not be suitable for

The target market excludes:

- those who are not:
 - Australian citizens
 - Australian permanent residents
 - New Zealand citizens residing in Australia, or
 - those with certain temporary visas who do not meet our underwriting terms and conditions in relation to residency
- those that do not meet the eligibility requirements (unless prior written approval has been provided)
- those that do not meet the underwriting requirements
- certain occupations for some benefit types
- consumers who want fixed or guaranteed premiums, and
- those contemplating self-harm.

Likely financial situation of the consumer in the target market

As the premiums may vary from time to time (in accordance with the chosen premium structure), the consumer should have the financial capacity to pay the premiums over the period they intend to hold the product. The consumer must have at least one of the following potentially relevant sources of financial capacity to pay the premiums:

- Earning income
- Personal savings
- Superannuation, or
- Family or other relationships, either personal or business.

Life Cover

Who the product may be suitable for

The consumer wants to lower their financial risk if the life insured were to:

- die
- become terminally ill, or
- experience an accidental injury (where applicable under the product terms).

Financial risks include financial commitments (personal and commercial) and financial-in-kind commitments (including Business Insurance purposes), where the consumer has a responsibility to pay money or provide goods or services to their dependants, estate or business. The consumer may currently be responsible, or anticipate being responsible, for these financial risks.

Why the product will meet the needs of consumers in the target market

The target market broadly comprises of consumers who:

- have, or expect to have, outstanding financial commitments that will not be satisfied in the event of the life insured's death or terminal illness, and
- have the capacity to pay potentially variable premiums on an ongoing basis.

As the product pays a lump sum on death or terminal illness, it is therefore likely to meet the needs, or go towards meeting the needs, of those in the target market.

Product description

Life Cover pays a lump sum if the life insured:

- dies
- is diagnosed with a terminal illness, or
- suffers an accidental injury (specified terms).

This cover can be held within the super environment under MLC Personal Protection Portfolio owned by SMSFs.

Eligibility

Application age (next birthday) for MLC Personal Protection Portfolio:

- Stepped Premium and Decreasing Cover: 11 – 70
- Level Premium: 16 – 60

Exclusions

The standard exclusions for this cover include, but are not limited to:

- Suicide exclusion for Life or Terminal Illness in the first 13 months of benefit commencement, reinstatement or increase (for the increased amount).

Total and Permanent Disability

Who the product may be suitable for

The consumer wants to lower their financial risk if the life insured is incapable of engaging in:

- meaningful, gainful employment, or
- independent living

due to total and permanent disability.

Financial risks include financial commitments (personal and commercial) and financial-in-kind commitments (including Business Insurance purposes), where the consumer has a responsibility to pay money or provide goods or services to their dependants, or business. The consumer may currently be responsible, or anticipate being responsible, for these financial risks.

Why the product will meet the needs of consumers in the target market

The target market broadly comprises of consumers who:

- have, or expect to have, outstanding financial commitments that will not be satisfied in the event of the life insured's total and permanent disability, and
- have the capacity to pay potentially variable premiums on an ongoing basis.

As the product pays a lump sum on total and permanent disability, it is therefore likely to meet the needs, or go towards meeting the needs, of those in the target market.

Product description

Total and Permanent Disability pays a lump sum if the life insured:

- suffers a total and permanent disability, meaning they cannot work again in their usual occupation, or any other occupation they are reasonably suited to (depending on whether own (conditions apply) or any occupation Total and Permanent Disability is chosen)
- suffers either a permanent cognitive deficit, a specified loss of use or for those performing home duties, a permanent inability to perform specified Domestic Duties, or
- after age 65, they suffer a Loss of Independence (specified terms).

This cover can be held within the super environment under MLC Personal Protection Portfolio owned by SMSFs, where the cover chosen is any occupation Total and Permanent Disability.

Note: With MLC Personal Protection Portfolio owned by SMSFs, the life insured must also be Permanently Incapacitated (as required by the Superannuation Industry (Supervision) Act (SIS) where the cover first commenced after 30 June 2014) and meet all other terms and conditions outlined in the PDS.

Eligibility

Application age (next birthday) for MLC Personal Protection Portfolio:

- Stepped Premium and Decreasing Cover: 16 – 60
- Level Premium: 16 – 55

The consumer must be gainfully employed. (See employment status under Eligibility criteria). This cover may be available for Home Duties.

Exclusions

The standard exclusions for this cover include, but are not limited to:

- conditions pre-existing the insurance, and
- self-inflicted injury or attempted suicide.

Critical Illness

Who the product may be suitable for

The consumer wants to lower their financial risk if the life insured suffers a specified critical condition.

Financial risks include financial commitments (personal and commercial) and financial-in-kind commitments (including Business Insurance purposes), where the consumer has a responsibility to pay money or provide goods or services to their dependants, or business. The consumer may currently be responsible, or anticipate being responsible, for these financial risks.

Why the product will meet the needs of consumers in the target market

The target market broadly comprises of consumers who:

- have, or expect to have, outstanding financial commitments that will not be satisfied if the life insured suffers a specified critical illness, and
- have the capacity to pay potentially variable premiums on an ongoing basis.

As the product pays a lump sum on the life insured suffering a specified critical illness, it is therefore likely to meet the needs, or go towards meeting the needs, of those in the target market.

Product description

Critical Illness pays a lump sum if the life insured is diagnosed with or suffers a specified critical condition (specified terms).

This cover isn't available within the super environment under MLC Personal Protection Portfolio owned by SMSFs.

Eligibility

Application age (next birthday) for MLC Personal Protection Portfolio:

- Stepped Premium and Decreasing Cover: 19 – 60
- Level Premium: 19 – 60

Exclusions

The standard exclusions for this cover include, but are not limited to:

- conditions pre-existing the insurance
- self-inflicted injury or attempted suicide, and
- 90-day exclusion/qualifying periods for certain critical conditions.

Income Protection

Who the product may be suitable for

The consumer wants to reduce their exposure where they have (or envisages that in future they will or may have) a need to replace their income if they are unable to earn income (or are only able to earn a lower income) due to sickness or injury. The consumer may currently be responsible, or anticipate being responsible, for these financial risks.

Why the product will meet the needs of consumers in the target market

The target market broadly comprises of consumers who:

- have, or expect to have, outstanding financial commitments that will not be satisfied in the event of the life insured's disability, and
- have the capacity to pay potentially variable premiums on an ongoing basis.

As the product pays a periodical monthly benefit after the selected waiting period and while the life insured continues to be disabled, it is therefore likely to meet the needs, or go towards meeting the needs, of those in the target market.

Product description

Income Protection pays one or more monthly payments if the life insured is:

- unable to work due to sickness or injury, or
- partially restricted in performing their duties and suffering a reduction in income due to sickness or injury.

Income Protection Standard:

- provides Indemnity cover only, and
- excludes claims arising from, or contributed to by chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, certain mental disorders and/or drug, alcohol or chemical abuse or dependency unless the life insured is confined indoors and under continuous care.

With MLC Personal Protection Portfolio owned by SMSFs where cover first commenced after 30 June 2014, the life insured must also have satisfied the SIS definition of Temporary Incapacity before any benefits are payable and meet all other terms and conditions outlined in the PDS.

This cover can be held within the super environment under MLC Personal Protection Portfolio owned by SMSFs.

Eligibility

Application age (next birthday) for MLC Personal Protection Portfolio:

- Professional and Clerical Occupations: 19 – 60
- General and Special Risk Occupations: 19 – 55

The consumer must be gainfully employed. (See employment status under Eligibility criteria).

Exclusions

The standard exclusions for this cover include, but are not limited to:

- conditions pre-existing the insurance
- self-inflicted injury or attempted suicide
- war or warlike operations, and
- normal and uncomplicated pregnancy or childbirth.

Business Expenses

Who the product may be suitable for

The consumer wants to reduce their exposure where they have (or envisage that in future they will or may have) certain ongoing financial business expenses they will not be able to meet if the life insured is incapable of engaging in meaningful gainful employment. The consumer may currently be responsible, or anticipate being responsible, for these financial risks.

Why the product will meet the needs of consumers in the target market

The target market broadly comprises of consumers who:

- have, or expect to have, outstanding financial commitments that will not be satisfied in the event of the life insured's disability, and
- have the capacity to pay potentially variable premiums on an ongoing basis.

As the product pays a periodical monthly benefit after the selected waiting period and while the life insured continues to be disabled, it is therefore likely to meet the needs, or go towards meeting the needs, of those in the target market.

Product description

Business Expenses pays one or more monthly payments if the life insured is:

- unable to work due to sickness or injury, and
- is incurring listed/claimable ongoing business expenses in their absence.

This cover isn't available within the super environment under MLC Personal Protection Portfolio owned by SMSFs.

Eligibility

Application age (next birthday) for MLC Personal Protection Portfolio:

- Professional and Clerical Occupations: 19 – 60
- General Occupations: 19 – 55

The consumer must be gainfully employed. (See employment status under Eligibility criteria).

Exclusions

The standard exclusions for this cover include, but are not limited to:

- conditions pre-existing the insurance
- self-inflicted injury or attempted suicide
- war or warlike operations, and
- normal and uncomplicated pregnancy or childbirth.

MLC Personal Protection Portfolio owned by SMSFs

Who the product may be suitable for

A consumer is in the target market for life insurance within the super environment if they accept that there are legislative restrictions that impact the insurance cover, including:

- the insurance premiums must be paid from a super fund
- any insurance benefit will be paid via the trustee of the super fund, who must also independently review and approve payment of the benefit
- if the consumer dies and has not made a death benefit nomination, the trustee of the super fund will determine the beneficiary or beneficiaries who will receive the death benefit
- the qualifying definitions under which an insurance benefit can be paid must be consistent with legislated superannuation rules called 'conditions of release'
- the legislated 'conditions of release' must be satisfied before an insurance benefit can be released by the trustee of the super fund to the member
- taxation may apply to benefit payments paid to the member or beneficiary, and
- where superannuation savings are used to pay premiums, this will reduce the superannuation balance available to consumers in retirement, and consumers should consider whether payment of premiums via superannuation will inappropriately erode their retirement income.

Product attributes (applies to all covers)

Premiums

There are three premium structures – Stepped, Level and Decreasing cover. Premiums can change over time for both stepped and level premium options. Premium rates are not guaranteed.

1. **Stepped premiums** are calculated each year based on the life insured's age and will usually increase each year as they get older.
2. **Level premiums** are calculated based on the sum insured, the life insured's age when they apply for the cover, and the applicable premium rate for that age each year. Level premiums have the cost of providing insurance spread out over a number of years. Level premiums start out higher than stepped premiums but may become lower than stepped premiums at some point in the future. Level premiums do not increase because of age, however level premiums may still change due to other factors.
3. **Decreasing cover** is another option for Life Cover, Total and Permanent Disability and Critical Illness. This premium structure is similar to stepped premiums, however the life insured's premium remains the same while the sum insured decreases each year based on their age and the applicable premium rate for that age each year.

Premiums will change for several reasons including if:

- the cover changes, including if there is an automatic change to the terms of the cover when the life insured reaches a particular age, or an option is added or removed.
- the sum insured changes, including because of inflation-linked increases or the Increases without further medical evidence feature is exercised
- there are changes to stamp duty or other charges, or
- we change the premium rates, discounts or policy fees.

The consumer may nominate an amount of insurance which is tailored to their own individual circumstances. If successfully underwritten, specific occupation and/or pastimes loadings and/or medical and/or pastimes exclusions may apply. Premium rates will be based on age and gender. The consumer's premiums may be higher or lower depending on their occupation and any medical loadings, and in the case of income protection will vary based on the waiting period and benefit period.

Payments

If premiums are not paid the policy may lapse, in which case the life insured would no longer be covered and cannot make a claim.

The consumer has the ability to pay premiums on a monthly, half-yearly or annual basis via direct debit, credit card, cheque or BPAY.

Eligibility criteria

A consumer wanting to obtain this coverage through one or more of these products need to meet the eligibility criteria. The eligibility criteria of the life to be insured could include:

- their age
- employment status[^]
- residency status, and
- health status.

[^]To be eligible for Total and Permanent Disability, Business Expenses and Income Protection insurance the life insured must be permanently gainfully employed and working over 25 hours per week. Contractors, casual workers and those working less than 25 hours may be eligible subject to underwriting terms and conditions.

A consumer will still be considered within the target market and to have met eligibility criteria if:

- MLCL reinstate their policy within six months of the lapse date due to non-payment of premium and they have satisfied MLCL's reinstatement requirements.
- They exercise an option to continue, convert or buyback cover under the policy terms of their PDS.
- MLCL allow them to replace their existing cover as a result of a change of ownership.

Benefit customisability

All covers under the product include customisable and additional optional benefits.

Underwriting process

The underwriting process could impact the price of the product, the sum insured, and the terms and conditions of the insurance policy.

Residency

This product is available to:

- Australian permanent residents
- Australian citizens
- New Zealand citizens residing in Australia, and
- Consumers with certain temporary visas (subject to underwriting terms and conditions).

Benefit type

The product provides insurance benefits only. It does not provide for any accumulation of savings and has no future surrender value.

Linking benefits

Lump sum covers can be purchased as:

- Stand alone – these are independent of all other covers.
- Extensions – these are attached to another cover. The consumer pays less for this structure because any claim payment on one cover will reduce the benefits of the covers they are attached to.
- Connected – these work exactly the same as Extensions but are held as separate policies. For example, cover inside super could be connected to cover outside super.

Distribution conditions

Distribution channels

This product may be distributed to consumers in the following ways:

- with the aid of a Licensee or their Authorised Representative (as defined by law) who provides personal financial advice or general advice
- by direct application to us, in relation to existing customers (e.g. where the application is for a reinstatement), or
- by direct application to us, in relation to a continuation option.

For distribution via personal advice

Application for cover must be submitted by a suitably authorised financial adviser (ie authorised in life risk products and/or super), operating under an appropriate Australian Financial Services Licence (AFSL) who has accepted the Distribution Agreement Acenda Products (Retail) and attained a licensee code and adviser code.

For distribution via general advice

- The distributor must not sell to a customer who does not satisfy the demographic factors and eligibility requirements in the Target Market as set out above.
- The distributor must provide the customer with the PDS.
- The distributor has structured training and/or quality assurance standards.
- The customer meets application screening questions.
- Application for cover must be submitted via an appropriate AFSL, with appropriate authorisation, who has accepted the Distribution Agreement Acenda Products (Retail) and has attained a licensee and adviser code.

Why these distribution conditions and restrictions will make it more likely that the consumers who acquire the product are in the target market

For distribution via personal advice

Consumers that obtain personal advice from a qualified financial adviser are more likely to be in the target market because advisers have a duty to act in their best interest when providing personal advice.

For distribution via general advice

Consumers of life insurance are more likely to be in the target market if distributors:

- refrain from selling to customers who do not meet the relevant demographic and eligibility requirements, and
- provide customers with a PDS.

When we review this document

The review for this TMD occurs within 12 months from the date of this TMD. Subsequent reviews occur at least every three years after the end of the previous review. This TMD may be reviewed more frequently if a review trigger occurs.

Review triggers	Assessment information	Timeframe
1. The commencement of a significant change in law that materially affects the product design or distribution of the product or class of products that includes this product. Note: This trigger is a mandatory review. The product issuer may choose to undertake a review even if the above review trigger is not met.	Any relevant regulation, legislation and/or ASIC instruments relating to the change in law.	As new changes are introduced.
2. Product performance is materially inconsistent with the product issuer's expectations, having regard to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Policies cancelled from Inception Lapse rate Claims decline Claims withdrawn, and Product claim paid ratios. 	During the review period, the expected and actual: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Policies cancelled from Inception Lapse rate Claim decline rate and number Claim withdrawn rate and number, and Product claim paid ratios. The product issuer has detailed specific assessments for each trigger.	Aligned to TMD review period.
3. Significant or unexpectedly high number of complaints regarding product design, product availability, claims and distribution condition that would reasonably suggest that the TMD is no longer appropriate.	Complaints (as defined in section 994A(1) of the Act) and the nature of the complaints regarding product design, product availability, claims and distribution condition.	As soon as practicable, or in any event, within 10 business days after the end of each calendar quarter.
4. Material change to key product design, features, and/or fees that would reasonably suggest that this TMD is no longer appropriate.	Notification of proposed material change to key product design, features, and/or fees.	As material changes are made.
5. Significant dealing in the product which the regulated person becomes aware is not consistent with the TMD.	A dealing in the product which the distributor (as the regulated person) becomes aware is not consistent with this TMD.	As a significant dealing is identified.

Distributor reporting requirements

- Complaints and the nature of the complaints regarding product design, product availability, claims and distribution condition. Complaints must be reported as soon as practicable, or in any event, within 10 business days after the end of each calendar quarter.
- A significant dealing in the product which the regulated person becomes aware of is not consistent with the TMD should be reported as they are identified.

Legal disclaimer

This Target Market Determination (TMD) is required under section 994B of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth). It sets out the target market for the product, triggers to review the target market, how it is to be distributed and certain other information. It forms part of MLC Limited's design and distribution framework for the product.

This document is not a Product Disclosure Statement (PDS), and is not a summary of the product features or terms of the product. This document does not take into account any person's individual objectives, financial situation or needs. Persons interested in acquiring this product should carefully read the PDS before making a decision whether to buy this product.

Insurance is issued by MLC Limited ABN 90 000 000 402 AFSL 230694. MLC Limited uses the MLC brand under licence from the Insignia Financial Group. MLC Limited is part of the Nippon Life Insurance Group and is not a part of the Insignia Financial Group.