

Queensland Workplace Health & Safety Board

Key Statistical Indicators

Quarterly Update May 2011

1. QUEENSLAND WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY INTERNAL MONITORING MEASURES^{1,2,3,6}

WHSQ Internal Monitoring Fatal Claims Measure

- The rate of accepted fatal claims per 100,000 employees is relatively volatile, however, due to an unprecedented number of fatal on duty road traffic accidents in the 2007-08 year, this rate increased significantly over the previous year (up 54%).
- Since 2007-08 the rate has declined, however, it has yet to return to its pre 2007-08 levels.
- When compared with the base period (2001-02 to 2003-04) the rate remains 4% higher as at the end of 2008-09. Claims lodged in 2009-10 have yet to fully develop.

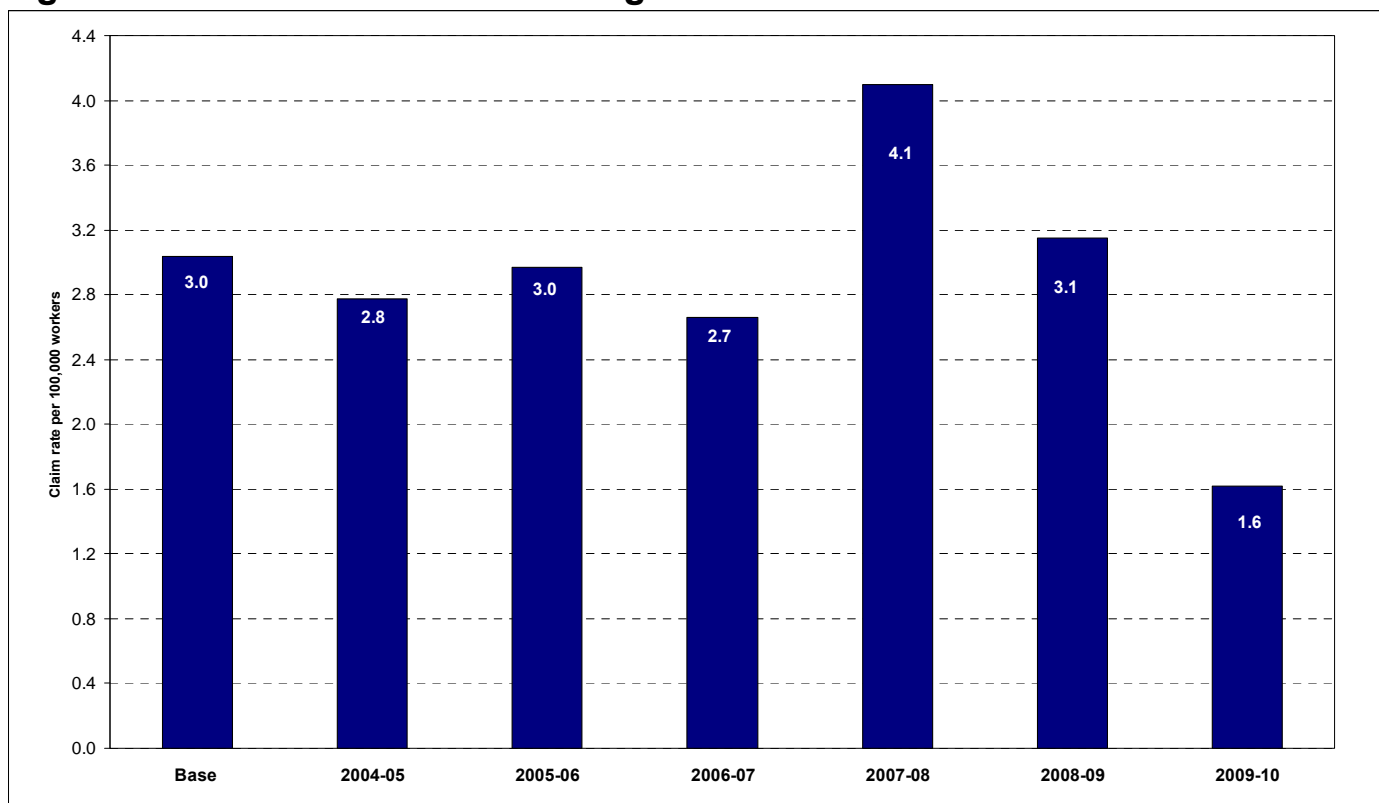
Table 1: Fatal Claims

	Base Period	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11 (Dec 10)
Employees ('000)	1507.2	1659.7	1749.4	1844.1	1903.7	1970.0	1977.4	2032.7
No. Claims	46	46	52	49	78	62	32	16
Rate (per 100,000)	3.0	2.8	3.0	2.7	4.1	3.1	1.6	0.8
Annual rate % change		1% ^a	7%	-11%	54%	-23%	-49%	
Rate % change from base period		-9%	-2%	-12%	35%	4%	-47%	

The method of identification of fatal claims was recently reviewed, this has led to a decrease in both the number of claims and the reported rate. As such, the above table may not match previous reports.

- % change between 2003-04 and 2004-05
- This increase was solely due to an unprecedented increase in the number of fatalities in the road freight transport industry.

Figure 1: WHSQ Internal Monitoring Fatal Claims Rate



WHSQ Internal Monitoring Non-Fatal Claims Measure

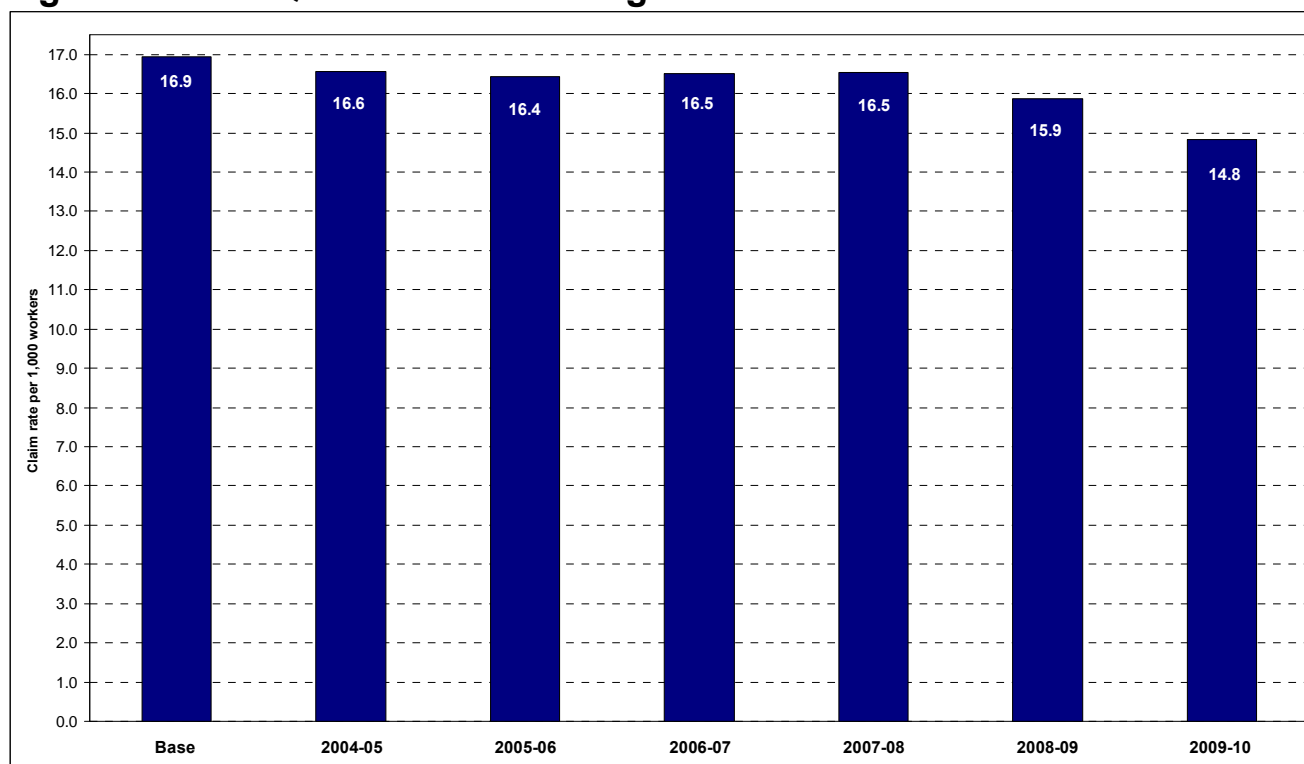
- The non fatal claims rate (per 1,000 employees), as at the end of 2009-10 is 13% lower than the average of the base period.
- Apart from small increase in the year immediately following the base period, the rate of non fatal claims has either remained steady or declined each year.
- Based on this outcome it is likely that CPM 13 will show an overall improvement in the 'Injury and musculoskeletal target' for Queensland of around 18-19 percent for 2009-10.

Table 2: Non-fatal Claims Measure

	Base Period	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11 (Dec 10)
Employees ('000)	1507.2	1659.7	1749.4	1844.1	1903.7	1970.0	1977.4	2032.7
No. Claims	25,514	27,510	28,759	30,440	31,495	31,260	29,302	13,224
Rate (per 100,000)	16.9	16.6	16.4	16.5	16.5	15.9	14.8	6.5
Annual rate % change		1% ^a	-1%	0%	0%	-4%	-7%	
Rate % change from base period		-2%	-3%	-3%	-2%	-6%	-13%	

a. % change between 2003-04 and 2004-05

Figure 2: WHSQ Internal Monitoring Non-Fatal Claims Rate Measure



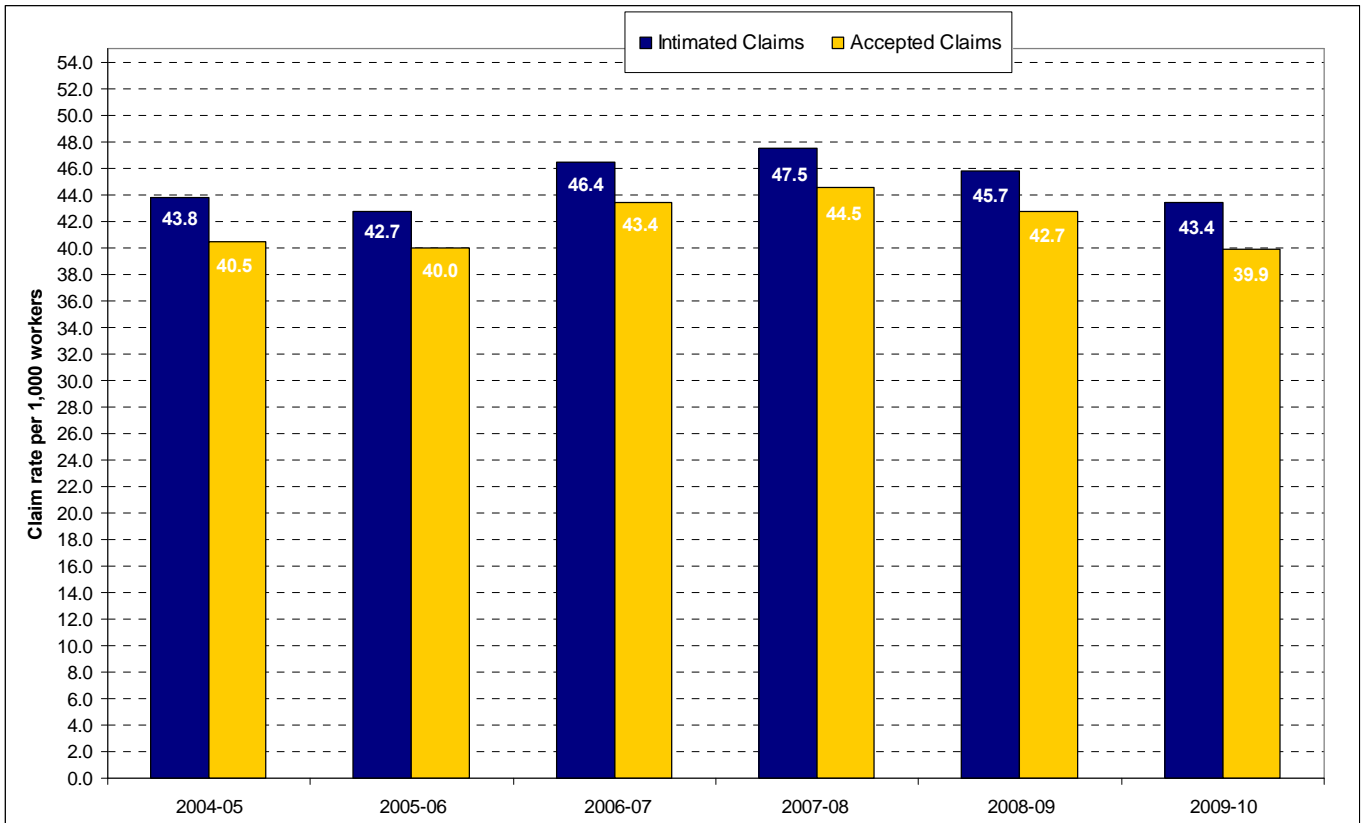
2. ALL WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS^{2,4,6}

Table 3: Intimated Claims by Type

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2001-11 (Dec 10)
Fatal	92	96	91	110	111	68	27
Non-fatal	81,557	83,497	95,058	100,451	99,709	95,498	51,597
Asbestosis/Mesothelioma Claims	292	254	174	138	141	160	95
Total	81,941	83,847	95,323	100,699	99,961	95,726	51,719
Rate (per 1,000 workers)	43.8	42.7	46.4	47.5	45.7	43.4	23.0
% of Total Accepted	92%	94%	94%	94%	93%	92%	88%

- The number of claims lodged have decreased slightly over the last two full financial years after an historical high in 2007-08. This decrease is purely due to non-fatal claims as both claims lodged for a fatality and as a result of mesothelioma or asbestosis have increased over the same period.
- The jump in claims for the 2007-08 year can be attributed to the introduction of the 'fax fee' by WorkCover Queensland at the time, it was an initiative designed to reduce the under-reporting of claims and also to improve intervention timeframes.

Figure 3: Intimated & Accepted Claims Rates (2004-05 to 2010-11)



3. ACCEPTED CLAIMS^{2,3,4,6}

Table 4: Accepted Claims (On Duty & at Place of Work) by Severity

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2001-11 (Dec 10)	% of Total Accepted Claims
Fatal	46	52	49	78	62	32	16	0.1%
Total non-fatal	70,251	72,555	82,691	87,261	85,762	81,047	41,855	99.8%
Permanent impairment	5,363	5,632	5,771	5,767	5,002	2,758	233	6.4%
Serious temporary Injury (≥5 working days duration)	22,147	23,127	24,669	25,728	26,258	26,544	12,991	30.2%
Short-term temporary injury (< 5 working days duration)	42,741	43,796	52,251	55,766	54,502	51,745	28,631	63.2%
Asbestosis/Mesothelioma Claims	141	119	93	88	65	73	46	0.1%
Total	70,438	72,726	82,833	87,427	85,889	81,152	41,917	100%
Rate (per 1,000 workers)	42.4	41.6	44.9	45.9	43.6	41.0	20.6	
Annual % Change	-3% ^a	-2%	8%	2%	-5%	-6%		

Includes on duty, on break at place of work & employees only.

a - % change between 2003-04 & 2004-05

- The number of claims which were accepted mirrors the trend for lodged claims, with a spike during the 2007-08 year and small decreases in the following years.
- The similarity in claim number trends is born out in the relative stability of the acceptance rate which can be seen in table 3.

4. FATAL CLAIMS^{2,3,4,6}

Table 5: Accepted Fatal Claims by Type

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11 (Dec 10)
Commuting	40	41	37	32	41	33	9
On break & other	3	2	3	1	6	1	0
On duty road traffic accidents	18	21	19	38	23	9	3
On duty at place of work	27	30	29	39	38	23	13
▪ <i>Traumatic injuries</i>	21	19	19	23	26	17	12
▪ <i>Diseases</i>	6	9	8	12	11	6	1
▪ <i>Other</i>	0	2	2	4	1	0	0
Total	88	94	88	110	108	66	25
Rate (per 1,000 workers)	5.3	5.4	4.8	5.8	5.5	3.3	1.2
Annual % Change	26%^a	1%	-11%	21%	-5%	-39%	

The method of identification of fatal claims was recently reviewed, this has led to a decrease in both the number of claims and the reported rate. As such, the above table may not match previous reports.

Includes employees only. Excludes fatalities due to asbestosis or mesothelioma
a. % change between 2003-04 and 2004-05

- Given the small numbers of accepted fatal claims, it is difficult to determine an overarching trend due to volatility. However, the incidence rate for fatalities has remained relatively stable at 5.5 fatalities per 100,000 employees, except in 2006-07.
- Commuting claims account for the majority of accepted fatal claims, followed by fatalities in the workplace due to traumatic events.

5. ASBESTOSIS/MESOTHELIOMA CLAIMS^{2,3,4,6}

Table 6: Accepted Asbestosis/Mesothelioma Claims by Severity

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11 (Dec 10)
Fatal⁴	41	34	47	35	18	9	2
Permanent Impairment	22	18	13	7	4		5
Temporary Impairment	1	1					
Common Law	32	29	15	8	8	4	2
Other	45	37	18	38	35	60	37
Total	141	119	93	88	65	73	46

Includes employees only.

6. STATUTORY NOTICES⁷

Table 7: Statutory Notices by Notice Type, 2005-06 to end March 2011

Notice Type	Number Issued					% Change 2008-09 - 2009-10
	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11 (to end Mar 11)	
Improvement	14,583	14,208	7,584	8,913	4,284	18%
Prohibition	2,406	2,703	1,991	2,201	1,253	11%
Dangerous Goods Directives	1,224	198	453	717	259	58%
Infringement	607	639	452	390	237	-14%
Electrical Safety Protection	102	138	94	148	35	57%
Unsafe Equipment	6	12	-	2	3	-
Seizures	19	25	23	30	30	30%
Verbal Directive	1,221	1,006	659	829	138	26%
Consent for Entry		3	-	-	-	-
Total Notices	20,168	18,932	11,256	13,230	6,239	18%

7. INSPECTORATE RESOURCE ALLOCATION⁸

Table 8: Inspectorate Resource Allocation by Industry, 2006-07 to end of March 2011 (% of total by type of activity)

Activity Type	Year	Construction	Manufacturing	Transport & Storage	Retail & Wholesale	Rural	Hospitality	Health	Other ^a
Re-Active^b Event Investigations	2006-07	21%	20%	4%	8%	4%	7%	6%	30%
	2007-08	24%	15%	5%	7%	3%	7%	4%	35%
	2008-09	23%	15%	6%	5%	7%	7%	5%	32%
	2009-10	29%	14%	4%	7%	10%	7%	6%	23%
	2010-11 (YTD)	26%	19%	6%	8%	7%	10%	13%	11%
Pro-Active^b Assessments	2006-07	41%	16%	2%	10%	2%	10%	5%	14%
	2007-08	44%	18%	3%	12%	2%	8%	4%	11%
	2008-09	49%	11%	2%	9%	1%	9%	5%	14%
	2009-10	45%	14%	3%	10%	2%	9%	5%	12%
	2010-11 (YTD)	38%	11%	4%	13%	3%	13%	6%	12%
Education & Awareness^b Advisories	2006-07	13%	19%	3%	20%	2%	13%	21%	8%
	2007-08	15%	20%	3%	19%	4%	14%	17%	7%
	2008-09	25%	12%	2%	7%	7%	16%	20%	11%
	2009-10	24%	17%	5%	11%	5%	13%	18%	7%
	2010-11 (YTD)	16%	13%	3%	11%	3%	11%	27%	16%
All Activities^b Total	2006-07	37%	17%	3%	10%	2%	10%	6%	16%
	2007-08	40%	17%	3%	11%	2%	8%	5%	14%
	2008-09	45%	10%	2%	8%	3%	10%	6%	16%
	2009-10	29%	16%	4%	10%	4%	12%	15%	10%
	2010-11 (YTD)	21%	13%	4%	12%	3%	11%	24%	12%

a. Includes where industry is not recorded, mining industry, and 'other' industries.

b. Totals 100% across the industry groups & other for each year

8. COMPARATIVE PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT

Fatal claims

According to the latest Comparative Performance Monitoring Report (CPM), the number of compensated fatalities recorded for 2008–09 is lower than in previous years, increasing the percentage improvement from the base period. The incidence of compensated fatalities from injury and musculoskeletal disorders decreased by 25% from the base period to 2008–09. The national incidence rate is 'on target' to meet the 20% reduction required by 2011–12, however there is a considerable amount of volatility in this measure and consistent improvement is required.

Table 9: CPM 12: Compensated Fatalities by jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	2004–05	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09p	5yr Average
<i>Injury and musculoskeletal disorders</i>						
New South Wales	56	62	47	45	44	51
Victoria	52	46	59	45	29	46
Queensland	40	46	43	68	55	50
Western Australia	16	16	25	19	21	19
South Australia	8	13	7	8	8	9
Tasmania	4	6	4	6	5	5
Northern Territory	3	3	2	9	6	5
Australian Capital Territory	3	0	1	3	2	2
Australian Government	3	2	7	6	2	4
Seacare	0	0	0	0	0	0
Australian Total	185	194	195	209	172	191
<i>Other diseases</i>						
New South Wales	8	13	7	14	15	11
Victoria	16	12	11	9	5	11
Queensland*	53	47	55	34	23	42
Western Australia	4	5	1	2	3	3
South Australia	1	2	3	1	0	1
Tasmania	0	1	0	2	0	2
Northern Territory	0	1	0	1	0	1
Australian Capital Territory	1	2	0	0	1	1
Australian Government	7	9	7	14	4	8
Seacare	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Australia	90	92	84	77	51	79

* The majority of compensated fatalities in Queensland are due to mesothelioma or asbestosis. Queensland compensates more of these fatalities through their scheme than is the case in other jurisdictions where compensation is more often sought through separate mechanisms including common law.

The number of compensated fatalities in Queensland, as reported in the CPM report, has historically always been much higher than in other jurisdictions, this continues in 2008-09. With an average of 50 injury and musculoskeletal disorder fatalities per year over the last five years making Queensland the second highest jurisdiction, only New South Wales' average of 51 fatalities per year over the last five years was higher.

Injury and musculoskeletal claims

According to the latest Comparative Performance Monitoring Report (CPM) nationally the reduction in the incidence rate of injury and musculoskeletal claims between the base period (2000–01 to 2002–03) and 2008–09 was 21.8%, which is below the rate required to meet the National OHS Strategy 2002–2012 long term injury target of a 40% improvement by 2012. Only two jurisdictions met their required rate of improvement: South Australia with 36.5% improvement and New South Wales with 28.1% improvement.

Queensland's performance against the national strategy injury target, while improving remains below average compared to most other jurisdictions. Queensland's improvement was 10.7% between the base period and 2008-09.

Table 10: CPM 12: Incidence rates (claims per 1000 employees) and percentage improvement of serious* compensated injury and musculoskeletal claims by jurisdiction.

Jurisdiction	Base period	2005–06	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09 preliminary	2008–09 Projected	Percentage improvement (%)
South Australia	18.3	16.3	14.6	12.4	10.9	11.6	36.5
New South Wales	17.1	13.3	12.5	12.5	12.0	12.3	28.1
Victoria	11.3	9.8	9.3	8.8	8.3	8.5	24.7
Australian Government	8.8	7.8	6.9	5.4	6.2	6.8	22.7
Seacare	36.3	32.1	27.9	23.9	26.0	29.9	17.7
Northern Territory	12.4	12.5	11.4	12.1	10.5	10.6	14.7
Queensland	16.6	15.7	15.9	16.3	14.8	14.8	10.7
Western Australia	12.5	12.3	12.2	12.2	11.1	11.5	8.1
Tasmania	16.2	15.9	15.7	14.6	14.4	14.9	8.0
Australian Capital Territory	11.4	12.4	11.6	11.5	11.7	12.3	-7.6
Australia	14.8	12.9	12.3	12.0	11.3	11.6	21.8

Notes:

1. The Queensland Workplace Health and Safety internal monitoring measures are designed to be lead indicators of what will be reported in the *Comparative Performance Monitoring* report (CPM) published annually by Safework Australia. These measures are as close to the national strategy targets as is possible using internal WHSQ data and published ABS data. The monitoring measures are based on accepted claims from employees, including all on duty claims and on break claims at the place of work, and are based on permanent impairment claims and temporary impairment claims with 5 working days or more absence. The base period for measurement is 2001-02 to 2003-04.
2. Workers' compensation data is sourced from the Queensland Employee Injury Database. Data is current as at May 2010 and is subject to change with further development. The mining industry is excluded from all data.
3. Accepted claims are those claims for which liability has been accepted by insurers at least once in the claim's history. Some claim types take longer to be accepted, in particular fatalities, diseases and permanent impairment claims.
4. WorkCover Queensland has changed how it processes claims for latent onset diseases. Workers with some terminal latent onset diseases (eg asbestosis, mesothelioma, skin cancers, passive smoking) have the option of receiving a lump sum payment at the time of diagnosis, or a payment to their estate on their death. Workers who accept the lump sum payment upfront are no longer classified as fatalities, even after they have actually died. Dependents normally don't notify WorkCover Queensland when the worker has died.
5. Asbestosis/mesothelioma claims represent the majority of cases affected by this change with only three skin cancer and passive smoking claims so far affected. As a consequence, there is little value in ongoing reporting of fatal asbestosis and mesothelioma claims. Workers diagnosed with asbestosis/mesothelioma will now be treated as a separate category irrespective of whether the worker has died yet or not.
6. The identification of the employment status of compensated workers has improved (ie whether the worker is an employee, self-employed, volunteer, or student on industry placement). This has resulted in small changes to the number of employees used to calculate injury and fatality rates for the monitoring measures. The full-time series has been updated with the revised data to ensure time-series consistency.
7. Statutory Notices are from the Compliance Investigation System and represent both notices issued as a result of reactive investigations and notices issued as a result of proactive assessments.
8. The resource allocation for the inspectorate has been determined using the time recorded in the Compliance Investigation System for an inspector to action an event, investigation, assessment or advisory including travel time. Public safety is not a category in the Compliance Investigation System and so an accurate resource allocation for public safety cannot be determined. The resource allocation percentages for each of the industry groups include public safety issues. It is estimated that WHSQ field staff spend approximately 10% of their field time on public safety issues.