

Life Insurance: More Than Just a Security Blanket

人寿保险的多面保障

Source: Life Insurance Association, 资料来源: 人寿保险协会, 翻译: 文扬萍, Photos 图: stock.xchange



An important aspect of financial planning, life insurance can be used to achieve goals like income protection, investment returns or saving for your children's education.

A valuable tool that covers your financial needs as well as your dependents', life insurance acts as a buffer when the unexpected happens. Depending on the policy you choose, life insurance can meet various goals besides financial protection.

It instills discipline in saving regularly for different financial needs, such as your child's future education. Besides serving as a financial backup during an emergency, it helps you reap potentially higher returns as an investment tool.

There is a wide array of insurance products that caters to varying needs and means. We explore the various plans you can choose from:

限的保障。与限期保险比较, 终身保险的保费显得较高, 而保障程度又可能较低。但是, 大多数的终身保单都随着投保得越久而积累的现金价值也越多, 可增值一倍, 所以, 它可作为一种长期储蓄。

此外, 如果投保人逾期未缴付保费, 由过去缴付保费所累积成的现金价值, 只要款额足够, 将部分自动转为贷款, 以缴付保费而使投保人继续受保。此外, 万一受保人出现经济或生活危机, 现金价值也可作为保单贷款被提取出来使用。再者, 倘若受保人一旦死亡, 保单受益人将获得一笔死亡赔偿金外加所累积的红利。

万能寿险

万能寿险提供某种灵活程度, 以适应变动的财务情况, 此类保单包含灵活的保费, 让投保人能决定保费数额、缴费模式以及某些限制下的缴费时间选择。此类保单还附带死亡赔偿金, 并允许借出或提领所累

人寿保险是一大重要财务计划, 具有三大益处:

一. 财务保障、二. 投资回报、三. 教育储蓄。

当难料之事发生时, 人寿保险可缓解经济问题, 使受保人的财务需要有所保障, 而其家属也获得经济保障。人寿保险根据所选购的保单而定, 不但保障财务并能达到各种经济目的。

它也鼓励人们为各自不同的财务需要而定期储蓄, 例如为孩子的未来教育而储蓄的教育保险。再者, 人寿保险不仅在紧急情况时可作为经济后备, 同时也是一种投资工具, 因为它可获得更高的潜在回报。

常见的各种不同的保险产品, 能满足人们不同的投保需要和用意, 以下进行探讨各项保险计划, 供你参考和做出选择:

限期保险

限期保险在规定的期限内, 为保户以负担得起的保费提供基本保障。一个示例是, 它提供经济保障, 直到投保人的孩子长大成人经济独立为止。

就限期保单而言, 当保单到期时, 保险公司不赔付现金。但是, 倘若在受保期间内, 受保人一旦死亡或终身残障(如果此项也受保), 受保人所负担的家属将获得一笔死亡赔偿金。

终身保险

顾名思义, 终身保险是一项长期的投保, 只要有缴付保费, 就具有终身或是约定期

Term Insurance

Offering protection across a stipulated period, term insurance provides essential coverage at affordable premiums. An example would be one that offers protection until your children become independent adults.

For term policies, no cash payouts are given at the end of the insured period, but should death, total or permanent disability (if this benefit is covered) occur during the insured period, dependants will receive a death benefit.

Whole Life Insurance

As its name suggests, whole life insurance is a long-term commitment. Lifelong protection is guaranteed provided premiums are paid, either for life or the stipulated period.

Compared to term insurance, the policy premiums are higher but the level of protection may be lower. Nevertheless, most whole life policies accumulate cash values over time, which double as a form of long-term

savings.

If your premium is overdue, the accumulated cash value (provided it is sufficient) will automatically activate a premium loan for the policy so that you remain insured. The cash value can also be withdrawn as a policy loan in case of a crisis. Should sudden death occur, the policy pays out a death benefit and any accrued bonus.

Universal Life Insurance

Offering some degree of flexibility to cater for variable financial circumstances, universal life insurance plans come with discretionary premiums which allow you to determine the amount, mode and timing of premium payments under certain limits. Such plans also come with a death benefit and allow accumulated cash values to be borrowed or withdrawn.

Although these cash values earn interest at a declared rate which is subjected to change, most universal life plans guarantee a minimum interest crediting rate.

Investment-Linked Insurance Plan (ILP)

A combination of investment and insurance protection, such plans use premiums to obtain life insurance protection and investment units in a managed fund. Like a unit trust, the latter pools funds from stakeholders to finance investments of their choice.

The performance of the invested fund affects its unit price which

determines the dividend upon cashing in or death of the insured. Although ILPs can reap potentially higher yields, there are higher risks involved due to market volatility. ILPs generally have the additional feature of a death benefit.

Endowment Policy

Such policies have specific maturity dates and offer higher returns than bank interest rates by means of a stable compounded return that appreciates over the years. These are popular among parents who want their policies to mature when their children are entering university.

However, just as defaulting on premiums can affect your policy benefits, premature termination can result in a surrender value that is lower than the total sum of premiums paid.

Selecting the Appropriate Policy

As everyone's needs and financial circumstances differ, there is no rule of thumb about what one needs to buy.

It is advisable to approach a financial adviser who can perform a fact-finding process to evaluate your needs and make appropriate recommendations by taking into consideration your income replacement sum, educational funds for your children, outstanding liabilities such as mortgages and other provisions for your dependents. Base on this analysis, the adviser will be able to determine the product that best meet your needs.



积的现金价值。

虽然这类保单的累积现金可赚取保险公司所宣布的利息，而其年利率是可变动的，但是大多数的万能寿险都具有最低的保证利率。

与投资挂钩的保单

这种保单是投资和保险的组合，保户一面缴付保费以获得生命保障，一面也可在托

管基金中做出单位投资。后者就像信托单位，集中利益相关者的资金，并根据他们的选择而进行投资。

投资基金的表现，会影响其单位价格，因而也改变兑现的分红或死亡赔偿金。所以，虽然与投资挂钩的保单可以获得较高的潜在收益，但是由于投资市场起伏波动，也具有较高的风险。

储蓄保险

这类保单书明保险约满日期，并以复式利率计算所缴付保费的利息，如此经过多年的累积和增值，当保单满期时，保险公司能付给比银行利率为高的回报。为人父母者甚喜欢购买这类保单，并且往往把保单

的到期日期设在孩子将要进入大学时。有一点值得注意，正如拖欠保费会影响保单的满期利益一样，提前终止保险合同将会导致退保现金价值低于总缴付的保费。

选购适当的保单

由于个人需要和财务情况因人而异，因此并无购买保险的经验法则。但是，人们购买保险前，应该咨询财务顾问，通过一个财务状况测试和评估过程，然后由财务顾问为有意购险者提出适当的财务建议。财务顾问通常会考量个人折合收入的总和、孩子的教育经费以及一些未偿还的债务，例如一些贷款和负担家属的款额，然后才找出最适合购险人士需要的保险产品。