



21 May 2013

Improvements to the life insurance statistical publications

On 22 February 2013, APRA released a discussion paper on proposed changes to its life insurance statistical publications and on the confidentiality of life insurance data submitted to APRA. In the discussion paper, APRA proposed to enhance its life insurance statistical publications to better meet stakeholders' needs for more detailed and timely statistics. APRA also proposed to determine that all data submitted by life insurers are non-confidential and therefore would be publicly accessible. The consultation period for submissions to be made to APRA closed on 5 April 2013.

Based on the feedback received in submissions, APRA will implement the improvements to the life insurance publications as proposed. By implementing these improvements, APRA will publish more than 80 new statistics, including revised capital adequacy statistics, and provide breakdowns of more than 60 industry level statistics. These statistics will be published in new database versions of the publications that will help users more easily analyse the statistics that APRA publishes.

By publishing more of the data that APRA collects, APRA aims to promote a better understanding of the life insurance industry and assist research and public discussion on life insurance policy issues.

APRA has today released the first of the improved publications, the *Quarterly Life Insurance Performance Statistics*, for the March 2013 reference period.

APRA will decide which life insurance data submitted to APRA is to be determined non-confidential in the third quarter of 2013. In the meantime, APRA will continue to apply confidentiality protection measures to ensure that confidential information relating to an individual institution cannot be derived from APRA's published statistics.

APRA received five submissions from interested parties in response to the proposals in the discussion paper. Of these submissions, four are available on APRA's website at the address below. The other submission was marked as confidential.

<http://www.apra.gov.au/lifs/Pages/Submissions-Confidentiality-of-Life-Insurance-data-and-changes-to-statistical-publications.aspx>.

This letter sets out APRA's response to the submissions received on the proposed changes to the life insurance statistical publications in the discussion paper.

Proposal 1: introduce database versions

APRA sought feedback on the proposal to publish an additional version of all its life insurance statistical publications in the format of a database, intended to be easily

imported into various tools to allow users to conduct more in-depth analysis. Respondents supported the proposal to publish a database version.

The first database version of the publications, for the September 2013 quarterly publication, will be released on 12 November 2013.

Proposal 2: include additional statistics in the *Quarterly Life Insurance Performance Statistics Performance Statistics* publication and the *Annual Friendly Society Bulletin*

APRA sought feedback on proposed improvements to the quarterly publication and annual friendly society bulletin. Respondents supported the proposal to include additional statistics in the publications, such as newly collected statistics relating to gross insurance policy revenue, and gross insurance policy expenses at the product-level sourced from data submitted on the revised forms from 1 January 2013, as well as statistics collected since 2008.

APRA has implemented the improvements as proposed, and released the revised *Quarterly Life Insurance Performance Statistics* publication today. The revised *Annual Friendly Society Bulletin* will be released on 18 December 2013 for the June 2013 reference period.

Proposal 3: introduce the *Life Insurance Institution-Level Statistics* publication

APRA sought feedback on the introduction of the institution-level publication. Respondents supported the proposal.

APRA will finalise the content and format of the institution-level publication based on its decision whether to determine life insurance data non-confidential. APRA will advise all life insurers and other respondents of its decision, and the changes to the institution level publication, in a response letter in the third quarter of 2013.

Proposal 4: introduce the *Life Insurance Supplementary Statistical Tables* publication

APRA sought feedback on the introduction of the supplementary tables publication, which was proposed to include additional product level detail on data previously published in the *Half Yearly Life Insurance Bulletin*. Respondents had no objections to this proposal.

The new supplementary tables publication will be published in June 2014 for the December 2013 reference period.

Proposal 5: cease the *Half Yearly Life Insurance Bulletin*

APRA sought feedback on the proposal to cease the half yearly bulletin as a result of the above proposals. Respondents did not have any objections to this proposal.

APRA will publish the final edition of the publication, covering the December 2012 reference period, on 12 June 2013.

APRA will release the proposed statistical publications, in accordance to the timetable published on the APRA website. In the discussion paper, APRA also proposed to publish each statutory fund's data for an insurer. APRA will separately consult on the data format to be published at a statutory fund level for life insurers in the first half of 2014.

APRA welcomes feedback on the publications, or any suggestions for future improvements.

For further information please contact Todd Campbell (02 9210 3437) or statistics@apra.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

Dr Steve Davies
General Manager - Statistics