

Trauma Insurance

The Bruce Gingell Story

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As a financial planner, I am trained to provide advice to create and protect wealth. Believe it or not, insurance can play an extremely important role in achieving those goals - let me explain how.

A major trauma has the capacity to shatter your comfortable lifestyle in the blink of an eye, especially if you don't have the right personal insurance. And I should know...

When I first became a financial planner I took out life, disability and income protection insurance. I upped the ante 11 years ago when my son was born – an event that not only changed my life irrevocably, but also made me think very seriously about the security of my new family. I increased my levels of personal insurance and bought similar policies for my wife.

Included in one of my life insurance policies was **Trauma** cover otherwise known as **Critical Illness** cover.

In very simple terms, trauma cover pays a lump sum to the insured on the diagnosis of a major health related trauma. The types of trauma events covered are spelled out in the policy and will vary according to which insurer you use, but generally speaking they include serious conditions such as cancer, heart attack, paraplegia and certain specific chronic diseases. You can spend the lump sum any way you please, however it is designed to assist with your costs and living needs while you are recovering.

Like most people, from time to time I wondered whether continuing the policies and paying the renewal premiums was really worth it – after all I was still comparatively young, physically fit and there were so many other more immediate and seemingly more important family expenses to contend with. But I persevered and somehow stumped up the half-yearly premiums each time they fell due.

Then disaster struck. In May 2007, I had a major heart attack.

One of the first things my wife and I worried about was how to keep paying the bills while I was recovering. Knowing we had trauma cover we were able to make a full claim on the policy and were paid within 14 days. It felt like a major windfall, injecting cash when we needed it most and allowing us to function financially while I recovered. It was also one less thing to worry about, which I'm certain helped speed up my recovery.

Had this policy not been in place, I'm not sure how we would have coped. Although I also had income protection insurance, there was a waiting period before I could claim and the amount payable via an income protection policy can only ever be 75% of your income. Our income was therefore lower while our expenses, which now included expensive drugs designed to keep me alive and well, only seemed to increase. Without the lump sum payment, our goals to continue to protect and grow our wealth would have flown completely out the window.

I am a Certified Financial Planner® qualified to review not only your personal insurance needs but your entire financial situation. If this article hits home please contact me on 1300 646334, or 0407070994 for a complimentary Financial Health Check-up to assess your needs.

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