



AARP Professional Indemnity and Public and Products Liability Insurance Statement

1. Overview

This statement outlines the requirement for Professional Indemnity insurance, and Public and Product Liability insurance. All health care workers who are not required to be registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 (the National Law) are under Section 16 of the COAG endorsed National Code of Conduct for Health Care Workers (2015), required to ensure that they have appropriate indemnity insurance arrangements are in place in relation to their practice. Certified Practising Nutritionists (CPNs) are required to hold both Professional Indemnity and Public and Products Liability insurance by AARP, the Certified Practising Nutritionist Credentialing Board, and the Nutrition rebating private health insurance funds. The holding of current Professional Indemnity and Public and Products Liability insurance forms part of the Fitness-to-Practice requirements of AARP and is embedded in the AARP Code of Conduct – Practice Guidelines. It is the responsibility of each Certified Practising Nutritionist to ensure that their Professional Indemnity and Public and Products Liability Insurance is fit-for-purpose.

2. Professional Indemnity Insurance

Professional indemnity insurance is defined as insurance which provides coverage for compensation costs for people who provide professional services and/or advice from civil liability claims arising from that service and/or advice as a result of a negligent act, error or omission in the conduct of the practitioner. This usually includes covering reasonable legal fees incurred when defending against a claim.

3. Public liability insurance

Public liability insurance provides coverage for compensation costs if a practitioner is found liable for an incident that causes injury or damage to a client or third party. This usually includes covering reasonable legal fees incurred when defending against a claim.

4. Products Liability Insurance

Products liability insurance provides coverage for compensation costs and legal costs arising from claims related to injury or property damage caused by products the practitioner has supplied, recommended. An example could be nutritional supplements.

5. Scope of Application

All CPNs must maintain appropriate Professional Indemnity insurance and Public and Products Liability insurance to meet the standards of practice required by the Australasian Association and Register of Practicing Nutritionists (AARPN) and the Certified Practicing Nutritionist Credentialing Board.

6. Minimum Insurance Requirements for AARPN Members as per minimum requirements

- **Professional Indemnity Insurance:**
 - Minimum cover of **\$2 million** per claim.
- **Public and Products Liability Insurance:**
 - Minimum cover of **\$10 million** per claim.

7. Importance of Comprehensive Coverage

When choosing an insurance policy, practitioners should avoid focusing solely on cost. Lower-priced policies may lack important features such as:

- Adequate coverage amounts per individual claim and in aggregate.
- Retroactive and run-off cover with clearly defined start and end dates.
- Reasonable excesses payable on claims made.
- Additional benefits, such as provision for free legal advice.

8. Annual Review and Additional Coverage Considerations

Practitioners should annually review their insurance policies to ensure adequate coverage, including but not limited to:

- Coverage amounts.
- Retroactive cover (coverage for claims relating to events that occurred before the insurance policy was purchased, as long as the practitioner was not aware of any claims or potential claims before purchasing the policy).
- Run-Off cover (coverage for claims that may arise after a practitioner retires or sells their business, relating to alleged professional wrongdoing while the business was in operation).

9. Costs and Providers

Professional indemnity and Public and Products Liability insurance policies vary in cost and benefits, with prices averaging between \$150 to \$300 per year for the minimum coverage required by AARPN and the Certified Practicing Nutritionist Credentialing Board. Certified Practicing Nutritionists are responsible for ensuring that they select a policy that best meets their professional needs while providing sufficient protection.

10. Disclaimer

The information provided in this statement is for general guidance only and does not constitute legal advice. CPNs should seek professional independent insurance advice to ensure appropriate coverage for their professional practice.

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