

## Can your business operate without computers or the internet?

Your business, relies upon technology just to exist. From paying suppliers, to marketing your goods and liaising with clients, your bottom line relies upon your ability to communicate electronically.

So what happens if you cannot access your data, IT infrastructure or the internet? As technology becomes more sophisticated, so do the threats we face.

Did you know, 70% of businesses have reported experiencing a cyber-attack in the last 12 months? This can take many forms including:

- Unauthorised person gaining access to your system
- Theft or corruption of your data
- Viruses or malware infections on your system
- Denial of services leaving your system unusable

A cyber-attack could be potentially crippling to businesses of all sizes, impacting your ability to trade, and could even result in you unwittingly breaking the law.

## Notifiable Data Breach (NDB) Scheme is here!

The NDB Scheme commenced in February this year and requires businesses to notify their clients if their personal information has been compromised by a data breach.

The scheme applies to all businesses with turnover over \$3 million as well as health service providers, credit reporting bodies, and Tax File Number recipients irrespective of their size.

Notifying your clients of a breach of the Privacy Act costs money. According to IBM's security division, notification costs can be as high as \$355 per record depending on your industry and the nature of the information you collect.

According to the Ponemon Institute the average cost of a cyber incident in Australia in 2017 was \$2.5M which could be potentially catastrophic for many businesses.

## What is Cyber Insurance?

A cyber insurance policy can provide comprehensive cover for the liability and expenses arising out of unauthorised access and use of data or software within your IT infrastructure. The policy provides cover for:

- Losses to your business
- Losses to others
- Expenses associated with Cyber events

**You can also purchase optional covers such as contingent business interruption, cyber theft and tangible property cover. You don't need to look much further than the newspaper headlines to understand that Cyber Security is becoming a serious global issue with potentially catastrophic consequences.**

**If you would like more information about how to protect your business from cyber criminals contact one of the Account Managers at Warren Saunders Insurance Brokers to obtain a quote.**

## I'm too small, why would a cyber criminal bother with me?

Cyber criminals worldwide do not discriminate based on size. Often it is easier to target multiple smaller companies rather than target a single larger company which may have money to invest in IT security.

## What will your customers think if you compromise their personal information?

Aside from the financial cost of notifying a breach of the Privacy Act, there is significant reputational damage which can occur to your business in the instance of a notifiable data breach.

If a breach impacts your ability to trade you also risk losing clients to competitors as they seek to meet their own needs whilst you are out of action.

## What can I do to protect myself and my business?

Protect your data the same way as you would protect your money. Your data is your money, your ability to do business, your reputation and your financial security. Good IT risk management procedures, training, IT infrastructure investment and continued vigilance.

Cyber Insurance has also emerged as a last line of defence.