

OIR Typology

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Typology: Agriculture industry

Based on workers' compensation Agriculture claims with 30 or more workdays compensated

Note: Data extracted April 2022

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1. Executive summary

This document provides a Typology based on Queensland Agriculture industry claims with 30 or more workdays compensated. The Typology classifies the circumstances that resulted in the injury or disease using *mechanism of incident*, as outlined in the Types of Occurrence Classification System (TOOCS).

Claims with 30 or more workdays compensated account for 22 per cent of all claims and 76 per cent of all Agriculture claims costs over the period. The average claim rate was 6.6 claims per 1000 workers, which is higher than the average claim rate of 5.4 claims per 1000 workers for all Queensland industries.

Agriculture workers between the ages of 25 to 34 years represent approximately a quarter of all Agriculture claims with 30 or more workdays compensated. Moreover, the distribution of claims with 30 or more workdays compensated indicates a higher proportion of younger agriculture workers are injured compared with All industries. Over 90 per cent of claims with 30 or more workdays compensated were the result of either falls, body stressing, being hit by moving objects or vehicle incidents.

Fall related injuries represent 27 per cent of all relevant Agriculture claims. Just over half of the *fall* related injuries were due to a fall from height, while *falls on the same level* nearly accounted for half of all fall related injuries at 46 per cent. Over the five-year period to June 2021, a total of three Agriculture workers were fatally injured due to a fall.

Injuries resulting from *being hit by moving objects* represent 24 per cent of all relevant Agriculture claims. Of these claims, *being hit by an animal* accounted for the largest amount of claims at 28 per cent. Over the period, two Agriculture workers were fatally injured due to being hit by a moving object.

Body stressing injuries represent 22 per cent of all relevant Agriculture claims. *Body stressing injuries* were mainly the result of either handling, carrying or lifting objects.

Vehicle incidents represent 19 per cent of Agriculture claims with 30 or more workdays compensated; however, they account for 14 per cent or two thirds of all fatality claims for Agriculture workers over the same period.

2. Introduction

This document provides a Typology based on *mechanism of incident* and relates to the Agriculture, Forestry and fishing (hereafter, Agriculture) industry only. The Types of Occurrence Classification System (TOOCS), developed by Safe Work Australia, has been used to describe the relevant mechanism. The mechanism is the *action, exposure or event* that best describes the circumstances that resulted in the injury/disease.

2.1 What is a Typology?

A Typology is a scientific method of classification that helps explain what has happened previously. In this case, the classification is based on TOOCS mechanism of incident and the Typology is comprised of two levels. The higher level (or type) contains the largest and most general groups of mechanisms of incidents. The second type or sub-grouping is a breakdown of these larger mechanisms of incident groups.

This Typology is a form of pattern analysis that allows the reader to:

- identify common injury mechanisms and target areas of concern
- assess the effectiveness of targeted initiatives over time.

Note: The Typology is restricted to two levels as it is based on TOOCS *mechanism of incident*, which is comprised of two levels. That is, an upper level (mechanism group) and a more detailed lower level (mechanism).

2.2 Scope

The Typology was developed using accepted workers' compensation claims¹ data where:

- the industry division² is Agriculture
- 30 or more workdays are compensated
- psychological and commuting claims are excluded
- the claim intimation date is between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2021 (the period).

2.2.1 Why focus on claims with 30 or more workdays compensated?

Table 1 below shows the number of Agriculture claims and overall costs for each claim category. Although claims with 30 or more workdays compensated make up only 22 per cent of all claims over the period, they account for 76 per cent of total claim costs.

Agriculture claims with 30 or more workdays compensated include permanent and non-permanent impairment damage claims and involve injuries of a significant nature.

Table 1. Agriculture claims by category (2016–17 to 2020–21)

Category	No. of claims	% of claims	Total claim costs [^]	% of costs
Less than 30 workdays compensated	8,076	78%	\$25M	18%
30 or more workdays compensated	2,276	22%	\$106M	76%
Fatality claims	21	<1%	\$9M	7%
Total	10,373	100%	\$140M	100%

[^]Total statutory costs over the period – 2016–17 to 2020–21

¹ Source: Queensland Employee Injury Database (QEIDB)

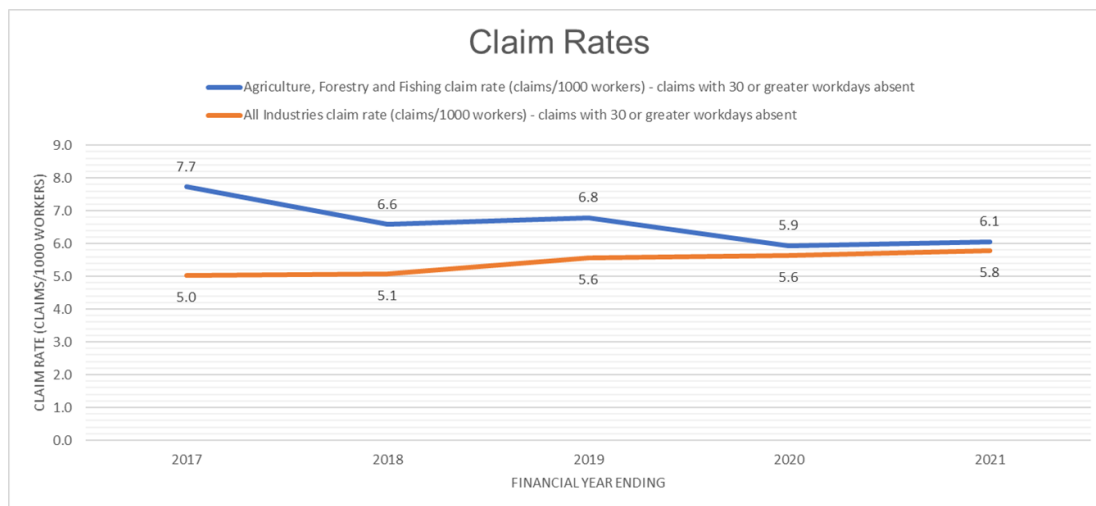
² Based on ABS: ANZSIC 2006 Classifications

3. Background – Agriculture industry

3.1 Incidence

The claim rate for Agriculture claims with 30 or more workdays compensated has remained higher than the All industries claim rate over the past five-years. However, it trended slightly downwards between 2017 and 2020, before rising slightly in 2021. The average claim rate for Agriculture over the period was 6.6 claims per 1000 workers, which is higher than the average claim rate of 5.4 claims per 1000 workers for All industries. Refer to chart 1 below.

Chart 1. Claim rates (2016–17 to 2020–21)



3.2 Likelihood of ≥30 workdays compensated claims

On average, one in every 153 Queensland Agriculture workers each year will experience a significant injury (an injury which results in a claim requiring 30 or more workdays compensated). Notably, Agriculture workers are 1.2 times as likely to experience a significant injury when compared to workers from all other industries. Refer to tables 2 and 3 below.

Table 2. Likelihood – Agriculture claims with 30 or more workdays compensated

Financial year ending	No. of claims	Labour force ³	Likelihood (1 in X workers)
2017	405	52,432	1 in 129
2018	415	62,999	1 in 152
2019	472	69,531	1 in 147
2020	474	79,846	1 in 168
2021	510	84,133	1 in 165
Average			1 in 153

³ Source: ABS labour force data

Table 3. Likelihood – all other industry claims (excluding Agriculture) with 30 or more workdays compensated

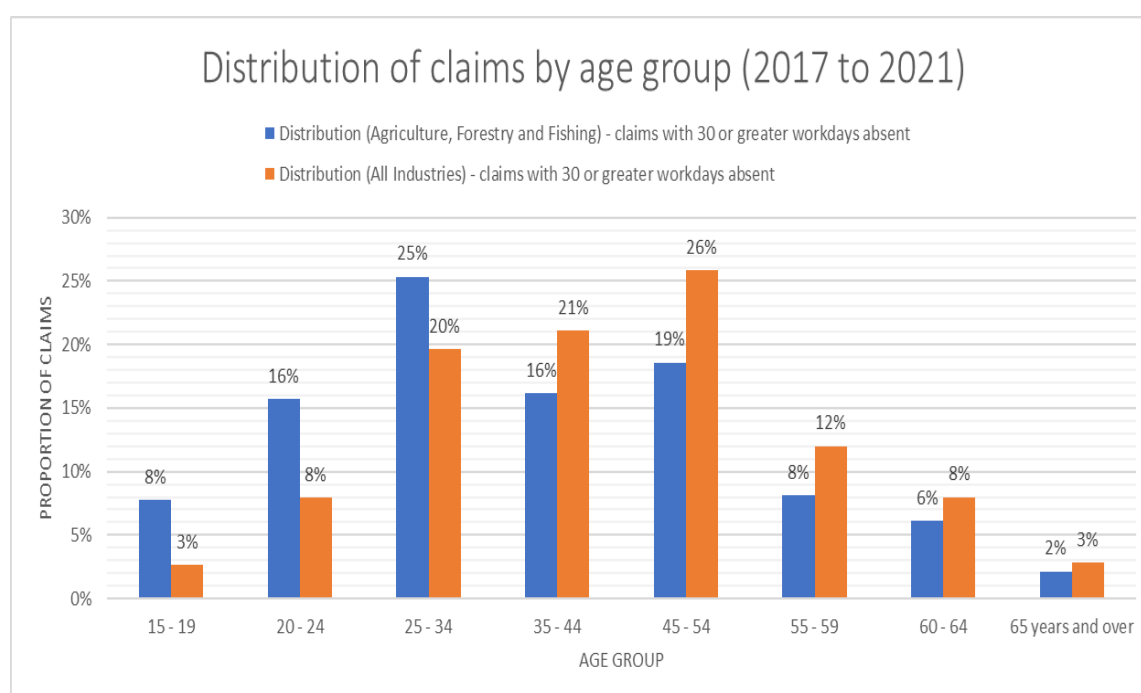
<i>Financial year ending</i>	<i>No. of claims</i>	<i>Labour force³</i>	<i>Likelihood (1 in X workers)</i>
2017	11,494	2,317,878	1 in 202
2018	12,087	2,405,937	1 in 199
2019	13,471	2,438,666	1 in 181
2020	13,645	2,429,652	1 in 178
2021	14,423	2,497,777	1 in 173
Average			1 in 186

3.3 Age distribution

Approximately a quarter of all Agriculture claims with 30 or more workdays compensated were for workers between the ages of 25 and 34 years.

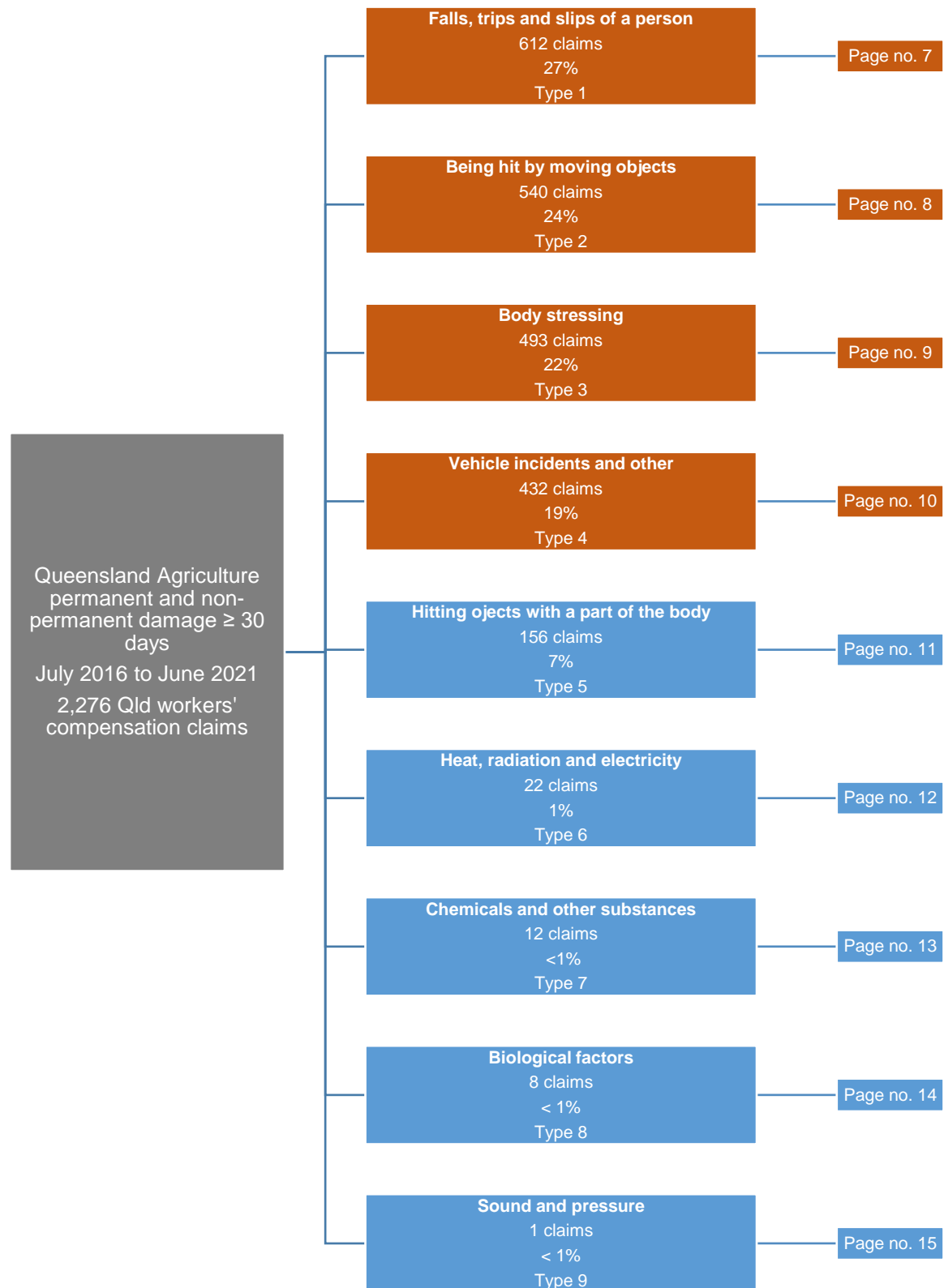
Chart 2 shows the distribution of claims with 30 or more workdays compensated by age group. Notably, the proportions for Agriculture are significantly higher than the proportions for all Queensland industries across the 15 to 19, 20 to 24 and 25 to 34 age groups. Across the older age groups there are comparatively lower claim proportions compared with the proportions for all Queensland industries.

Chart 2. Distribution of claims by age group (2016–17 to 2020–21)



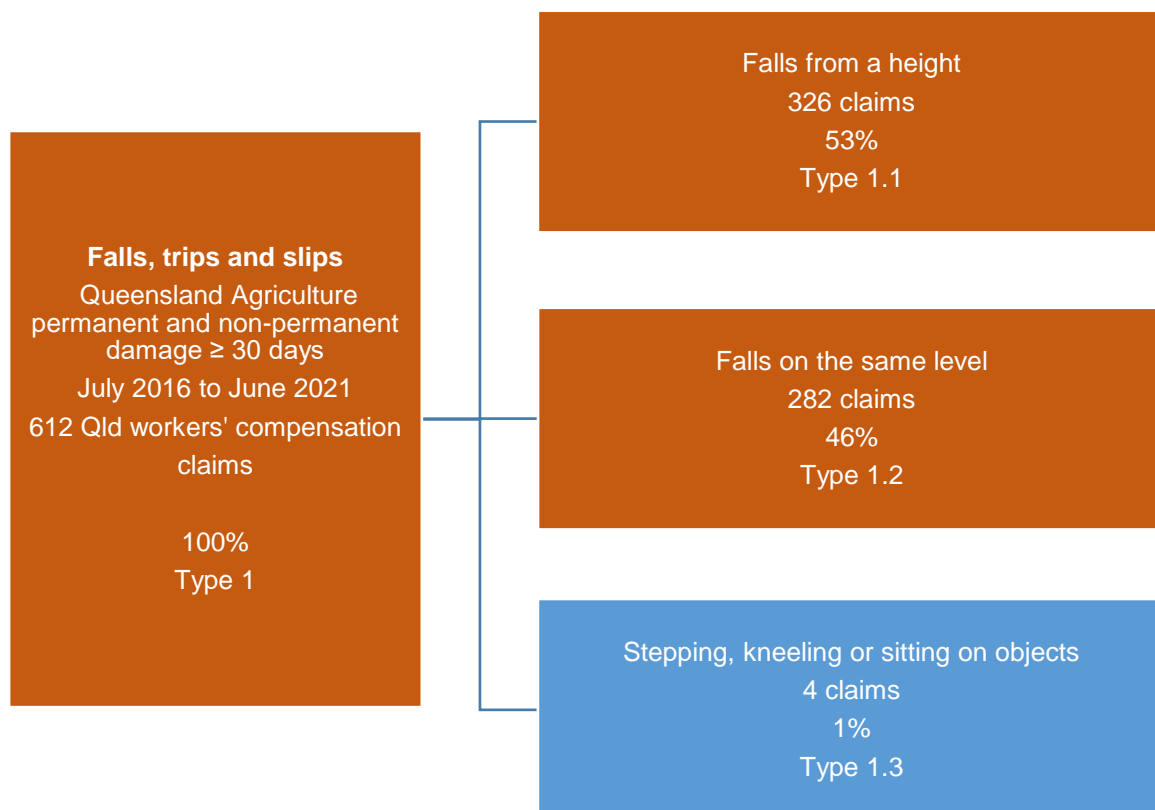
4. Typology by mechanism (group)

Note: **orange** indicates an area of concern whereas **blue** indicates an area of interest but of less importance.



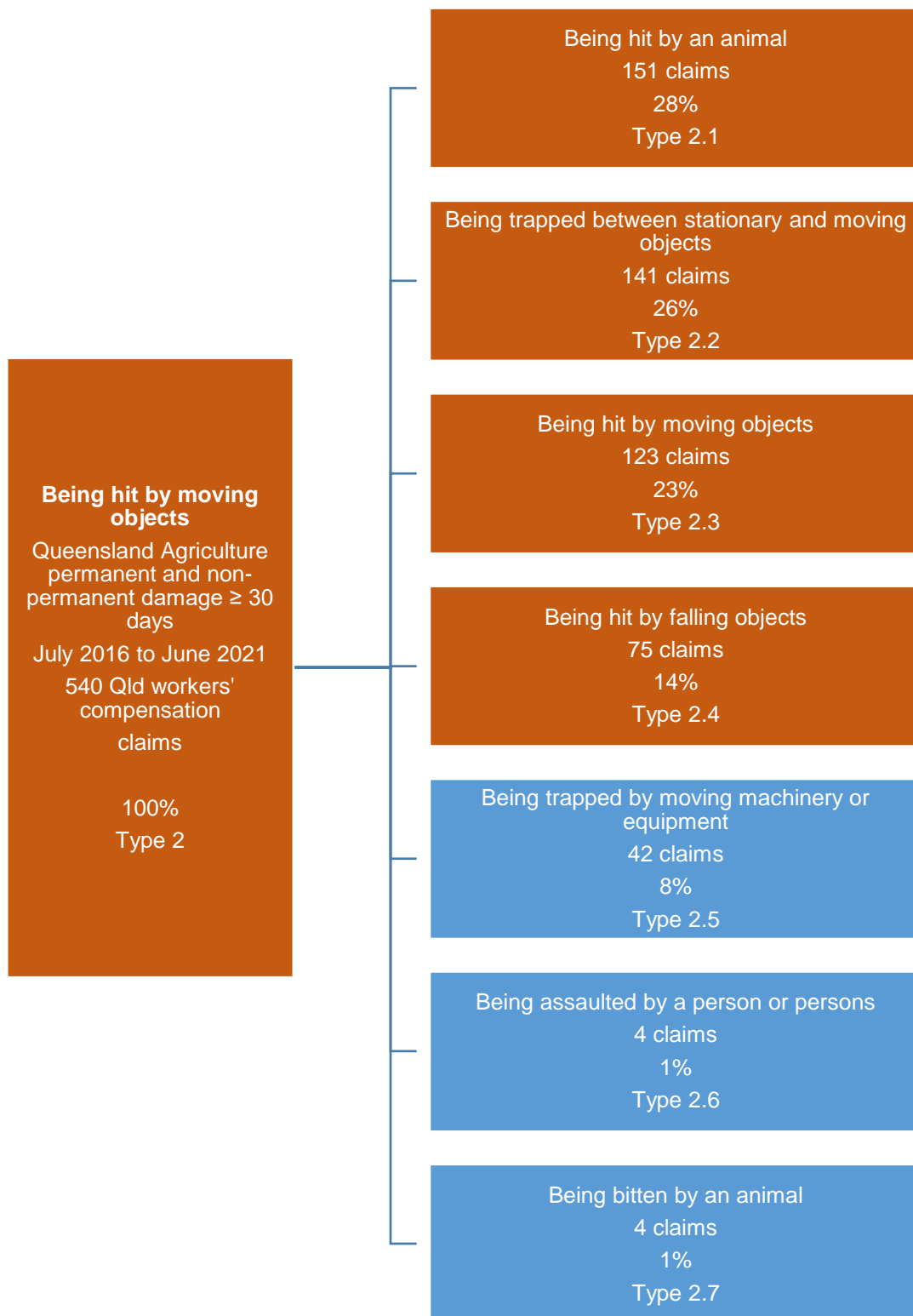
4.1 Type 1 – falls, trips and slips

Falls, trips and slips represents 27 per cent of all Queensland Agriculture claims \geq 30 workdays compensated.



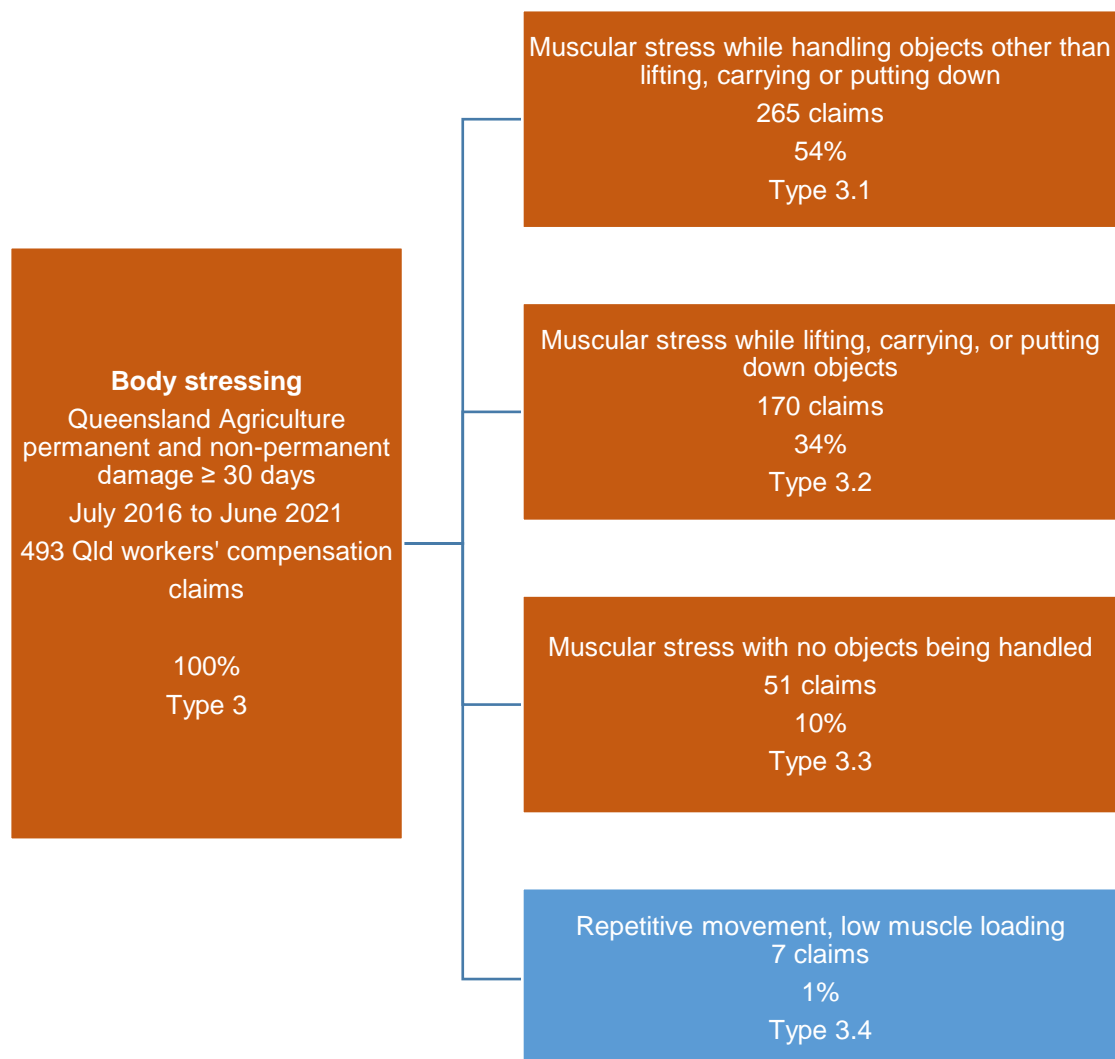
4.2 Type 2 – being hit by moving objects

Being hit by moving objects represents 24 per cent of all Queensland Agriculture claims \geq 30 workdays compensated.



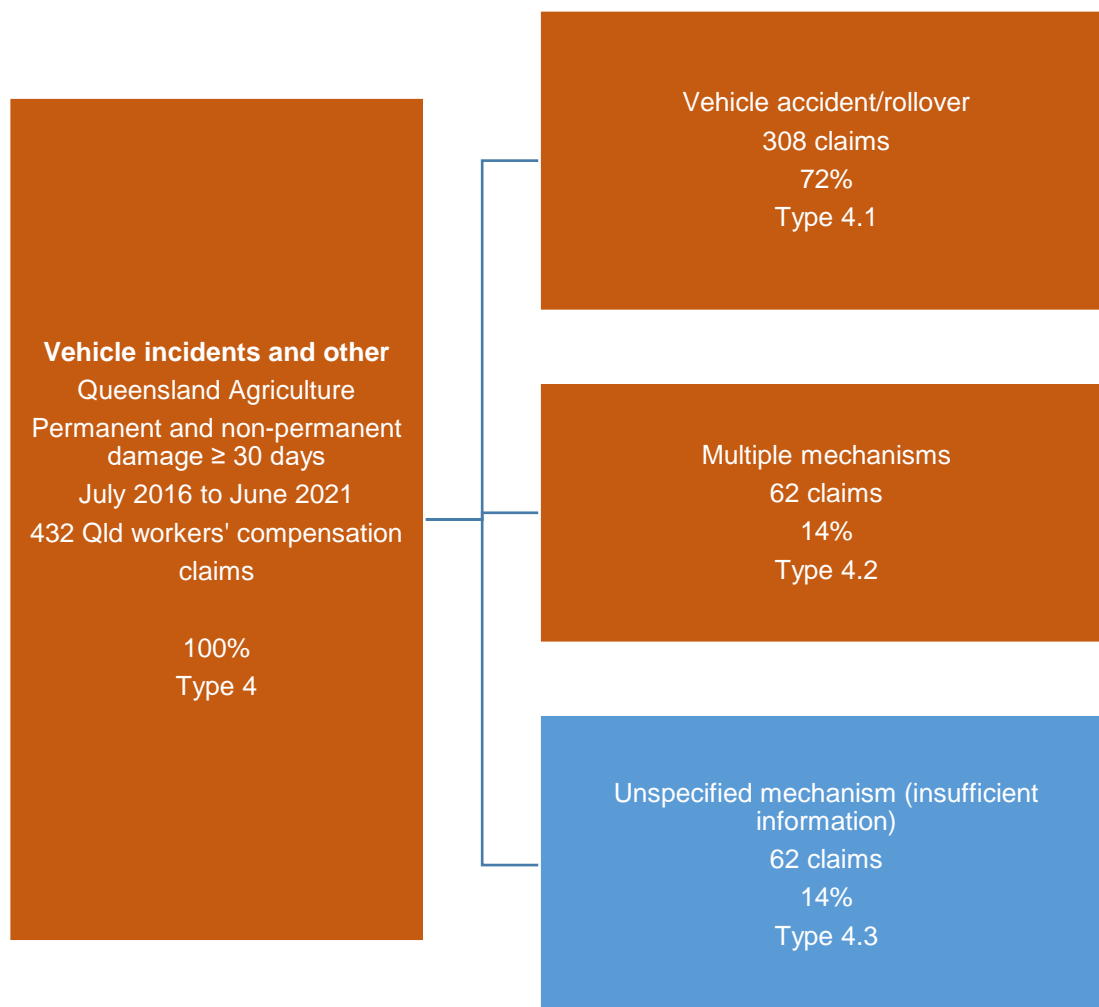
4.3 Type 3 – body stressing

Body stressing represents 22 per cent of all Queensland Agriculture claims \geq 30 workdays compensated.



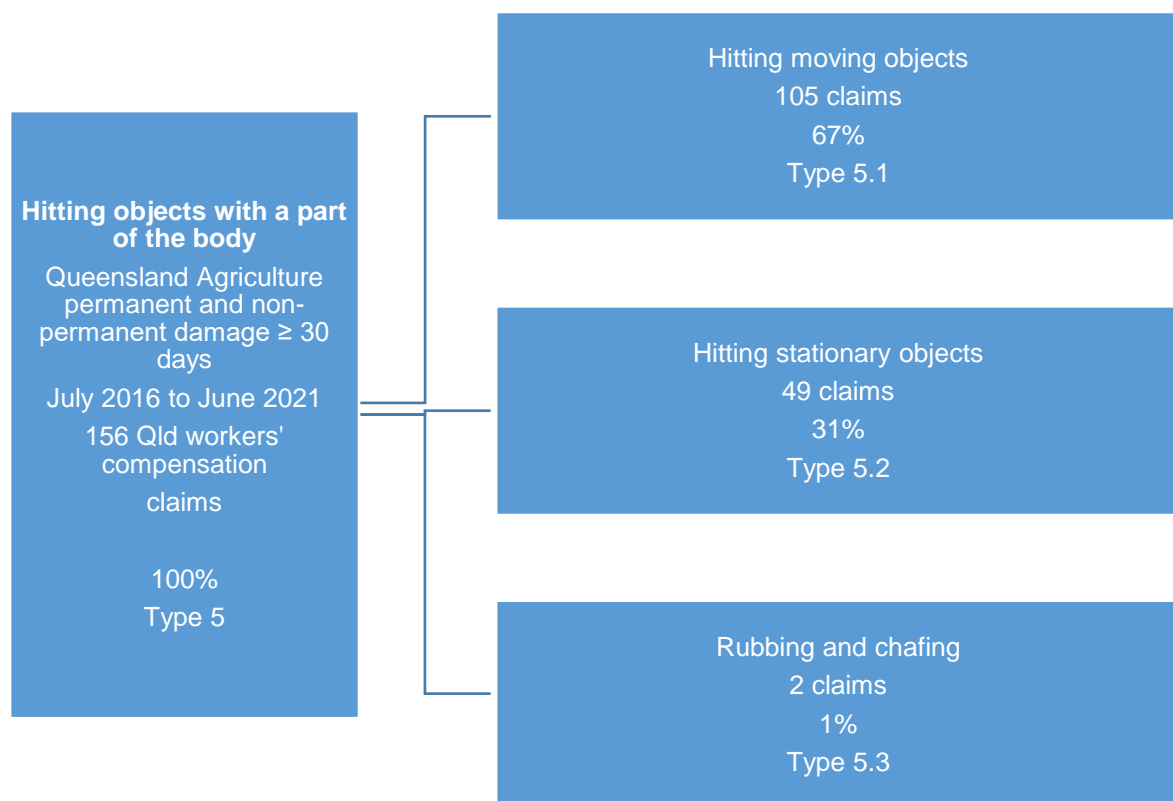
4.4 Type 4 – vehicle incidents

Vehicle incidents and other represents 19 per cent of all Queensland Agriculture claims ≥ 30 workdays compensated.



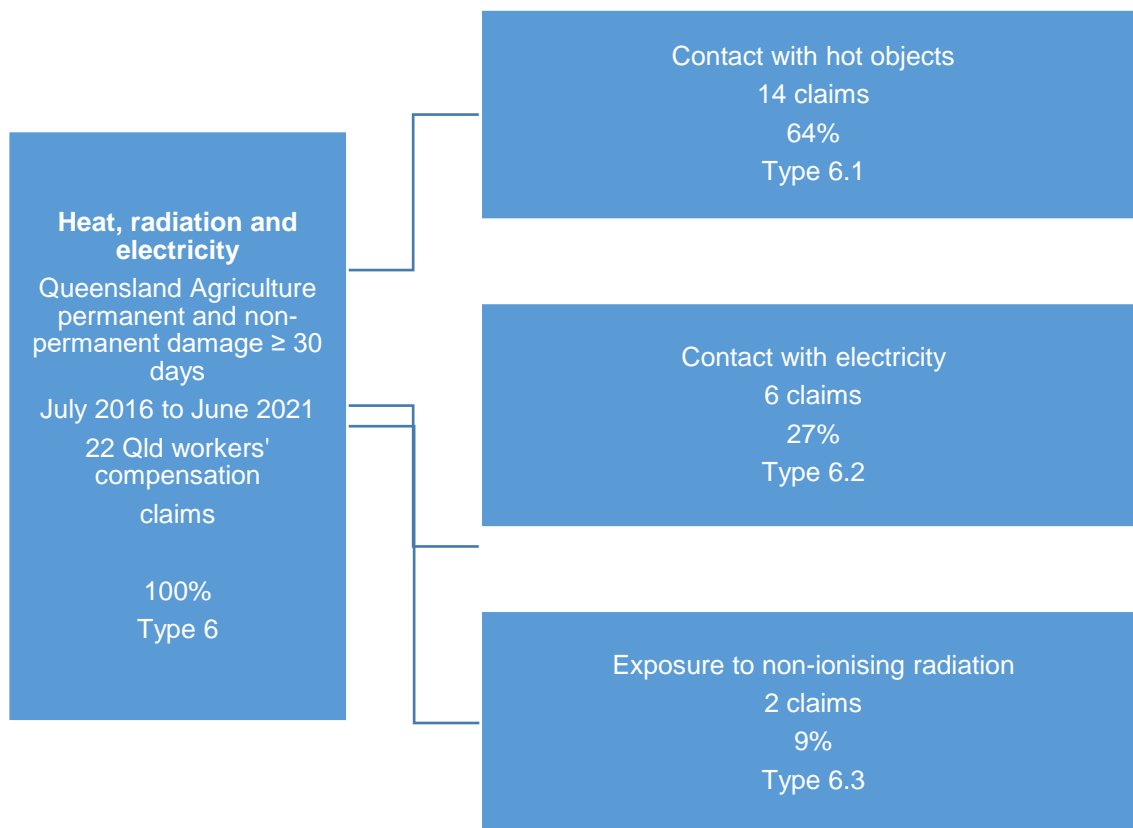
4.5 Type 5 – hitting objects with a part of the body

Hitting objects with a part of the body represents seven (7) per cent of all Queensland Agriculture claims \geq 30 workdays compensated.



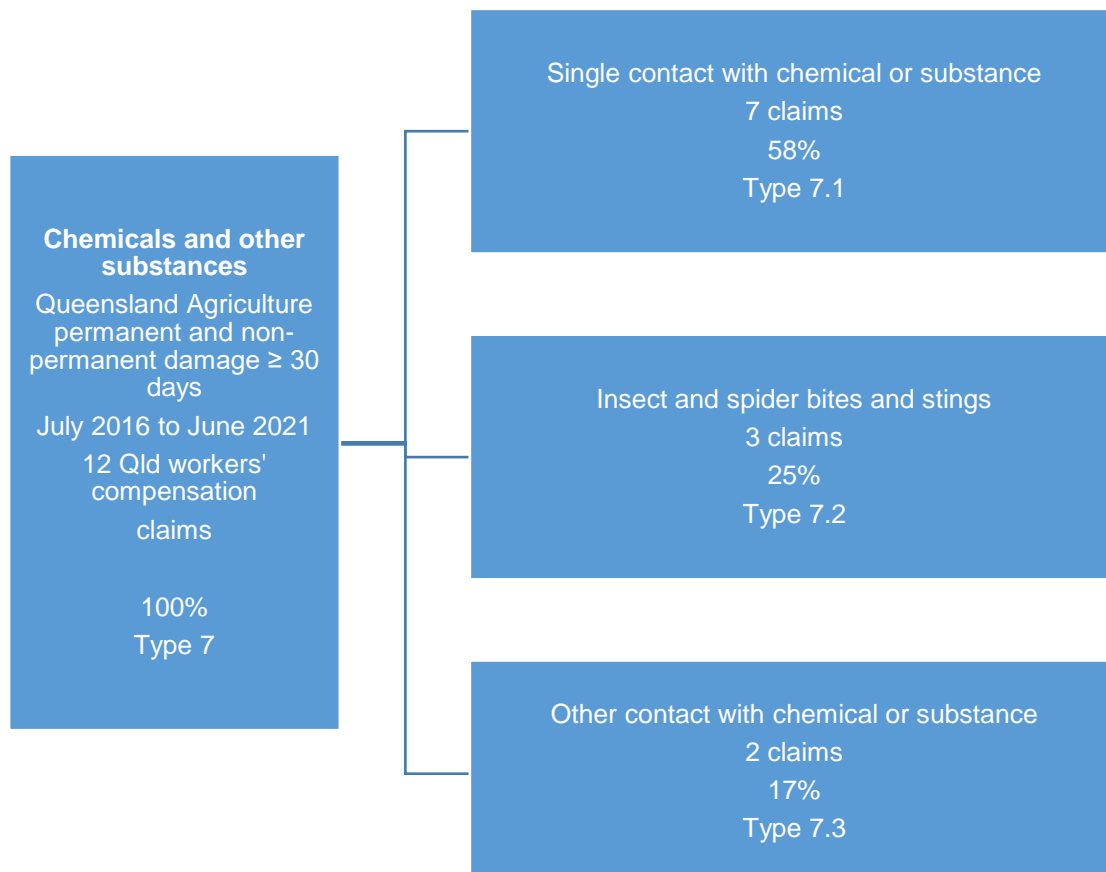
4.6 Type 6 – heat, radiation and electricity

Heat, radiation and electricity represents one (1) per cent of all Queensland Agriculture claims \geq 30 workdays compensated.



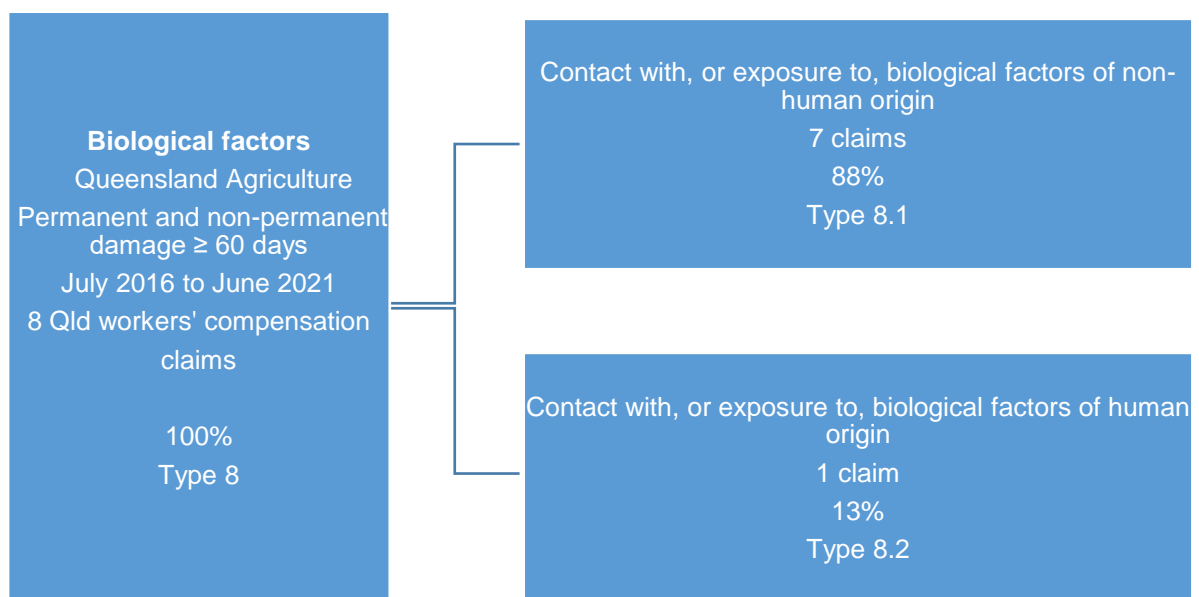
4.7 Type 7 – chemicals and other substances

Chemicals and other substances represents less than one (1) per cent of all Queensland Agriculture claims ≥ 30 workdays compensated.



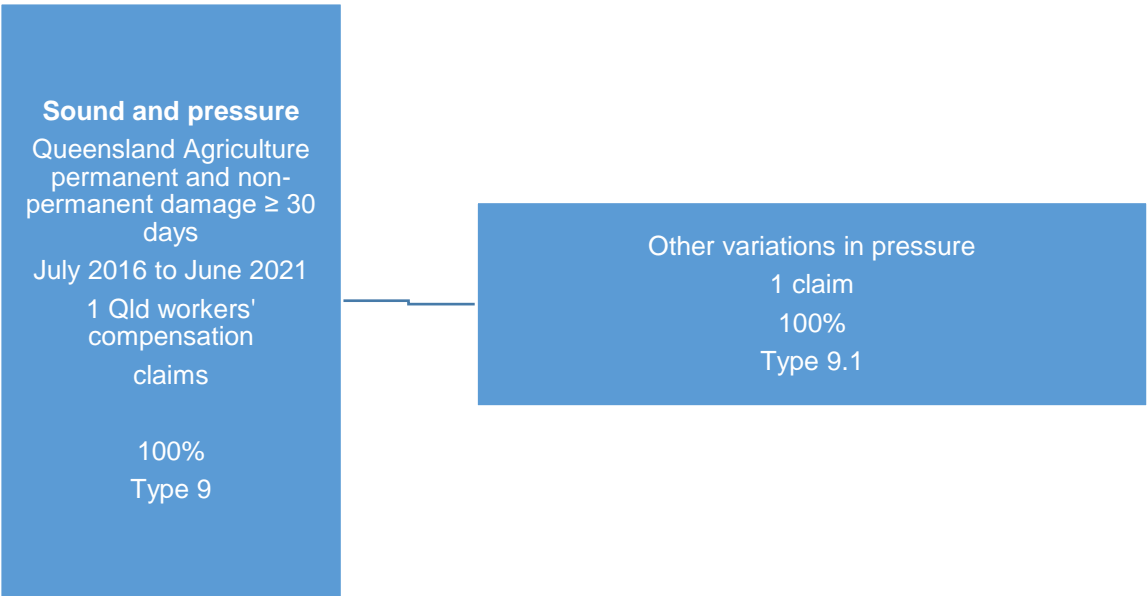
4.8 Type 8 – biological factors

Biological factors represents less than one (1) per cent of all Queensland Agriculture claims ≥ 30 workdays compensated.



4.9 Type 9 – sound and pressure

Sound and pressure represents less than one (1) per cent of all Queensland Agriculture claims ≥ 30 workdays compensated.



5. Typology – summary of key findings

Claims with 30 or more workdays compensated account for 22 per cent of all claims and 76 per cent of all Agriculture claims costs over the period. The average claim rate was 6.6 claims per 1000 workers, which is higher than the average claim rate of 5.4 claims per 1000 workers for all Queensland industries.

Agriculture workers between the ages of 25 to 34 years represent approximately a quarter of all Agriculture claims with 30 or more workdays compensated. A higher proportion of younger agriculture workers have these claims compared to all Queensland industries.

Nearly all claims with 30 or more workdays compensated were the result of either *falls*, *body stressing*, *being hit by moving objects* or *vehicle incidents*.

Fall related injuries represent 27 per cent of all relevant Agriculture claims. More than half of the *fall* related injuries were due to a fall from height. Over the five-years from 2016–17 to 2020–21, a total of three Agriculture workers were fatally injured due to a fall.

Injuries resulting from *being hit by moving objects* represent 24 per cent of all relevant Agriculture claims. Over the period, two Agriculture workers were fatally injured due to being hit by a moving object.

Body stressing injuries represent 22 per cent all relevant Agriculture claims. *Body stressing injuries* were mainly the result of either carrying or lifting objects.

Vehicle incidents represent 19 per cent of Agriculture claims with 30 or more workdays compensated; however, they account for 14 (or two thirds) of all fatality claims for Agriculture workers over the same five-year period.



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