



# METHODOLOGY

## HOME AND CONTENTS INSURANCE

### What is the CANSTAR Home & Contents Star Ratings?

CANSTAR Home & Contents Star Ratings use a sophisticated rating methodology, unique to CANSTAR, which compares home and contents insurance policies from across Australia and presents the results in a simple, user-friendly format. Our rating methodology is transparent and extensive, aiming to provide consumers with as much of a market comparison as possible. The methodology compares home, contents and combined home & contents insurance in Australia and accounts for an array of characteristics such as:

- Accidental damage
- Accidental breakage
- Fusion cover
- Open air coverage
- Gap cover
- Item limits

The results are reflected in a consumer-friendly five-star concept, with five stars denoting a product offering outstanding value.



Home Insurance

Australia



Contents Insurance

Australia



Home & Contents

Australia

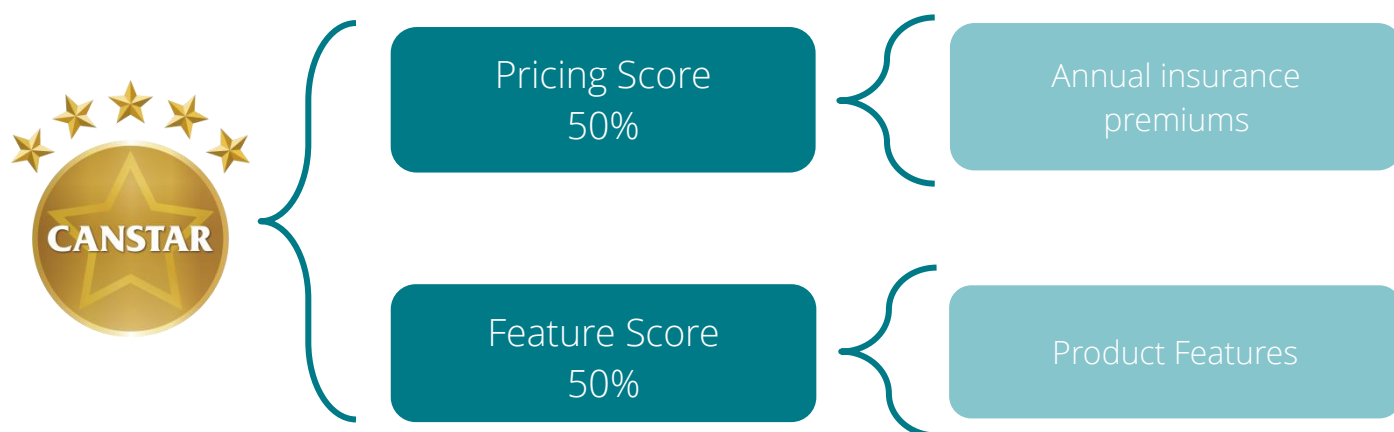
### How are the CANSTAR Home & Contents Star Ratings and Awards structured?

The Home & Contents Insurance Star Ratings consist of three separate insurance product types (home insurance, contents insurance and home & contents insurance). The rating process for each of these product types employs a separate star ratings methodology consistent with the pricing and features model of the CANSTAR star ratings.

Home & Contents Insurance products are rated across seven regions so that consumers will be able to identify their geographic location and create a shortlist of products that may be suitable for their needs.

Each Home & Contents Insurance product reviewed is awarded points for its comparative Pricing and for the array of positive Features attached to the account. Points are aggregated to achieve a Pricing score (P) and a Features score (F).

To arrive at the total score, CANSTAR applies a weight (w) against the P and F. This weight will vary for each policy type and will reflect the relative importance of either costs or features in determining the value propositions for home & contents policy. This method can be summarised as:



## Pricing Score

The insurance premium for home & contents insurance is used as the main point of cost comparison. Peer products are compared and the product with the lowest cost is awarded the highest pricing score and all other peer products are awarded a relative score in comparison to the lowest cost product. An excess of \$500 is used in the quoting process, however when \$500 excess cannot be obtained an alternative value is used, to keep comparability between insurers.

Across the seven regions, under Home and Contents policy CANSTAR considers:

- One Sum Insured amount for Home (\$450,000)
- Two Sum Insured amounts for Contents
- Two Sum Insured amounts for Home and Contents Package

Sum Insured	Contents Only	Home and Contents Package
Low	\$50,000	\$450,000 Home & \$50,000 Contents
High	\$125,000	\$450,000 Home & \$125,000 Contents

To be eligible for star ratings, premium quotes have to be available both online and by phone and the provider must provide cover for all addresses quoted for the specific policy and sum insured level.

## Feature Score

More than 100 different features are assessed from 22 different feature categories. Peer products are compared and the product with the most comprehensive features is awarded the highest feature score.

Feature Category	Description	Weight		
		Home Only	Contents Only	Home & Contents
Policy Terms		50%	50%	50%
Policy Conditions	List flexibilities in taking the policies (e.g. cooling off period, different excesses amounts)	15%	15%	15%
Claim Process	Different flexibilities in making claims (e.g. online, phone, 24 hour service)	15%	15%	15%
Defined Events	List all events & maximum cover (e.g. earthquake, explosions, lightning cover)	10%	10%	10%
Accidental Damage	Specific conditions for accidental cover event	25%	25%	25%
Flood	Specific conditions on flood related cover	15%	15%	15%
Accidental Breakage	Specific cover for Glass and other breakable items	5%	5%	5%
Storm	Specific conditions on storm related cover	10%	10%	10%
Helpline	Flexibilities in assisting policy holders post-event ( trauma counselling)	5%	5%	5%
Building Cover		50%		25%
Building Inclusions	Definitions of buildings	5%	-	5%
Building Policy	Flexibilities to rebuild (e.g. choice of builders, option to rebuild)	20%	-	20%
Underinsurance protection	Specific features to prevent under insurance	30%	-	30%
Fusion of electric motor (Building)	Specific conditions on fusion cover	10%	-	10%
Other benefits (Building)	Other benefits (key replacement, temporary accommodation, removal of debris)	20%	-	20%
Scenario questions (Building)	Specific scenario question in relate to building cover	15%	-	15%
Contents Cover			50%	25%
Contents inclusions	Definitions of contents	-	5%	5%
Contents Policy	Flexibilities on contents term (e.g. new for old, contents in open air)	-	20%	20%
Fusion of electric motor (Contents)	Specific conditions on fusion cover	-	10%	10%
Theft or attempted theft	Specific conditions on theft related cover	-	15%	15%
Other benefits (Contents)	Other benefits (credit card theft, guest belonging)	-	15%	15%
Scenario questions (Contents)	Specific scenario question in relate to content cover	-	10%	10%
Maximum Item Benefits (Unlisted Items)	Maximum benefits for unlisted item	-	20%	20%
Specified Portable Items	Specific conditions on specified portable items	-	5%	5%

## What are the CANSTAR Home and Contents State Awards?

CANSTAR awards insurers who provide outstanding value policies to customers in New South Wales, Victoria, Northern Queensland, Southern Queensland, Western Australia, South Australia and Tasmania. CANSTAR identifies which insurers offer outstanding value policies in each region to aid consumers compare features and price as both can vary from region to region.

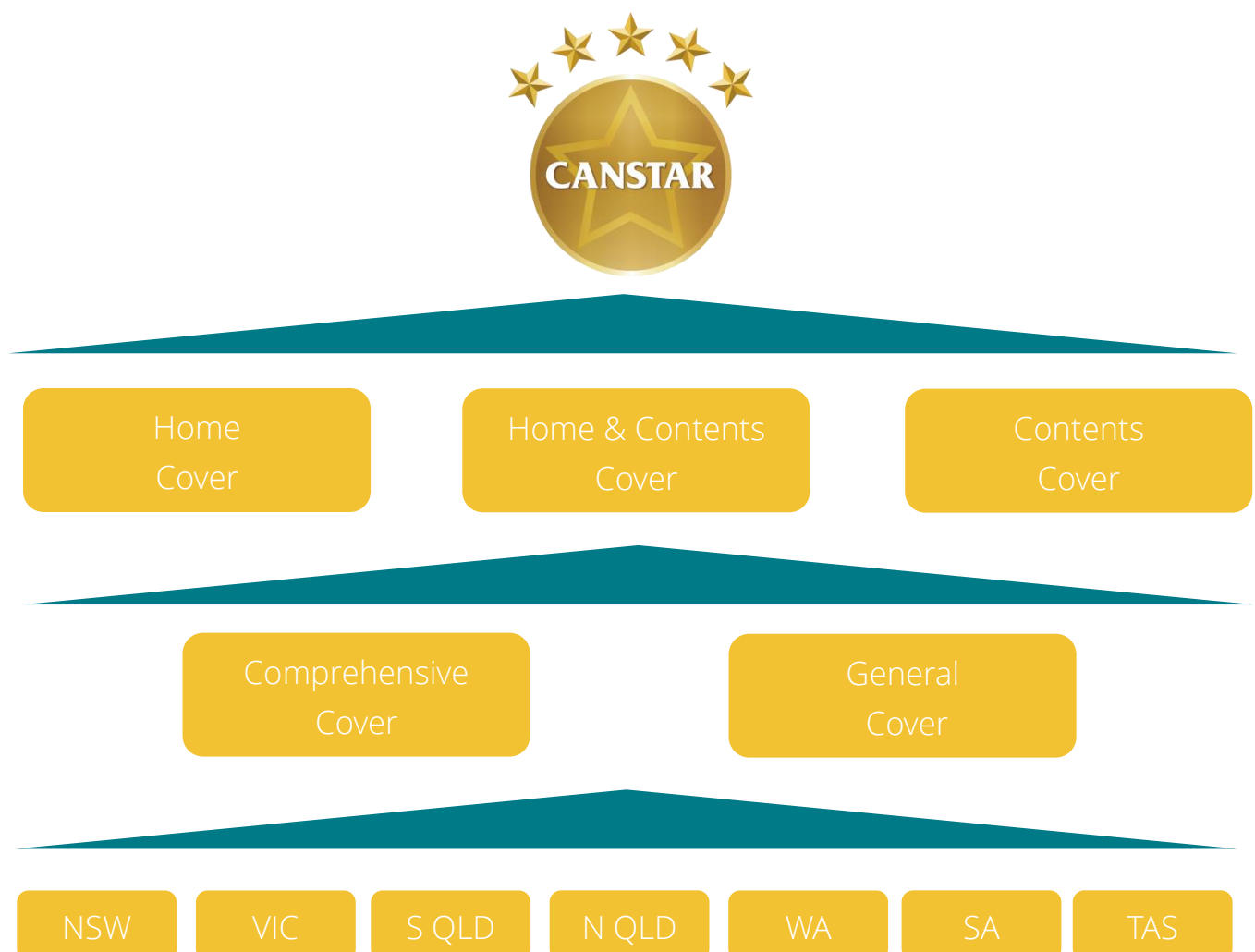
In determining the state winners, for higher value propositions CANSTAR places equal weights on a policy with general inclusions and a policy with higher level of inclusions offered by each provider. The minimum criteria to be fulfilled to qualify as a policy with higher level of inclusions are:

- Option to cover Accidental Damage (Home)
- Flash Flooding due to heavy rain (Home)
- Storm Cover as a Standard Inclusion (Home)
- Fusion Cover (Contents)
- Availability of theft cover (Contents)
- Accidental Breakage as a Standard Inclusion (Contents)

## What are the CANSTAR Home and Contents National Awards?

To determine the national award winner, each insurer's performance in each region is weighted against the proportion of Australia's population within that region. The insurer that scores the greatest weighted average is then recognised national winner for their policies which provide outstanding value to Australians.

To be eligible for an award, the institution should underwrite its own insurance or be a wholly owned subsidiary of a general insurer and not be age restrictive. The insurer must also offer cover to Australian's in all states.



## How often are products reviewed for awards or star ratings purposes?

Star Ratings and Awards are fully recalculated every 12 months, based on the latest submissions from each institution. CANSTAR also monitors changes on an ongoing basis.

## Does CANSTAR rate all products available in the market?

We endeavour to include the majority of product providers in the market and to compare the product features most relevant to consumers in our ratings and awards. However this process is not always possible and it may be that not every product in the market is included nor every feature compared that is relevant to you.

## Does CANSTAR rate other product areas?

CANSTAR researches, compares and rates the suite of banking and insurance products listed below. These star ratings and awards use similar methodologies to guarantee quality, consistency and transparency. Results are freely available to consumers, who use the star ratings as a guide to product excellence. The use of similar star ratings logos also builds consumer recognition of quality products across all categories. Access the CANSTAR website at [www.canstar.com.au](http://www.canstar.com.au) if you would like to view the latest star ratings and awards reports of interest.



- Account-based pensions
- Business life insurance
- Deposit accounts
- Health insurance
- Life insurance
- Online banking
- Personal loans
- Term deposits
- Youth banking
- Agribusiness
- Car insurance
- Direct life insurance
- Home & Contents
- Managed investments
- Online share trading
- Reward programs
- Travel insurance
- Business banking
- Credit cards
- First home buyer
- Home loans
- Margin lending
- Package banking
- Superannuation
- Travel money cards

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