

# M&A Insurance Claims in Pacific Region Reveal High Frequency and Evolving Risk Landscape, Aon Study Finds

- Compliance breaches, tax and financial disclosure dominate W&I insurance claims in Australia and New Zealand.
- Eighty percent of claims in the Pacific region stem from deals valued under AU\$500 million (c. NZ\$545 million).
- Aon's Pacific region clients recovered approximately AU\$30m in paid M&A insurance claims in the last year, with a successful claims payout on almost 60 percent of the claim notices submitted.

**AUCKLAND**, **28 July**, **2025** – Aon plc (NYSE: AON), a leading global professional services firm, today released regional insights from its <u>2025 Transaction Solutions Global Claims Study</u>, highlighting key trends in M&A insurance claims across the Pacific region. The study, based on Aon's proprietary claims data and insurer surveys, reveals that Australia and New Zealand continue to experience a high frequency of warranty and indemnity (W&I) insurance claims, particularly in smaller transactions.

The Pacific region saw claims filed on approximately 20 percent of W&I policies placed, with 80 percent of those claims arising from deals with an enterprise value of less than AU\$500 million (c. NZ\$545 million). This underscores the value of the product for small-to-mid-market transactions and the critical role W&I insurance plays in protecting deal value.

## **Key Takeaways for the Pacific Region**

- Increased deal activity and a steady rise in claims notifications across the region
- High frequency of claims in smaller transactions with 80 percent of claims arising from deals under AU\$500 million
- High incidence of disclosure-related breaches

#### Top Causes of W&I Claims in New Zealand

- Compliance with laws
- Tax matters
- Financial statements

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Inadequate disclosure during due diligence remains a recurring issue, often contributing to claims. This includes both general warranties and specific disclosures.

## **Timing and Trends**

Nearly 25 percent of claims in the Pacific region are reported within six months of deal closing, and almost 50 percent are submitted within 12 months. Close to 100 percent of claims are filed within three years, aligning with the typical duration of W&I policy periods.

"The Pacific region continues to demonstrate the value of W&I insurance evidenced by the one-in-five frequency of claim notifications and the global figures for claim payouts," said Ami Kalmath, claims manager, financial specialties and transaction solutions, Pacific at Aon. "Aon's specialist claims team can assist clients to achieve optimal recovery on losses through specialist claims advocacy. Our experience demonstrates that when clients engage early and collaborate closely with their advisors and insurers, claims are resolved more efficiently and with better outcomes."

Adrienne Booth, who has recently been appointed as executive director, transaction solutions, New Zealand at Aon commented, "We're seeing a more sophisticated approach to risk transfer in the region. Buyers and sellers alike are leveraging W&I insurance not just as a deal enabler, but as a strategic tool to manage post-close risk. The data reinforces that this product is delivering real value when it matters most."

Booth, who joined Aon in 2011 and previously served as head of commercial law at Aon in the UK and law and compliance co-leader for the Global Commercial Risk Solutions Executive Team, returns to her native New Zealand bringing deep global experience and strong local insight. Her appointment signals Aon's commitment to expanding its M&A and transaction liability offering in New Zealand and delivering greater value to clients nationwide.

To explore the full report and regional insights, visit <u>Aon's 2025 Transaction Solutions Global Claims Study</u>.

## **About Aon**

Aon plc (NYSE: AON) exists to shape decisions for the better — to protect and enrich the lives of people around the world. Through actionable analytic insight, globally integrated Risk Capital and Human Capital expertise, and locally relevant solutions, our colleagues provide clients in over 120 countries with the clarity and confidence to make better risk and people decisions that protect and grow their businesses.

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