# Cyber exposure in the digital world: Preparing for the holiday season and 2025.



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# Speakers



INSURANCE BROKERS



Marie D'Have Team Manager, Executive and Professional Risks | Gow-Gates Insurance Brokers

As Team Manager of Gow-Gates' Executive and Professional Risks team, Marie oversees key Financial Lines for the Corporate and Risk Solutions division, ensuring comprehensive coverage and risk management strategies for clients. Marie brings a strong legal and insurance background, having spent six years as a qualified lawyer in Belgium before transitioning to the Financial Lines team at Marsh in Belgium and subsequently in Australia.



Alexander Kerti Business Development Underwriter | Emergence Insurance

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Alex has experience working in national and global organisations in the digital/tech/software industry.

He is passionate about spreading cyber awareness and helping organisations build cyber resilience.

Alex naturally believes that insurance and cyber security are a necessary partnership for any business operating in 2024.



Cris White Head of Cyber Advisory | CyberSuite

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Chris is a seasoned cyber security expert with two decades of experience, 20 years military planning and operations experience leading crisis management teams and coordinating risk management programs. Chris has experience running military wargaming scenarios and cyber tabletop exercises for boards, organisations, and government entities. Also in managing strategic and organisational risk, with the aim of building cyber resiliency across Australian businesses of varying sizes.

#### Emergence Insurance & Gow Gates

### Welcome

- > Cyber threat landscape in Australia
- > Insights and claims data
- > Common threat vectors
- > Demystifying insurance
- > How to prepare for 2025 and beyond





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## Defining cyber & cyber events in Australia.





#### Overview

### **Defining Cyber**



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- A cyber event is defined a malicious attack, unintended disclosure of, or unauthorised access to your digital systems, data or technology.
- Successful attacks or breaches lead to devasting business interruption, loss of data, financial damage and reputational harm.
- Events are drastically increasing in Australia, both in frequency and in severity.
- Cyber events are currently dominating Australian headlines as we're viewed to be low hanging fruit.

Canva – 139 million customers had PII stolen.

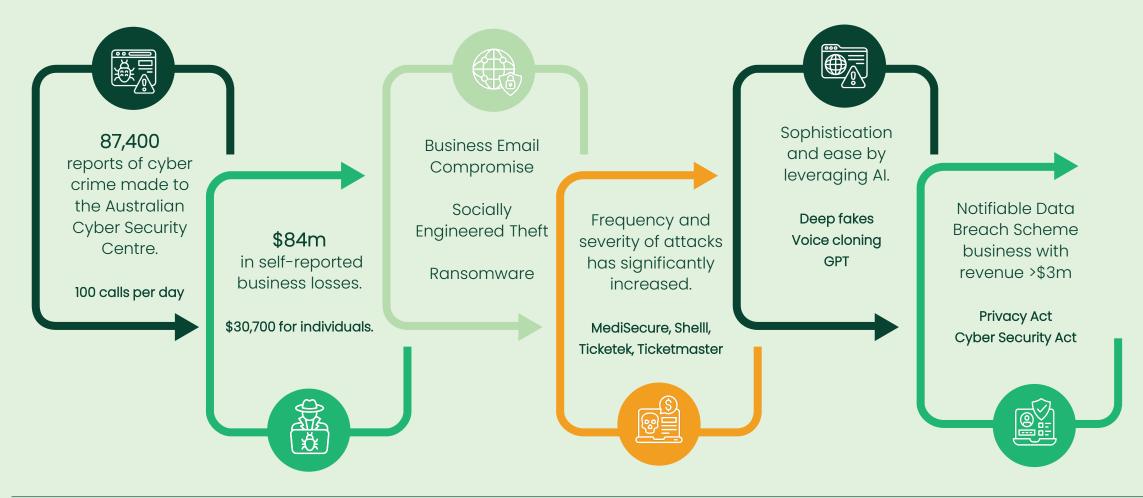
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- Latitude –\$76m in losses and 14 million customers affected.
- Optus –\$140m in losses and 9.8 million customers affected.
  - MediBank \$125m in losses and 9.7 million customers affected.

Australian Signals Directorate FY24

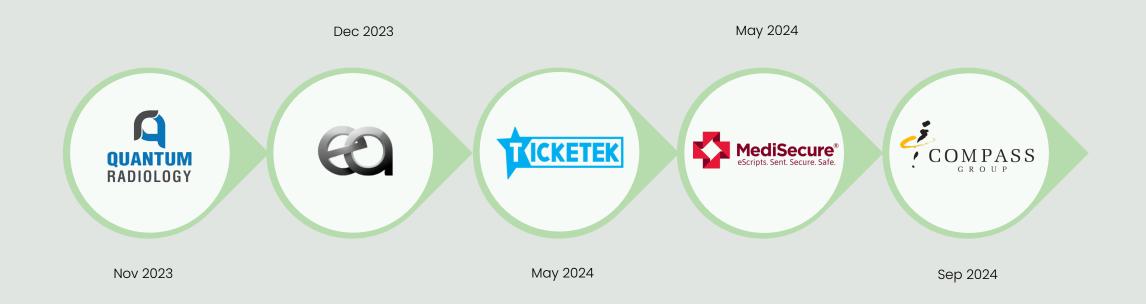
### Cyber Events in Australia



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#### $2023 \rightarrow 2024$

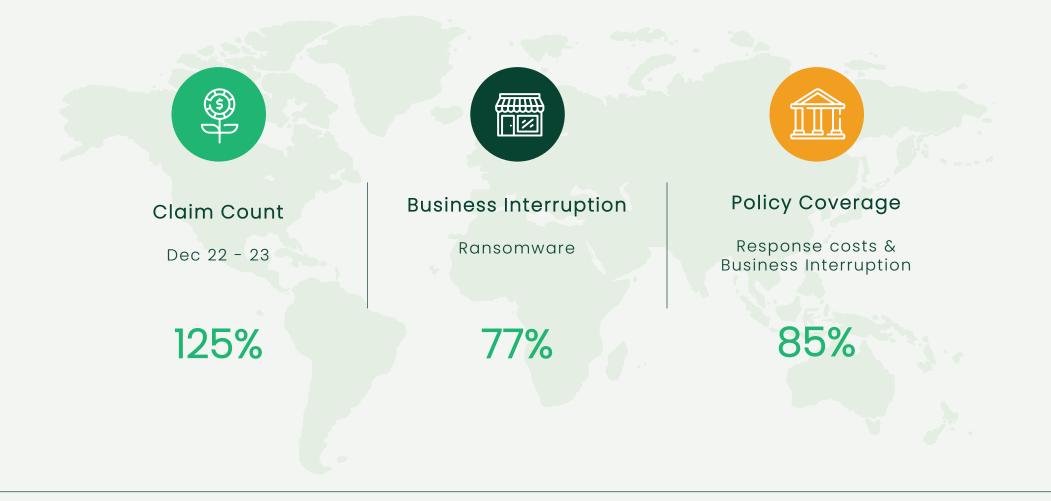
### Recent events in Australia





Emergence Data

### **Claim Trends**





### Threat Landscape





#### ANY AGE, ANY LOCATION, ANY TIME

### who's responsible for these attacks?

ORGANISED CRIME Solely focused on maximizing profit, this is the largest growing problem faced globally

NATION STATES Hack for the global advantage they can give their country

HACKTIVISTS Hack for political elections and social reasons SCRIPT KIDS Hack for fun or fame with the skills to inflict harm

> INSIDERS Internal employees who steal and sell information



Hacker's mindset

### How I would hack you...

### **Business Email Compromise**

- Gain access to your email
- Scam your suppliers or clients

### Socially Engineered Theft

- Phishing, vishing, other social engineering techniques
- Convince you or your staff to pay money





#### Be prepared

### How to prevent cyber incidents

- Multi-factor Authentication
- Cyber Awareness Training
- Password Hygiene
- Update your software and devices
- Backup your critical data
- Have an Incident Response Plan





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# Demystifying cyber insurance, and how cover responds.





### Cyber insurance



### Losses that directly affect the insured's business:

- Business interruption
  - Reduction of revenue or increased costs of working
- Ransom / extortion
  - Payments to fulfill a ransom or extortion demand



- Legal expenses including defence costs, settlements, awards and damages.
- Multimedia injury or PCI liability
- Civil fines and penalties
- Regulatory fines and penalties

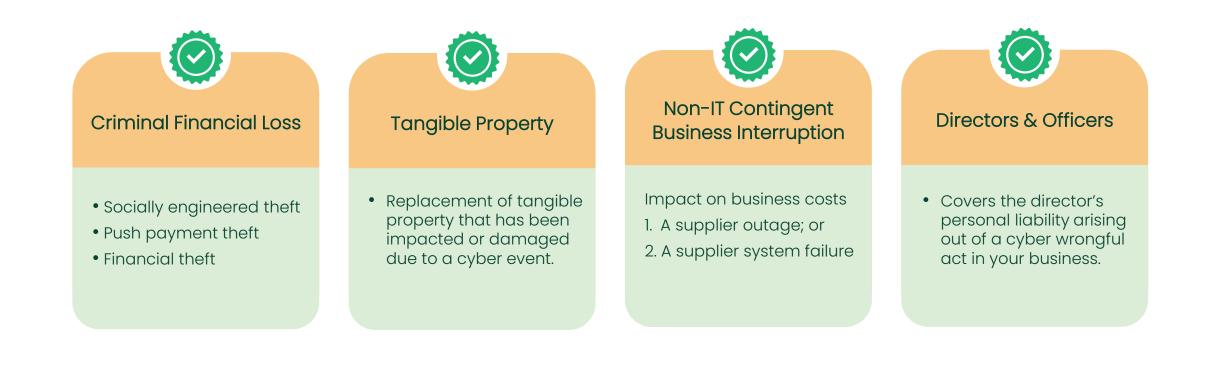
#### Section C - Response Costs

Costs associated with the management and remediation from a cyber event:

- Crisis management
- PR, legal, communications
- Data securing and restoration
- Virus extraction
- Notification to affected individuals
  and businesses



### Additional covers





#### Implications of a breach

### Notification Requirements

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- Unauthorised access to, or unauthorised disclosure of personal information about one or more individuals
- >\$3m must notify OAIC within 30 days of breach
- Must conduct full assessment of impact
- Must inform each individual impacted or compromised

Fines & penalties

- Minimum \$50m or
- 30% of annual revenue or
- \$420k per individual affected
- Invasion of privacy max remedy of \$478k
- Civil penalties \$3.3m per contravention
- Infringement notices up to \$66k



#### **Business impact**

- Immediate decline and halt
  of revenue
- Reputational harm
- Counter legal pursuits
- Post incident restoration
- Legal and notification costs
- Ongoing revenue impacts



- Must conduct sanction check on threat actor group
- Negotiate ransom payment
- Facilitate bitcoin transaction
- Receive decryption key and commence restoration
- Post incident remediation and planning
- Media statements / rep harm





# Claims & Incident response





### Ransomware

\$16m revenue

#### Incident Details

Staff member couldn't log in and noticed ransom note on the computer.

IT confirmed ransomware attack had been deployed and entire IT network inaccessible.

Insured immediately called the Emergence hotline.

Triaged with the CEO, CFO and MSP immediately.

Forensic retained and brought into the triage call.

Identified to be a Zero Day Citrix Netscaler Vulnerability.

#### Negotiations

Demanded \$400K USD ransom.

Professional negotiator engaged.

Requested proof of files while assessing the file-tree.

Unable to recover from back-ups – entire environment ceased and extracted.

Sanction check on Qantam and recipient wallet.

Ransom amount agreed and payment facilitated.

Decryption key provided, restoration process commenced and systems rebuilt.

Final Claim

IT Forensics = \$50,750 Legal Counsel = \$50,000 Public Relations = \$15,700 Ransom + Negotiator = \$405,000 **Total Claim = \$520,000** 

> Data restoration policy Data protection policy Incident Response Plan



### **Business Email Compromise**

\$30m revenue

#### **Incident Details**

Internal staff member received an email which appeared to be from a director. The email had a file attached - clicked on the file but nothing downloaded.

This was a malicious file which allowed the threat actor to gain access to their mailbox.

Threat actor moved through the business' mailbox and harvested all key client details.

Impersonating the staff member, they sent updated bank details attached with invoices to all clients.

Accrued \$290k in payments in one week. Submitted second invoices which were being paid, until one person called the business to confirm works prior to paying.

#### Steps Taken

Insured immediately called Emergence hotline. Triage with CEO and IT contractor.

All sites were shutdown until investigation was completed.

Forensics entered their network and identified the staff member had been compromised weeks prior.

Emergence had to rebuild their entire network and secure their mailbox environment.

Legal counsel retained to provide extensive privacy advice, notify government bodies and contractors.

Notification advice provided to all subcontractors and businesses compromised.

#### Final Claim

Forensics - \$15,000 Legal Counsel - \$20,000 Public Relations - \$8,000 Reimbursement - \$250,000 **Total Claim = \$293,000** 

Section C & D Cyber event response costs Criminal financial loss

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# Be prepared for holiday season and throughout 2025.





#### Have a plan

### Tips for holiday season

#### Attacks

- Stay vigilant against targeted scams and invoice fraud
- Be wary of urgent or unusual requests

### Staff Changes

- Reduced staff availability
- Staff with new and additional responsibility

### Preparation

- Review Incident Response Plans
- Remind staff of what to look for and how to respond





#### Plan ahead

### Be cyber secure in 2025

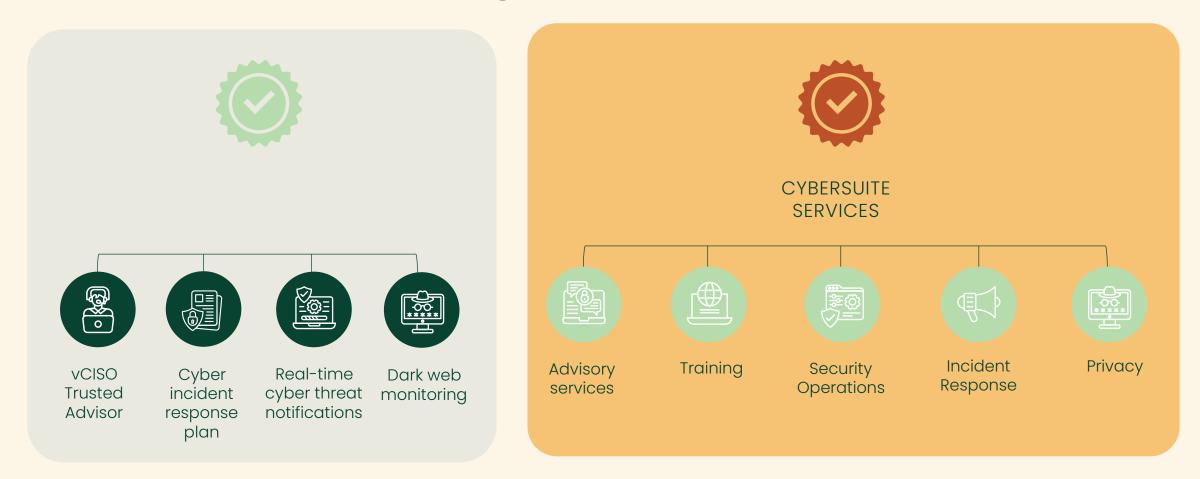
- Regulatory changes: Cyber Security and Privacy Acts
- Understand the what data is your responsibility
- Run a digital fire drill tabletop exercise
- Put key controls in place:
  - MFA
  - Patching (Updates)
  - Strong passwords
  - Offline backups
  - Incident Response Plan





COMPLIMENTAR SERVICES FOR POLICY HOLDERS

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### Thank you



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# Questions