

# EXECUTIVE BRIEFING

### THE HIDDEN OPPORTUNITY

Recent research into the relationships between brokers and insurance companies has revealed a significant opportunity to increase the overall share of wallet that an insurance company can achieve from its brokers.

Taking advantage of this opportunity could result in increasing your share of wallet within the broker community by <u>up to 37%</u>.

#### 5-YEAR RESEARCH PROGRAMME

Our analysis is based on working with six broker divisions of our insurance clients over a 5-year period, from 2007 to 2012. These insurers span the general, life and health markets in the UK, Australia and Ireland.

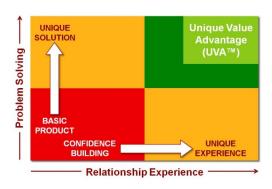
The objective of the analysis was to determine what factors caused the brokers to place more, or less, business with a particular insurance company, and what those insurance firms needed to do to increase the share of wallet they enjoyed from particular broker groups.

Until now, nobody has been able to quantify the impact of a good, or a unique, relationship on the amount of business a broker is prepared to place with an insurer.

The views of more than 10,000 brokers who actively placed business with our insurance clients, were sought as part of this 5-year research programme.

### GAINING A UNIQUE VALUE ADVANTAGE (UVA™)

There is a considerable body of academic research pointing to the value of being seen as 'Unique' in the eyes of your customers and channel partners/brokers.



Deep-Insight measures 'Uniqueness' on two dimensions:

- Problem Solving. How does the insurance company solve the broker's problems, and help build value for the broker by providing a unique solution to meet his needs?
- Relationship Experience. How safe and trustworthy is the experience for the broker?

If the insurance company scores well on both dimensions, it will gain a Unique Value Advantage (UVA $^{TM}$ ) in the marketplace.

But exactly how much of an advantage?

"Get out and see your brokers. Hold regional meetings. We thrive on good relationships."

Australian broker

"If more time and effort is used to develop small accounts you will find that many of these will develop into £500k accounts."

**UK** broker

"Having a long-term relationship with our account manager is a very important factor"

Irish broker





Would you like to increase your broker revenues by up to 37%?

(continued)

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### **RESULTS: OPPORTUNITY TO INCREASE REVENUES BY UP TO 37%**

Deep-Insight's analysis shows that:

- While the majority of brokers had a good relationship with our insurance clients, fewer than 1 in 5 brokers viewed the relationship as 'Unique' (see graphic - Unique Value Advantage – on the previous page);
- In fact, 1 in 4 brokers had a very poor perception of their relationship with the insurance company, viewing it as 'Anything But Unique' (RED quadrant in the graphic);
- Brokers typically split their business between four or five insurance companies, but not all insurance companies were treated equally:
- Where the brokers felt the insurance company was 'Unique', the share of wallet was 37% greater than average. Where the brokers felt the insurance company was 'Anything But Unique', the share of wallet was 29% lower than average.

These findings were consistent across different types of insurance business (general, life, health) as well as across countries (Ireland, UK, Australia).

### COMMON ISSUES MUST BE ADDRESSED TO ACHIEVE A UNIQUE VALUE ADVANTAGE (UVA™) IN THE MARKETPLACE

Three major themes emerged from our analysis. Insurance companies need to address these common issues if they are to win over their broker communities and gain a larger Share Of Wallet from these brokers:

- Communication. For example, when insurers make changes to product features they often fail to inform either the broker or the policyholder. Equally important: most brokers say they want to be contacted by their broker consultants on a more frequent basis;
- Quality of Broker Consultants/ BDMs. We noticed major differences in the quality of the insurer-broker relationship, depending on the skills and capabilities of the account manager or Business Development Manager (BDM). Insurers need to invest more in training and up-skilling;
- **Administration.** Back-office and administration bottlenecks were a significant issue for many brokers, particularly if they affected commission payments. Ease of use of online systems was also a key issue for many brokers.

### **About Deep-Insight**

Founded in 2000, Deep-Insight is a global leader in the assessment of business relationships.

Deep-Insight works with some of the world's leading organisations to improve customer retention and increase employee performance.

**Deep-Insight is** headquartered in Cork, Ireland, and has sales offices in the UK, Netherlands, Poland and Australia.

