



**ŠKODA**



# EQUITY PROTECTION INSURANCE.

Product Disclosure Statement

**ŠKODA** Financial Services

Finance. Fleet. Insurance. Mobility.

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## Part B: Financial Services Guide



## Part A:

# Product Disclosure Statement

### INTRODUCTION

Please take your time to read through this document carefully and keep it in a safe place as it contains important information about the extent of your insurance policy and any limitations.

If you have any questions about this document or your insurance policy, please contact us. We will be happy to explain any matter for you.

Preparation date 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021 VSKOEPI250321

### ŠKODA FINANCIAL SERVICES

The insurer of this Škoda Equity Protection Insurance product is Eric Insurance Limited ABN 18 009 129 793 Australian Financial Services Licence (AFSL) 238 279 (eric), PO Box 9106, Scoresby VIC 3179. Phone: 1800 999 977. In arranging this insurance Volkswagen Financial Services Australia Pty Limited ABN 20 097 071 460 and the authorised dealers act on behalf of eric and not as your agent. Neither Volkswagen Financial Services Australia nor any of its related companies have any liability in respect of this policy.

### YOUR PRODUCT DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (PDS)?

This PDS sets out the terms and conditions of your insurance policy. Please read it so you can make an informed choice about your insurance needs.

The information in this PDS was current at the time of its preparation. We may make changes to the information in it without notifying you where that information is not materially adverse to you.

In all other cases, we will issue you with a replacement or Supplementary PDS. If you wish to obtain confirmation of the current terms of this PDS at any time during your insurance, please contact us and we will provide you with an electronic copy free of charge.

Some words or expressions have special meaning and may begin with capital letters. Their meanings are explained under the last heading "What do we mean by that?" in this PDS.

**Please note this insurance is optional. You are not required to hold this insurance for finance or any other reason.**

### ERIC INSURANCE LIMITED (eric)

Eric Insurance Limited ABN 18 009 129 793 Australian Financial Services Licence (AFSL) 238 279 (eric), is the issuer and underwriter of this insurance product.

Please contact eric directly if you would like to discuss this insurance, ask a question, advise a concern or make a complaint.

We always want to hear from you!

Address: PO Box 9106, Scoresby VIC 3179  
Telephone: 1800 999 977  
Web: [www.ericinsurance.com.au](http://www.ericinsurance.com.au)  
Email: [info@ericinsurance.com.au](mailto:info@ericinsurance.com.au)

You do not need to appoint a paid representative for any reason to lodge a complaint or manage your claim so please contact us directly to discuss your concerns so that we can deal with them in the most efficient and cost-effective manner for you.

### OUR AGREEMENT WITH YOU

Our agreement with you is made up of:

- > This combined PDS and Financial Services Guide (FSG);
- > The Policy Schedule which shows the details relevant to your insurance policy; and
- > Any Endorsement or Supplementary PDS which we may send to you.

We will always be honest, efficient, fair, transparent, and timely in our dealings with you.

### OUR REPRESENTATIVES AND DISTRIBUTORS

eric has relationships with authorised representatives, distributors and other licensees who may arrange insurance on our behalf, and if so, may receive remuneration. For more information, please refer to the FSG (Part B of this document).

### HOW TO APPLY

To apply for this insurance, you will need to contact one of our participating authorised representatives or distributors who can assist you in completing our online application form.

Your answers to the questions we ask are relied on by us and are used to evaluate your application. Refer to the section of this PDS under the heading "We rely on the information you provide us".

Once your application has been assessed against our underwriting acceptance criteria, and if insurance policy is accepted, we will provide you with a Policy Schedule confirming the terms and conditions specific to your policy.

**ELIGIBILITY**

- To be eligible to purchase this insurance the following criteria must be met:
- > You must be at least 18 years of age at the commencement of the Period of Insurance;
  - > You must be the registered owner of the Vehicle;
  - > During the Period of Insurance your Vehicle must be covered by Comprehensive Vehicle Insurance;
  - > You must have a liability under the Finance Contract; and

This insurance specifically excludes any vehicle that is let on hire or is being used for carrying passengers for hire or reward. This includes, rental bikes or rideshare. It also specifically excludes courier or delivery vehicles, including fast food delivery.

**COOLING OFF PERIOD**

You can cancel your policy within 21 Calendar Days of the date your policy commences (cooling-off period) by contacting us by telephone, email or mail, and unless you have made a claim, we will refund the Premium in full.

You are also entitled to cancel your insurance policy after the cooling-off period (refer to the Cancellation of your policy section for full details).

**YOUR EQUITY PROTECTION INSURANCE (EPI)**

If, during the Period of Insurance, the Vehicle is declared a Total Loss by a Comprehensive Vehicle Insurer then, subject to the terms and conditions of our agreement with you, we will pay to you (or the Financier if applicable) the following Shortfall:

Total Loss	The Shortfall we pay
Occurs during the first 36 months of the Period of Insurance.	The greater of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; The difference between the Replacement Vehicle Value and the Total Loss Payout; or</li> <li>&gt; The difference between the balance owed on the Finance Contract as at the date of the Total Loss and the Total Loss Payout.</li> </ul>
Occurs after the first 36 months of the Period of Insurance. (only applies where the Vehicle is subject to a Finance Contract)	> The difference between the balance owed on the Finance Contract as at the date of the Total Loss and the Total Loss Payout.

**EARLY PAYOUT OF YOUR FINANCE CONTRACT**

If you have paid out the Finance Contract prior to its scheduled completion date, your insurance cover will continue for the remaining Period of Insurance and you will still be eligible to claim for out of pocket expenses.

**OUT OF POCKET EXPENSES**

In the event of a Total Loss settlement by your Comprehensive Vehicle Insurer, you can lodge a claim for out of pocket expenses directly incurred as a result of the Total Loss. The maximum amount we will pay in relation to out of pocket expenses will be \$2,000 whether or not a Shortfall exists.

Examples of out of pocket expenses you can claim include:

Incidental Expenses	
Travel	Accommodation
Taxis	Car hire

Meals	Phone calls
Personal Items	
CDs and DVDs	Laptops/Tablets
Phones	Sunglasses
Baby seats	Clothing
Golf clubs	Luggage/Handbags
Tennis/squash racquets	Handheld Navigation Devices
Fishing gear	Umbrellas
Ski gear	Toys
Portable DVD Player	Surfing equipment

If available, you will need to provide us with receipts for any expenses you claim under this benefit.

Payments under this benefit are paid to you but are not payments which in any way relate to any property mortgaged to the Financier.

**WHAT YOU ARE NOT INSURED FOR**

We will not pay for a Shortfall under this insurance cover if a Comprehensive Vehicle Insurer does not provide you with a Total Loss Payout for whatever reason.

The Shortfall will not be paid where a replacement vehicle is offered by the Comprehensive Vehicle Insurer. However, out of pocket expenses will still be payable to you.

We will continue to provide Shortfall cover for the replacement vehicle for the remainder of the Period of Insurance, if you provide us with details of the replacement vehicle within 90 days of you taking delivery of it. The replacement vehicle will be shown on a new Policy Schedule we will send to you.

The following amounts will not be included in any payment of a Shortfall:

- > Any additional payment due and applicable to Your Vehicle Insurance Policy (excluding any excess deduction), if applicable;
- > The amount of any increased liability where there has been a variation to the Finance Contract since the commencement of the Period of Insurance;
- > Any arrears and/or late payment fees owed to the Financier at the time the Vehicle became a Total Loss;
- > Refunds of cancellable insurance or other products financed under the Finance Contract; and
- > Any liability or entitlement you may have under the Goods and Services Tax Act 1999.

Unless expressly included by this insurance, we do not provide cover for all or any consequential financial or non-financial loss, damage or liability incurred as a consequence of the incident giving rise to a claim.

**HOW TO MAKE A CLAIM**

You can ask us if your insurance covers a particular loss before you make a claim. When we answer your question, we will not discourage you from making a claim and we will tell you that if you make a claim, we will fully assess if your loss is covered.

**Please contact us on 1800 999 977 as soon as something happens that you believe you can claim for.**

If you make a claim, we will tell you:

- > our claims process,
- > any excess or waiting period applicable (if any apply), and
- > how to contact us regarding your claim.

When making a claim and to assist us in processing it, you need to give us all relevant information and assistance we reasonably request, and any information you provide must be honest, correct and complete.



When assessing your claim, we will only ask for and rely on documents and information relevant to our decision. If we ask you for documents and information, we will tell you why we need them.

If there is a fee for a document (for example a fee for a driving history record), eric may ask you to cover the cost upfront and if the claim is accepted, eric will reimburse you for the reasonable costs incurred in obtaining the record.

If you make a claim and we need further information or assessment, then we will in a timely manner:

- > tell you any information we need to decide on your claim. We will use our best endeavours to do that in one request, and
- > provide our estimate of the likely timeframe and process for us to decide on your claim.

When we assess your claim, we will consider all relevant facts, the terms of your insurance and the law.

We will regularly keep you informed of the progress of your claim and respond to your enquiries about your claim's progress promptly.

Until we accept and approve a claim, you remain responsible to make repayments under the Finance Contract (where applicable).

All claim payments for a Shortfall will be made to the Financier in the first instance (where applicable) with any remaining funds being paid to you.

No benefit is payable under this insurance until such time as the Comprehensive Vehicle Insurer declares the Vehicle a Total Loss AND makes full settlement under the Comprehensive Vehicle Insurance Policy.

### CLAIM DECISION

We and our service suppliers will treat you and your claim respectfully and with sensitivity.

Once we have all relevant information and have completed all enquiries, we will decide whether to accept or deny your claim and we will tell you of our decision promptly.

Our decision will generally be made promptly within 4 months of receiving your claim. However, if:

- > your claim arises from an extraordinary catastrophe,
- > your claim is fraudulent, or we reasonably suspect it is fraudulent,
- > you, or your representative, do not respond to our reasonable inquiries or to our requests for documents or information about your claim,
- > we have difficulty communicating with you about your claim due to circumstances beyond our control, or
- > you request a delay in the claims process,

then we will tell you our decision in writing within 12 months of receiving your claim.

If we do not decide within these timeframes, we will tell you in writing about our Complaints process.

### INFORMATION WE GIVE YOU IF WE DENY YOUR CLAIM OR DO NOT PAY IN FULL

If we deny your claim, or do not pay it in full, then we will advise in writing:

- > the aspects of your claim that we do not accept,
- > the reasons for our decision,
- > that you have the right to ask us for the information about you that we relied on when assessing your claim,
- > that you have the right to ask us for copies of any service suppliers' or external experts' reports that we relied on, and
- > about our Complaints process.

If you ask for information or for copies of any service suppliers' or external experts' reports that we relied on, then we will give you that information or report within 10 Business Days.

### CHANGES TO TIMEFRAMES

If any of the timeframes set out in the How to Make a Claim and Claim Decision sections above are not practical due, for example, to the complex nature of your claim, we will attempt to agree a reasonable alternative timetable with you. If we cannot reach an agreement on an alternative timetable, we will provide details of our Complaints process.

We will try to comply with the timeframes set out above unless we have complied with an alternative timetable to which you agreed, our conduct and the actual timeframe were reasonable in all the circumstances or the reason we did not comply with the timeframe was that a report from an external expert was delayed, even though we used our best endeavours to obtain the report in time.

### CLAIM EXAMPLES

#### CLAIM EXAMPLE 1 (Total Loss occurs during first 36 months)

You purchase a Vehicle for \$50,000 and you arranged finance of \$55,000 (allowing for additional aftermarket costs and insurance) taken over 60 months.

You have an accident 32 months after the purchase date and the Vehicle is assessed as a Total Loss with a Total Loss Payout of \$21,200. The balance owing under your Finance Contract as at the date of the Total Loss is \$25,666.

Given that the accident occurred within the first 36 months of the Period of Insurance, we determine the Shortfall to be \$28,800. This has been calculated as the difference between the Replacement Vehicle Value of the Vehicle and the Total Loss Payout, which is greater than the difference between the balance owed to the Financier at as the date of the Total Loss and the Total Loss Payout.

Your Comprehensive Vehicle Insurer settles to your Financier the amount of \$21,200 this leaves a balance under the Finance Contract as at the date of the Total Loss of \$4,466.

Upon acceptance of your claim, we will pay \$4,466 to your Financier and the balance of \$24,334 to you making up the total Shortfall of \$28,800.

Replacement Vehicle Value	\$50,000
Less Total Loss Payout	\$21,200
Shortfall	\$28,800

Additionally, upon providing receipts you can receive up to \$2,000 for out of pocket expenses incurred.

Payment made by eric direct to Financier (Shortfall)	\$4,466.00
Payment made by eric direct to You (Shortfall)	\$24,334.00
Out of pocket expenses benefit made direct to You	\$2,000.00
<b>Total claim amount paid under policy</b>	<b>\$30,800.00</b>

#### CLAIM EXAMPLE 2 (Total Loss occurs after first 36 months)

You purchase a Vehicle for \$90,500 and you arranged a lease of \$99,000 (including a balloon of \$9,000 and allowing for additional aftermarket costs and insurance), taken over 60 months.

You have an accident 45 months after the purchase date and the Vehicle is assessed as a Total Loss with a Total Loss Payout of \$28,634. The balance owing under your Finance Contract as at the date of the Total Loss is \$35,750.

Given that the accident occurred after the first 36 months of the Period of Insurance, the Shortfall will be \$7,116, and upon acceptance of your claim will be paid to your Financier. This has been calculated as the difference between the balance owed on the Finance Contract as at the date of the Total Loss and the Total Loss Payout.

Balance owed on your Finance Contract	\$35,750
Less Total Loss Payout	\$28,634
Shortfall	\$ 7,116

Additionally, upon providing receipts you can receive up to \$2,000 for out of pocket expenses incurred.



Payment made by eric direct to Financier (Shortfall)	\$7,116.00
Out of pocket expenses benefit made direct to You	\$2,000.00
<b>Total claim amount paid under policy</b>	<b>\$9,116.00</b>

**CLAIM EXAMPLE 3** (Finance paid out early)

You have saved a bit of money and decide to pay out the Finance Contract on your Vehicle two years early, rather than continuing to pay each month until the end of the 6 year loan. You contact eric to advise that you have finalised your Finance Contract but you decide to maintain your Equity Protection Insurance for the remainder of the Period of Insurance.

A year later, you have an accident and your Vehicle is assessed as a Total Loss. As you have paid out your Finance Contract early there is no shortfall, however you incurred out of pocket expenses as a direct result of the Total Loss. You submit receipts for these expenses. Upon acceptance of your claim, **we will pay \$2,000 to you.**

**THE COST OF YOUR INSURANCE POLICY**

The Premium for your insurance policy will be shown on the Policy Schedule. Some of the key factors that may influence your Premium include, where applicable:

- > The risk profile determined by the information you provide to us,
- > Your Vehicle being subject to a Finance Contract,
- > The price you paid for the Vehicle,
- > The length of remaining finance applicable to the vehicle,
- > Government taxes and/or charges, and
- > The method of payment you choose by which to pay the Premium, including payment by instalments.

You are not obliged to purchase this insurance as a condition of your finance. This insurance is not compulsory to the terms of any finance contract.

**PAY YOUR PREMIUM BY INSTALMENTS**

You can pay the Premium by instalment payments to help spread your payment over time. If you pay the Premium by instalment payments:

- > You will be given and will enter into a Direct Debit Request Service Agreement (DDRSA);
- > An Interest Charge will apply which will be set out in your Policy Schedule, and
- > The Total Amount Payable will be more than if you pay the Premium in a single upfront payment.

If you make a claim which results in the termination of your insurance policy, we will deduct the instalment payments for the remaining Period of Insurance from any claim amount we pay.

**OVERDUE INSTALMENTS**

If you are paying the Premium by instalment payments and an instalment payment is overdue, we can do one or both of the following:

- > Refuse to pay a claim if the instalment payment is 14 Calendar Days (or more) overdue;
- > Cancel your insurance policy if the instalment payment is 1-month (or more) overdue.

In the absence of an instalment payment being made, we will send you notice that your instalment has not been paid and advise you that we will cancel your insurance policy if the instalment remains unpaid 1-month after the instalment payment due date, without notice to you.

If we cancel your insurance policy because an instalment payment is unpaid, your policy will end on the date of cancellation (see Cancellation by Us below for details).

If you are paying the Premium by instalment payments, please refer to the Direct Debit Request Service Agreement which sets out the terms and conditions applicable to your instalment payment arrangement.

**WE RELY ON THE INFORMATION YOU PROVIDE US**

When we agree to insure you, vary your insurance policy or decide on your claim, our decision relies on the accuracy of the information you give us. If that information is not accurate, we may reduce or deny a claim, or cancel this insurance, in accordance with the law and this PDS.

It is very important that you answer honestly, completely and accurately the questions we ask about you, your driving history, your Finance Contract, the Vehicle, your claim or any events that may result in a claim on your policy.

You must be honest, complete and accurate in all interactions we have with you in relation to this insurance. If you are not, we may reduce or deny a claim or cancel your insurance, in accordance with the law and this PDS.

**APPLYING FOR INSURANCE**

If we are assessing your application for insurance, then we will ask for and rely on information and documents only if they are relevant to our decision.

Where we identify, or you tell us, about a mistake in your application or in the information or documents we have relied on in assessing your application, we will immediately take action to correct it.

If we cannot provide you with insurance, we will:

- > give you our reasons for that decision,
- > tell you about your right to ask us for the information we relied on when assessing your application — if you ask us for that information, then we will give it to you,
- > refer you to either the Insurance Council of Australia or the National Insurance Brokers Association of Australia for information about your options for alternative insurance, or approaching another insurer or another broker, and
- > give you information about our Complaints process if you tell us you are unhappy with our decision.

**NOTIFYING US OF CHANGES**

You must inform us immediately if any of the following circumstances apply to you:

- > There is a change in your personal details, including but not limited to contact details, garaged address, and residential address,
- > There are changes to the Vehicle or Vehicle use,
- > There are changes to the Finance Contract (it is terminated, varied, paid out or in breach), or
- > You are no longer the owner of the Vehicle.

If any of the above circumstances change please contact us to confirm if this affects your policy.

Depending on the information you provide, we may propose changes to your policy, including to the Premium.

If you do not provide this information to us immediately, we may be entitled to reduce or deny a claim made by you or anyone else insured by this insurance, in accordance with the law and this PDS.

**CANCELLATION OF YOUR POLICY**

**CANCELLATION BY YOU**

You may cancel your insurance policy at any time by contacting us by phone, email or mail. If you cancel your policy, your cover will end on the date we receive your cancellation request, unless you inform us otherwise and we agree.

**CANCELLATION BY US**

We may cancel this insurance, if permitted by law, if you:

- > Made a misrepresentation before entering this insurance policy,
- > Fail to comply with the duty of utmost good faith,
- > Fail to comply with a provision of this insurance (including the obligation to pay the Premium on time), or
- > Make a fraudulent claim under this insurance policy or another insurance policy.



If you are paying the Premium by instalment payments and we have not received an instalment payment, we will:

- > send you a notice in writing regarding your non-payment requesting payment and advising you that we will cancel your insurance policy if the instalment remains unpaid 1-month after the instalment payment due date,
- > if payment is not made within 1-month of the instalment payment due date, send you a further notice confirming cancellation of your Instalment Policy.

**ON CANCELLATION**

If your insurance policy is cancelled either by you or us (except in the case of fraud) outside your cooling off period, we will refund the portion of any Premium you have paid for the period after the cancellation date, less any non-refundable taxes and charges.

If you are entitled to a refund and you cancel your policy, we will return the amount within 15 Business Days.

If we have cancelled your insurance policy due to fraud, we will not pay any refund.

If the refund amount is less than any non-refundable taxes and charges, a refund will not be issued and we will not charge you an additional amount to cover the difference.

Where the Premium has been financed, you authorise us to pay any refund direct to the Financier unless the Financier otherwise authorises in writing the refund to be paid direct to you.

Where we have paid all amounts we are obliged to pay under this insurance, we will cancel the policy and we will not pay any refund.

**TERMINATION**

This insurance policy will terminate and a Premium refund may be payable (refer to the "Cancellation of your Policy" section), if:

- > You no longer reside in Australia, or
- > Your finance contract is discharged.

This policy will terminate and no Premium refund will be payable if:

- > The Period of Insurance expires, or
- > We have paid all amounts we are obliged to pay under this insurance.

No refund of Premium is available if we have paid out the maximum benefit prior to the expiry of the Period of Insurance as shown on the Policy Schedule.

**COMPLAINTS**

eric is committed to providing a great range of products and services to customers that provide value and benefit to them.

Please talk to **us** using the details set out below if at any time we have not met your expectations. Most times we will be able to resolve your complaint quickly when you raise it with us. By contacting eric direct to resolve a complaint or dispute you may avoid unnecessary delays and costs.

Email: [info@ericinsurance.com.au](mailto:info@ericinsurance.com.au)  
 Phone: 1800 999 977  
 Post: PO Box 9106, Scoresby VIC 3179  
 Web: [www.ericinsurance.com.au](http://www.ericinsurance.com.au)

If we are unable to resolve your Complaint, please contact our Customer Resolution Team at [complaints@ericinsurance.com.au](mailto:complaints@ericinsurance.com.au) or 1800 999 977.

When we receive your Complaint, we will acknowledge that we have received it.

- > We will tell you the name and relevant contact details of the person assigned to liaise with you about your Complaint.
- > Your Complaint will be handled by a person with appropriate authority, knowledge, or experience. This will not be the person whose decision or conduct is what your Complaint is about.

- > When we are considering your Complaint, we will only ask for, and rely on, information that is relevant to our decision.
- > We will keep you informed about the progress of your Complaint.

**DECISION**

- > Our written response to you will include the reasons for our decision and inform you of your right to take your Complaint to our Internal Dispute Resolution Committee or the Australian Financial Complaints Authority if you are not satisfied with our decision. We will provide you with its contact details and the timeframe in which you are able to complain to it.
- > We will try to decide on your Complaint within 30 Calendar Days. If we cannot make our decision within this timeframe, then before this deadline passes we will tell you, in writing, the reasons for the delay and about your right to take your Complaint to our Internal Dispute Resolution Committee or the Australian Financial Complaints Authority, and its contact details.
- > When we have made a final decision about your Complaint, we will provide a clear response to you in writing.
- > We will give you the information that we relied on when making a decision about your Complaint promptly.
- > If it is identified that we have made a mistake when handling your Complaint, then we will take action to correct the mistake.

**AUSTRALIAN FINANCIAL COMPLAINTS AUTHORITY**

- > We are part of an independent external dispute resolution scheme administered by the Australian Financial Complaints Authority. The scheme is for customers and third parties as allowed under its Rules.
- > You can take your Complaint to the Australian Financial Complaints Authority at any time, including if we do not resolve your Complaint within 30 Calendar Days after we first received your Complaint.
- > Under the Australian Financial Complaints Authority's Rules, your Complaint may be referred back to us if it has not gone through our Complaints process.
- > The Australian Financial Complaints Authority's decisions are binding on us in the way set out in their Rules.
- > If the Australian Financial Complaints Authority tells you that under their Rules it cannot assist you or consider your dispute, then you can seek independent legal advice. You can also access any other external dispute resolution or other options that may be available to you.

The Australian Financial Complaints Authority can be contacted by:

Phone: 1800 931 768  
 Post: GPO Box 3, Melbourne, Victoria 3001  
 Web: [www.afca.org.au](http://www.afca.org.au)

**YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION**

**HOW WE COLLECT, USE AND PROTECT YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION**

eric is committed to ensuring that your personal information is protected. We collect, store and use your personal information (including sensitive information) for the purpose of providing you with insurance and administering your policy including assessing and paying claims as required. We may collect personal information directly from you or through our agents and distributors at the point of sale of your policy.

We may also use your personal information to inform you about other related insurance products or services which may benefit you (subject to your consent), perform administrative functions such as training and development of employees, manage complaints and disputes, and to comply with our legal obligations.

Further information on how we collect and use your personal information is set out in our Privacy Policy that is available on our web site [www.ericinsurance.com.au/privacy-policy](http://www.ericinsurance.com.au/privacy-policy).

By providing us with your personal information, you agree to us collecting, holding, using and disclosing that information in accordance with our Privacy Policy.



## ACCESSING YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

At your request, we will give you, free of charge, access to any information that we relied on in assessing your application for insurance, or in handling your claim, or in responding to a complaint.

The information you may access includes:

- > documents and information we relied on to accept or deny your claim,
- > copies of your product disclosure statement and insurance,
- > copies of any reports from service suppliers or external experts that we relied on, and
- > copies of any recordings and/or transcripts of any interaction we had with you that we relied on.

If we refuse to give you access to information, we will not do so unreasonably, and we will tell you our reasons for doing so and about our complaints process.

We may refuse to give you access to information in the following circumstances:

- > where a law — for example, the Privacy Act 1988 — says we do not have to,
- > in the case of a claim where the claim is being or has been investigated, and giving access would have an unreasonable impact on the privacy of other individuals or government agencies, or
- > if doing so may be prejudicial to us in relation to a Complaint or a dispute about your insurance policy or your claim — however, even in this circumstance we must give you access to any external experts' reports we relied on but not investigator reports.

## CODE OF PRACTICE

The Insurance Council of Australia (ICA) has developed a voluntary General Insurance Code of Practice (the Code) to which we are a signatory.

The objectives of the Code are:

- > To commit us to high standards of service,
- > To promote better, more informed relations between us and you,
- > To maintain and promote trust and confidence in the general insurance industry,
- > To provide fair and effective mechanisms for resolving Complaints you make about us, and
- > To promote continuous improvement of the general insurance industry through education and training.

We will pursue the above objectives of the Code with regard to the law and acknowledging that every contract of insurance is a contract based on the utmost good faith.

A copy of the Code can be obtained [here](http://www.codeofpractice.com.au), at [www.codeofpractice.com.au](http://www.codeofpractice.com.au) or by asking us.

The Code Governance Committee is the independent body that monitors and enforces insurers' compliance with the General Insurance Code of Practice.

Their purpose is to drive better Code compliance, helping the insurance industry to improve its service to consumers.

To find out more about the Code Governance Committee, visit <https://insurancecode.org.au/about/about-the-code-governance-committee/>.

## FINANCIAL CLAIMS SCHEME

This insurance policy may be a 'protected policy' under the Federal Government's Financial Claims Scheme (FCS), administered by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA). The FCS applies in the unlikely event of insurer insolvency if the Federal Treasurer declares that the FCS will apply to the insolvent insurer.

The FCS entitles certain persons, who have valid claims connected with protected policies issued by that insurer, to be paid certain amounts by APRA. Information about the FCS can be obtained from APRA at [www.fcs.gov.au](http://www.fcs.gov.au) or by calling 1300 55 88 49.

## FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

Financial Hardship means you have difficulty meeting your financial obligations to us. You have a right to ask us to fast-track a claim if you have an urgent financial need. You may be entitled to support because you are suffering Financial Hardship.

If you are experiencing Financial Hardship, please let us know so that we can tell you about the support we can provide to you.

A copy of eric's Financial Hardship policy can be obtained at [www.ericinsurance.com.au](http://www.ericinsurance.com.au) or by asking us.

## VULNERABLE CUSTOMERS

We are committed to taking extra care with customers who experience vulnerability. We recognise that a person's vulnerabilities can give rise to unique needs, and that their needs can change over time and in response to particular situations.

A person's vulnerability may be due to a range of factors such as:

- > age,
- > disability,
- > mental health conditions,
- > physical health conditions,
- > family violence,
- > language barriers,
- > literacy barriers,
- > cultural background,
- > Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status,
- > remote location, or
- > financial distress.

We encourage you to tell us about your vulnerability so that we can work with you to arrange support — otherwise, there is a risk that we may not find out about it.

If you tell us, or we identify, that due to a vulnerability you need additional support or assistance, we will work with you and try to find a suitable, sensitive and compassionate way for us to proceed. We will do this as early as practicable and we will protect your right to privacy.

If you tell us, or we identify, that you need additional support from someone else (for example, a lawyer, consumer representative, interpreter or friend), then we will recognise this and allow for it in all reasonable ways. We will try to make sure our processes are flexible enough to recognise the authority of your support person.

Additional support may include making it easier for you to communicate with us, referring you to a financial counsellor or an appropriate community support service.

A copy of eric's Family Violence policy can be obtained at [www.ericinsurance.com.au](http://www.ericinsurance.com.au) or by asking us.

## GST

Any claim payments we make will be based on GST inclusive costs. If you are entitled to claim any input tax credit for any claim paid under this insurance, we will reduce any claim payment by the amount of such input tax credit.

If you are registered for GST, you must advise us of your correct input tax credit percentage. You are liable for any GST liability we incur arising from your incorrect advice or failure to advise us of your GST situation.



## WHAT DO WE MEAN BY THAT?

Certain words used in this document have special meanings. These words and their meanings are listed below:

**Comprehensive Vehicle Insurance:** Means the insurance policy that provides cover for physical loss of or damage to the Vehicle and is in force at the date of the incident in relation to which a claim is made under the Policy.

**Comprehensive Vehicle Insurer:** Means the insurance company which has provided the Comprehensive Vehicle Insurance policy to you for the Vehicle. The Comprehensive Vehicle Insurer must be authorised by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority (APRA) to carry on general insurance business in Australia under the Insurance Act 1973 (Cth) and hold an Australian Financial Services Licence issued by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission (ASIC).

**Endorsement:** An additional term or condition applied by us or an alteration requested by you and agreed to by us. An Endorsement may be sent as a separate document or may be described on the Policy Schedule.

**Finance Contract:** The legal agreement with the Financier which describes the terms and conditions under which the funds were provided to you for the purchase of the Vehicle, as described on the Policy Schedule. The agreement must have the Vehicle listed as security for the funds provided under the agreement.

**Financier:** The finance company or credit institution named in the Policy Schedule with whom you have entered into a Finance Contract.

**Insurance Charge:** The amount you pay for this insurance cover prior to any compulsory Government charges such as Stamp Duty, GST and levies if applicable.

**Interest Charge:** The additional charge payable by you if you choose to pay the Premium by instalments. This amount is a separate charge and does not form part of the Premium you pay for this insurance cover.

**Period of Insurance:** The period during which cover is provided under this insurance. The Period of Insurance begins on the commencement date and ends on the expiry date, as stated on the Policy Schedule, unless this insurance cover ends earlier in accordance with its terms.

**Policy Schedule:** The most recent document we provide to you describing the terms and conditions specific to your insurance cover which includes your details, the Vehicle details, the policy number together with the details of cover, Premium, additional Interest Charges (if applicable) and other policy details. This document also provides you with confirmation of your transaction.

**Premium:** The amount You pay for this insurance cover including amounts payable by us in relation to any compulsory Government charges such as Stamp Duty, GST and levies if applicable. This amount does not include the additional Interest Charge payable by You if You choose to pay Your Premium by instalments.

**Replacement Vehicle Value:** The value determined by us and agreed upon by you at the commencement of your insurance policy. This value cannot exceed the cost paid to purchase the Vehicle described in your Policy Schedule.

**Shortfall:** Where the Total Loss occurs during the first 36 months of the Period of Insurance, the Shortfall is the greater of:

- > The difference between the Replacement Vehicle Value of the Vehicle and the Total Loss Payout; or
- > The difference between the balance owed on the Finance Contract as at the date of the Total Loss and the Total Loss Payout.

Where the Total Loss occurs after the first 36 months of the Period of Insurance, the Shortfall is the difference between the balance owed on the Finance Contract as at the date of the Total Loss and the Total Loss Payout.

**Total Amount Payable:** your Premium and Interest Charges payable (if applicable) shown on your Policy Schedule.

**Total Loss:** When the Vehicle is stolen and not recovered and/or considered damaged beyond economical repair in the opinion of the Vehicle Insurer and this requires them to make a Total Loss Payout.

**Total Loss Payout:** The amount Your Vehicle Insurer agrees to pay under Your Vehicle Insurance policy following the Total Loss of the Vehicle, before taking into account any deductions for any premium including the balance of monthly payments due or any other deductions, excluding any excess(s)

**Vehicle:** The Vehicle described in the Policy Schedule (including any fitted modifications and accessories).

**We, we, us, and our:** The issuer and insurer of the policy, Eric Insurance Limited ABN 18 009 129 793 AFSL 238 279

**You, you and your:** The insured person(s) named in the Policy Schedule, who must also be the owner of the Vehicle, or any person who has your Express or Implied Consent to be in control of the Vehicle. It also includes the Financier if the Vehicle is subject to a finance contract only to the extent of their interest in the Vehicle.

## **ŠKODA** Financial Services

Finance. Fleet. Insurance. Mobility.

The insurer of this insurance product is Eric Insurance Limited ABN 18 009 129 793, Australian Financial Services Licence (AFSL) 238 279, PO Box 9106, Scoresby VIC 3179, phone 1800 999 977 (eric). In arranging this insurance, Volkswagen Financial Services Australia Pty Limited ABN 20 097 071 460, Australian Credit Licence 389344 of 24 Muir Road, Chullora NSW 2190 and its authorised dealers act on behalf of eric and not as your agent. Neither Volkswagen Financial Services Australia Pty Limited nor any of its related companies have any liability in respect of this insurance policy.