

OIR Typology

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Typology: Construction industry

Based on workers' compensation Construction 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 Construction 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 25 per cent of all Construction claims and 81 per cent of construction claim costs over the period. The average claim rate was 7.9 claims per 1000 workers, which is noticeably higher than the average claim rate of 5.4 claims per 1000 workers for all Queensland industries. Workers in the Construction industry are one and a half times as likely to experience a significant injury as workers in all *other* industries.

Construction workers between the ages of 25 to 34 years represent the largest amount of claimants with 28 per cent of all Construction claims with 30 or more workdays compensated. This is followed by the 35 to 44 years age group at 22 per cent of claims within the construction industry. Moreover, the proportion of claims for the Construction industry were higher than the proportion for all of Queensland in the younger age groups between 15 and 44 years of age.

Over 80 per cent of claims with 30 or more workdays compensated were the result of either body stressing, falls or being hit by a moving object.

Body stressing injuries represent 36 per cent of all relevant Construction claims. Almost all of the *Body stressing* injuries were the result of muscle strains while lifting or handling objects.

Falls, trips and slips injuries represent 32 per cent of all relevant Construction claims. *Falls, trips and slips* injuries were the result of either a fall from height or at level.

Injuries resulting from *being hit by moving objects* represent 14 per cent of all relevant Construction claims.

2. Introduction

This document provides a Typology based on *mechanism of incident* and relates to the Construction 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 Construction
- 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 Construction claims and overall costs for each claim category. Although claims with 30 or more workdays compensated make up only 25 per cent of all claims over the period, they account for 81 per cent of total claim costs.

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

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

Category	No. of claims	% of claims	Total claim costs [^]	% of costs*
Less than 30 workdays compensated	28,344	75%	\$108M	17%
30 or more workdays compensated	9,333	25%	\$504M	81%
Fatality claims	18	0%	\$8M	1%
Total	37,695	100%	\$620M	100%

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

*There are rounding errors in the table.

¹ Source: Queensland Employee Injury Database (QEIDB)

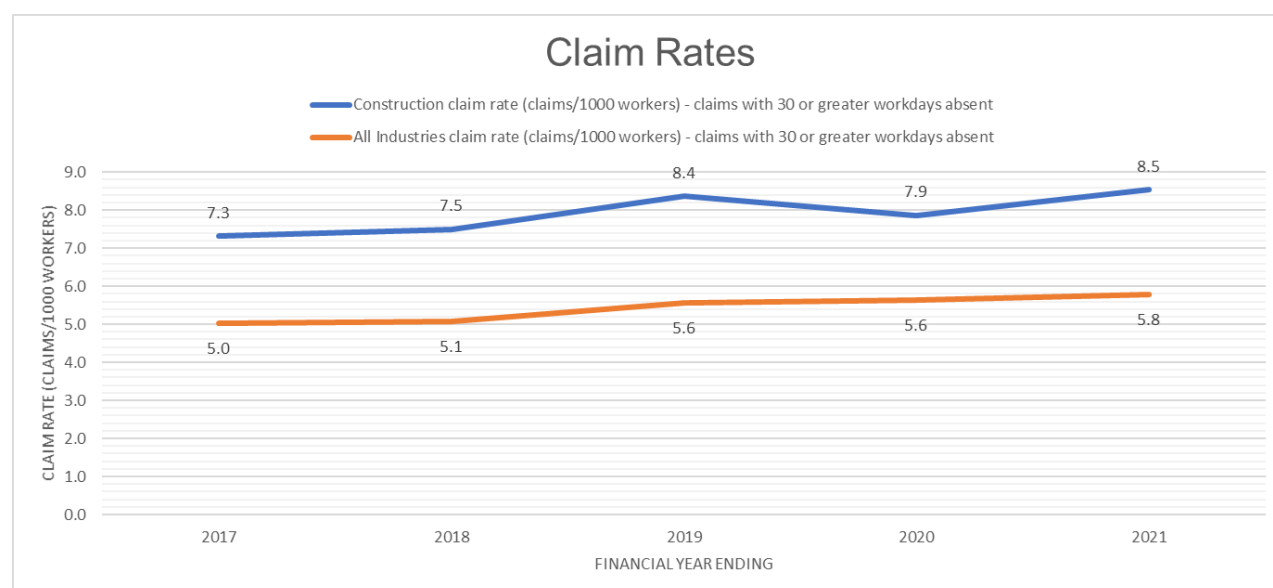
² Based on ABS: ANZSIC 2006 Classifications

3. Background – Construction Industry

3.1 Incidence

The claim rate for Construction claims with 30 or more workdays compensated has steadily increased over the five years to June 2021. However, the Construction claim rate sits well above the claim rate for all Queensland industries. The average claim rate for Construction over the period was 7.9 claims per 1000 workers, which is noticeably 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 126 Queensland Construction workers each year will experience a significant injury (an injury which results in a claim requiring 30 or more workdays compensated). Notably, Construction workers are one and a half times more likely to experience a significant injury when compared to workers from all other industries. Refer to tables 2 and 3 below.

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

Financial year ending	No. of claims	Labour force ³	Likelihood (1 in X workers)
2017	1,677	229,280	1 in 137
2018	1,790	238,815	1 in 133
2019	1,971	235,846	1 in 120
2020	1,928	245,240	1 in 127
2021	1,967	230,426	1 in 117
Average			1 in 126

³ Source: ABS labour force data

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

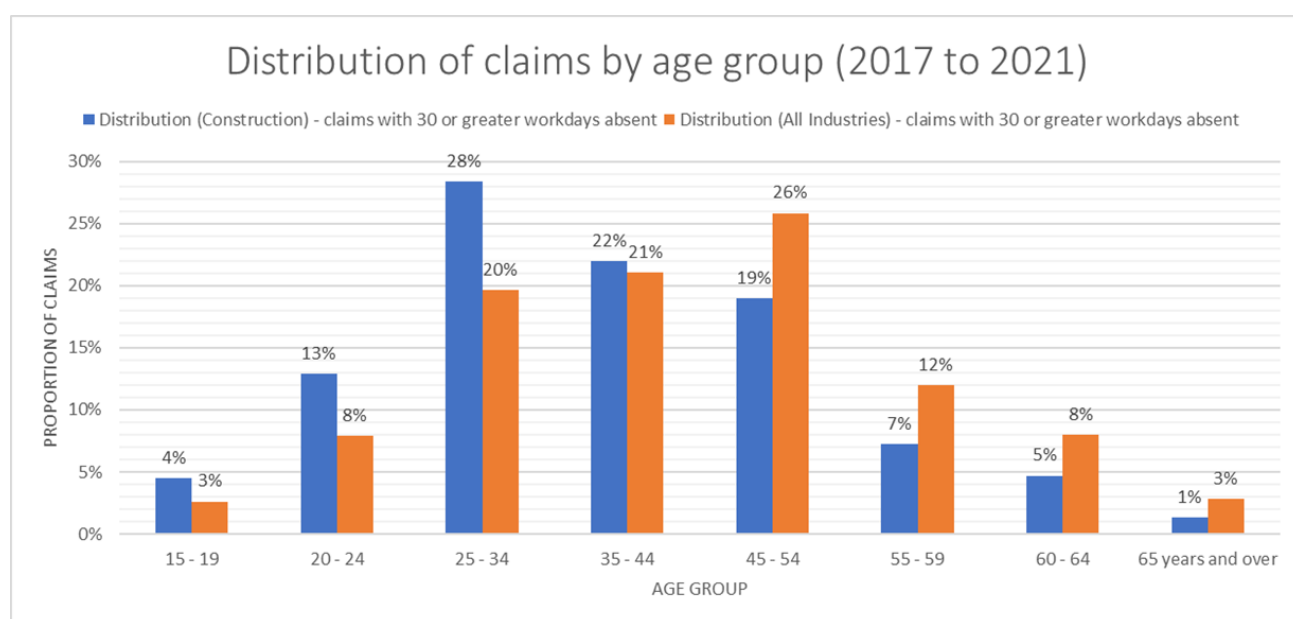
<i>Financial year ending</i>	<i>No. of claims</i>	<i>Labour force³</i>	<i>Likelihood (1 in X workers)</i>
2017	10,222	2,141,030	1 in 209
2018	10,712	2,230,121	1 in 208
2019	11,972	2,272,352	1 in 190
2020	12,191	2,264,258	1 in 186
2021	12,966	2,351,484	1 in 181
Average			1 in 194

3.3 Age distribution

Two-thirds of all Construction claims with 30 or more workdays compensated were for workers less than 45 years of age.

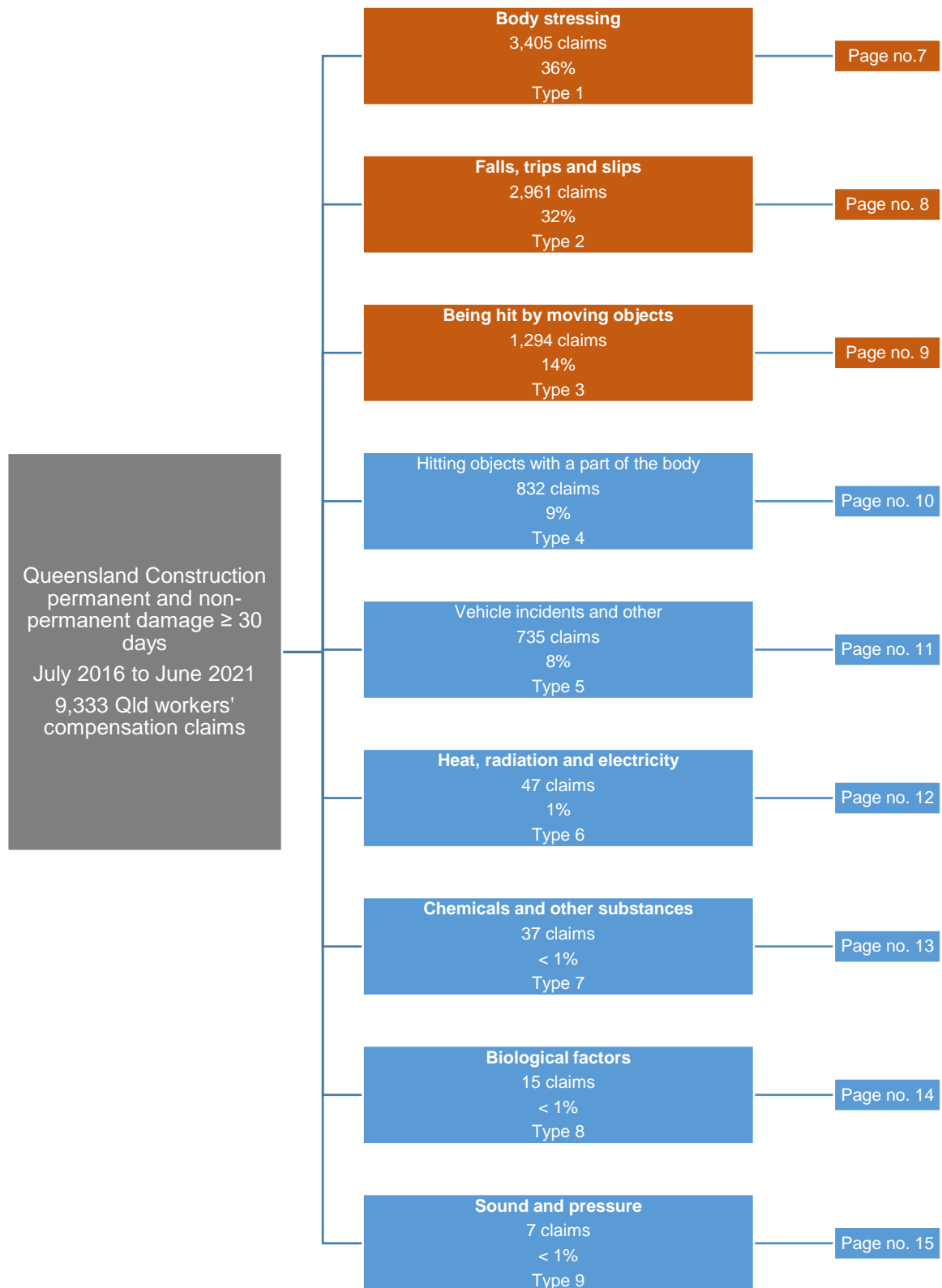
Chart 2 shows the distribution of claims with 30 or more workdays compensated by age group. Notably, the proportions for Construction are significantly higher than the proportions for all of Queensland industries across younger age groups up to the 35–44 age bracket.

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



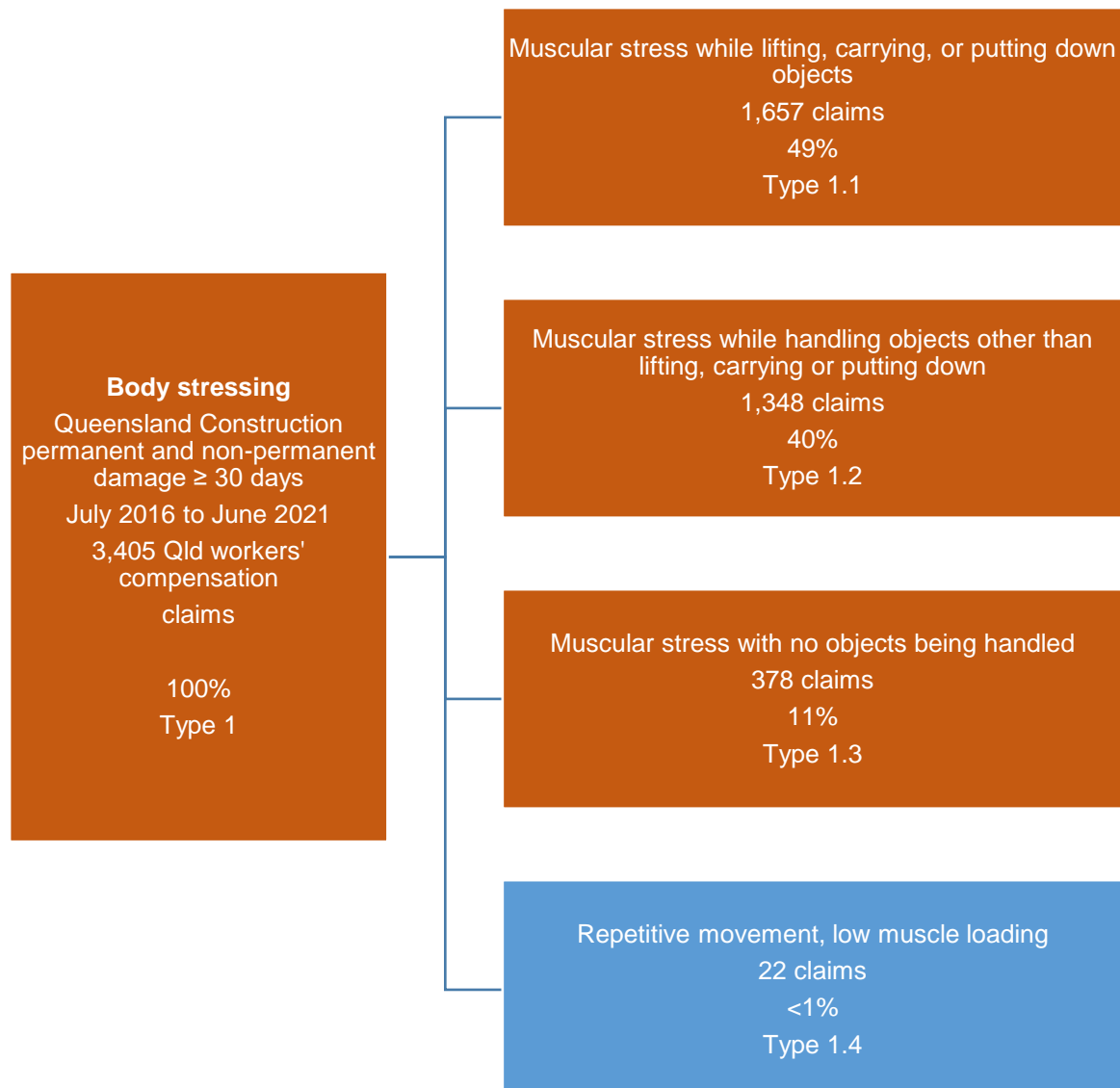
4. Typology by mechanism (group)

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



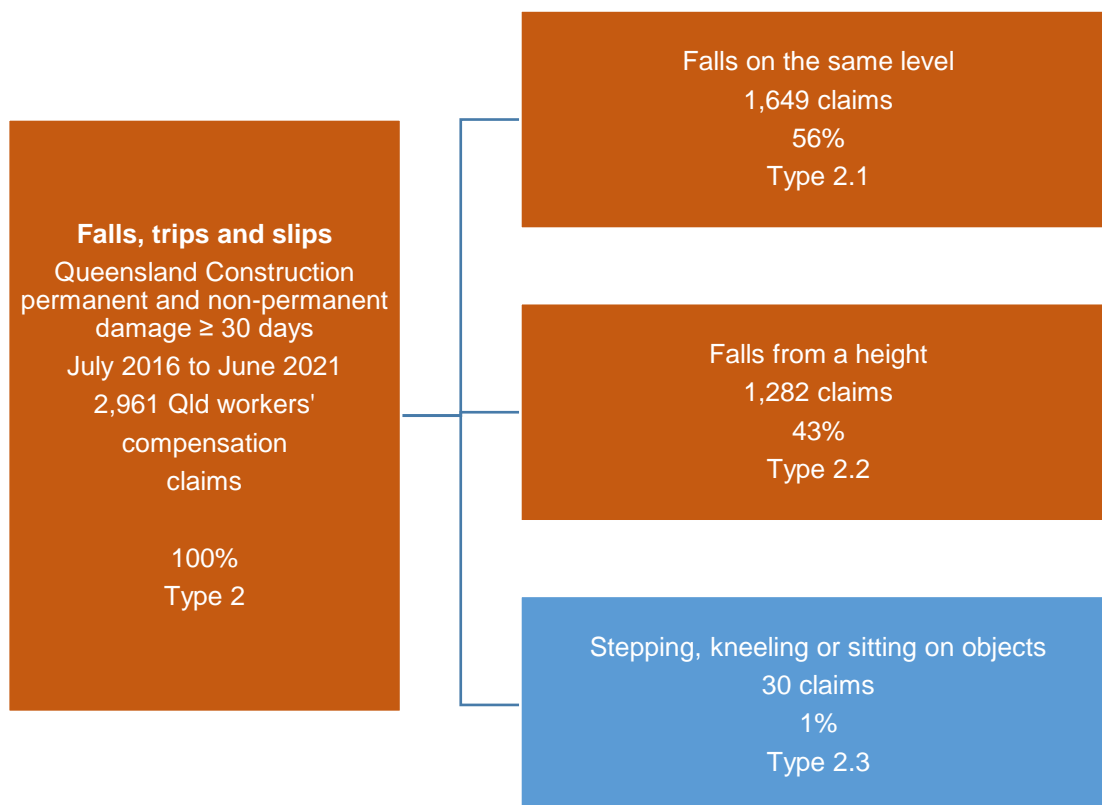
4.1 Type 1 – body stressing

Body stressing represents 36 per cent of all Queensland Construction claims \geq 30 workdays compensated.



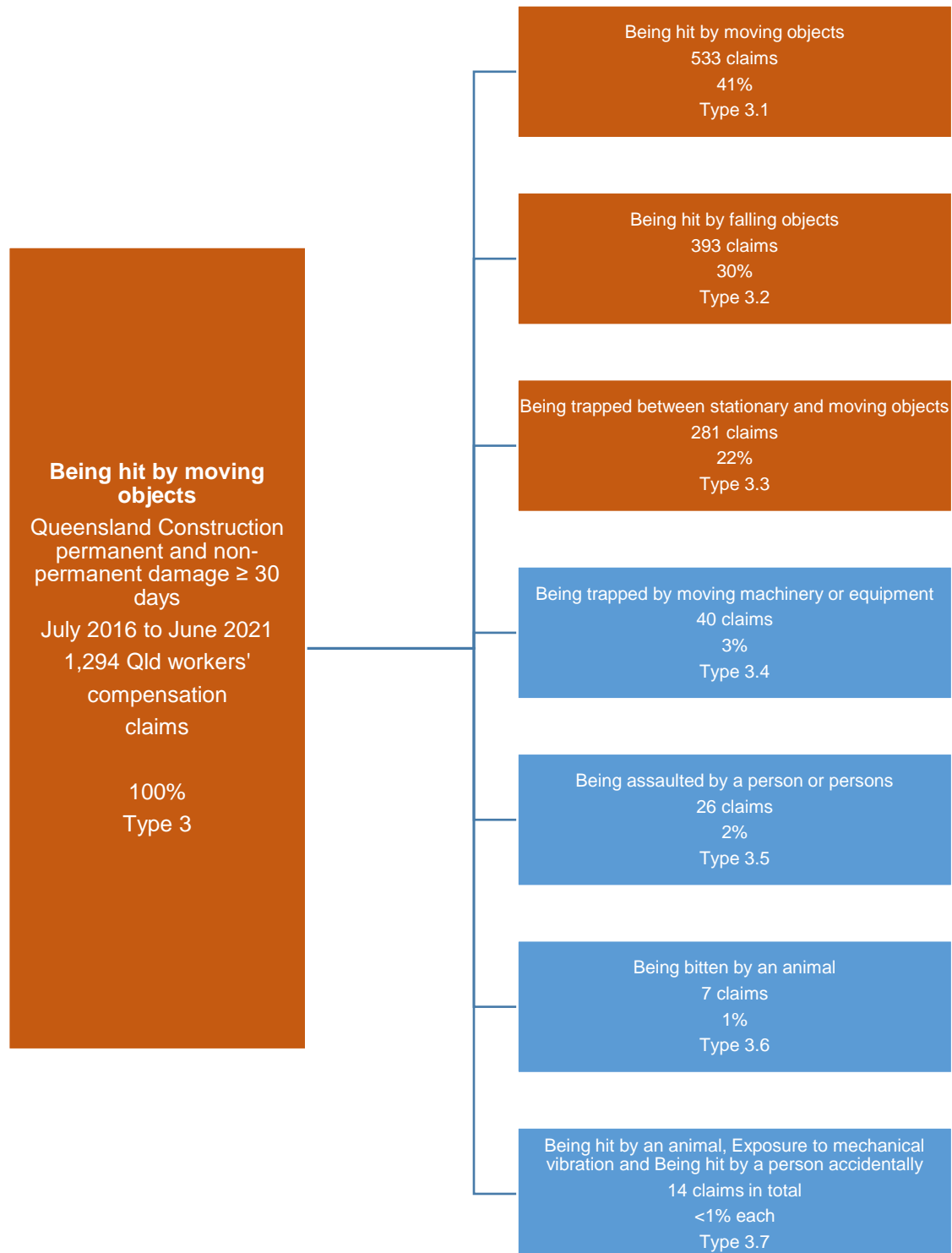
4.2 Type 2 – falls, trips and slips

Falls, trips and slips represents 32 per cent of all Queensland Construction claims \geq 30 workdays compensated.



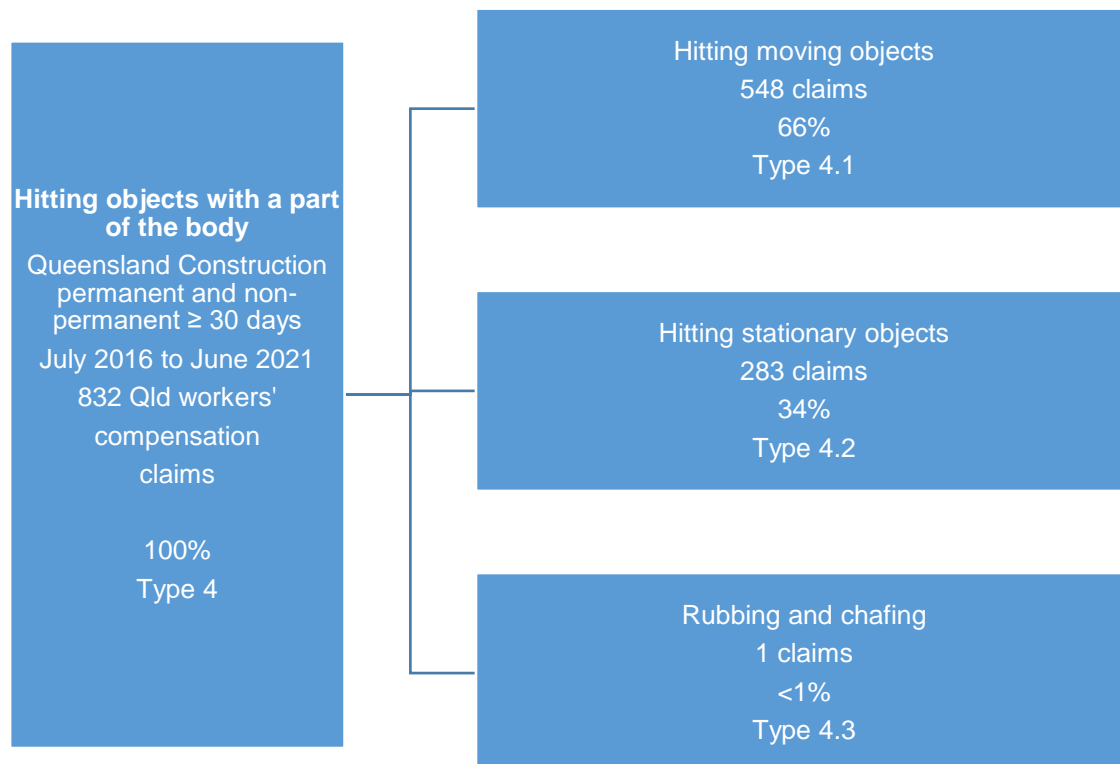
4.3 Type 3 – being hit by moving objects

Being hit by moving objects represents 14 per cent of all Queensland Construction claims ≥ 30 workdays compensated.



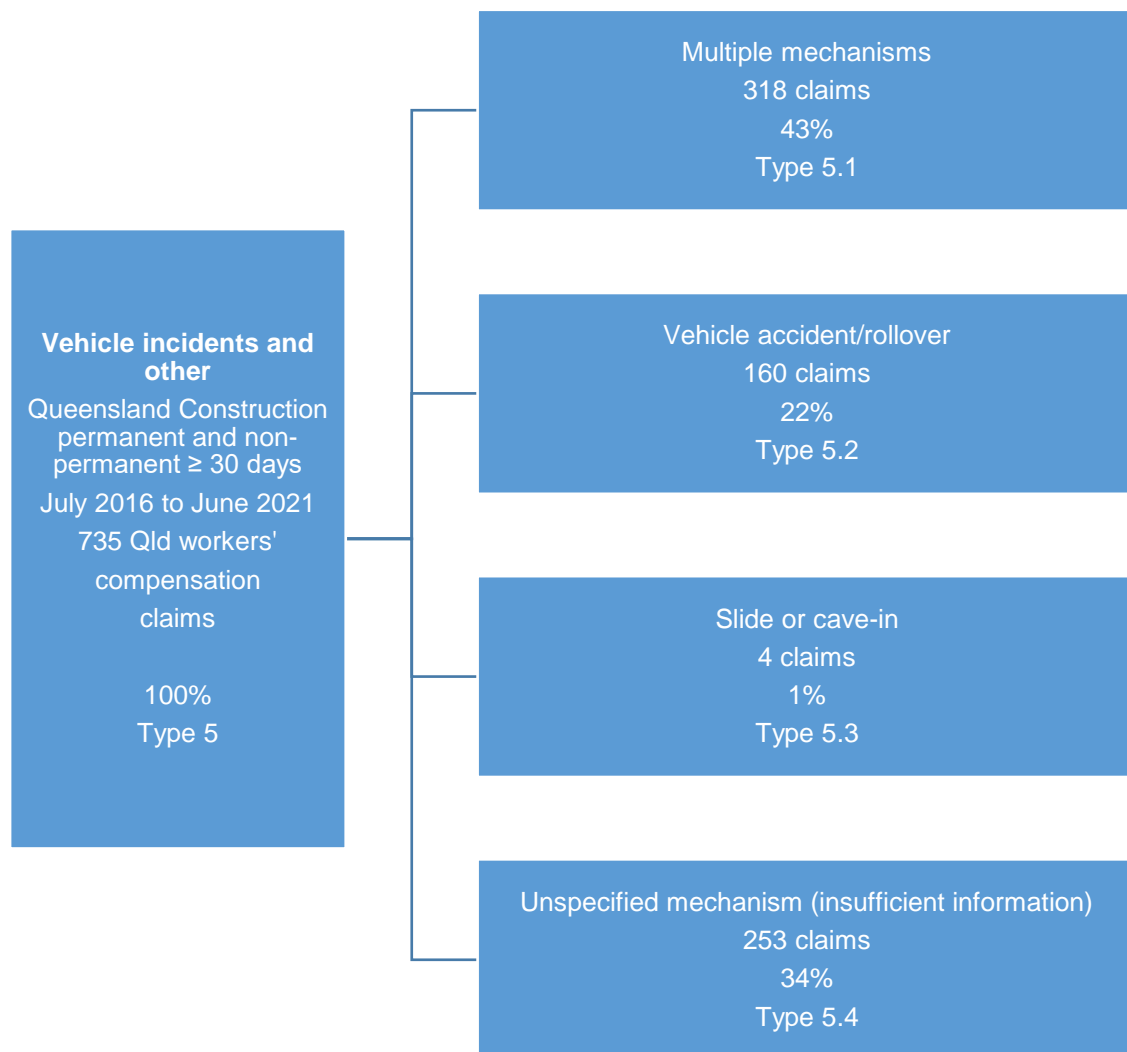
4.4 Type 4 – hitting objects with a part of the body

Hitting objects with a part of the body represents nine (9) per cent of all Queensland Construction claims \geq 30 workdays compensated.



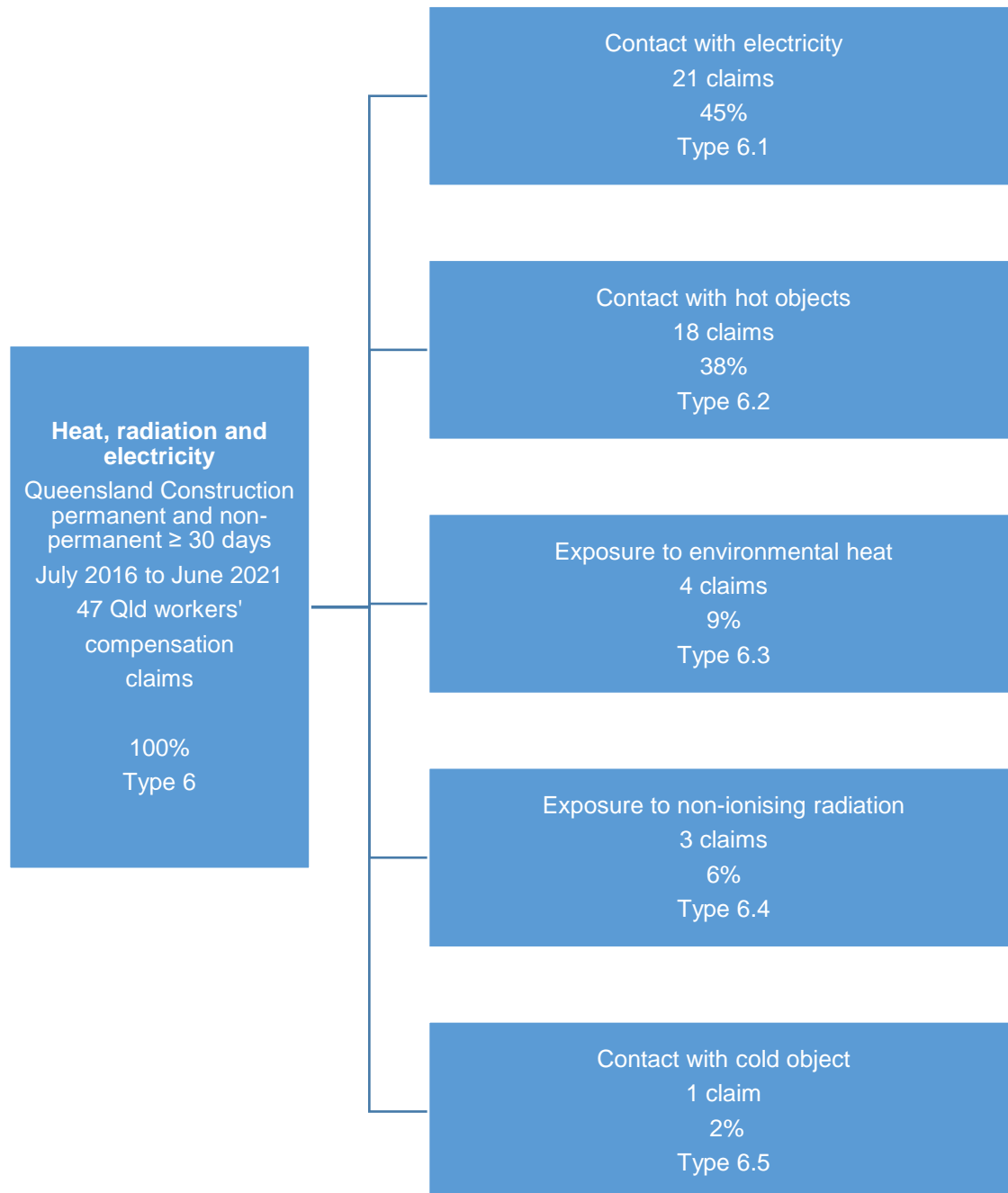
4.5 Type 5 – vehicle incidents and other

Vehicle incidents and other represents eight (8) per cent of all Queensland Construction claims \geq 30 workdays compensated.



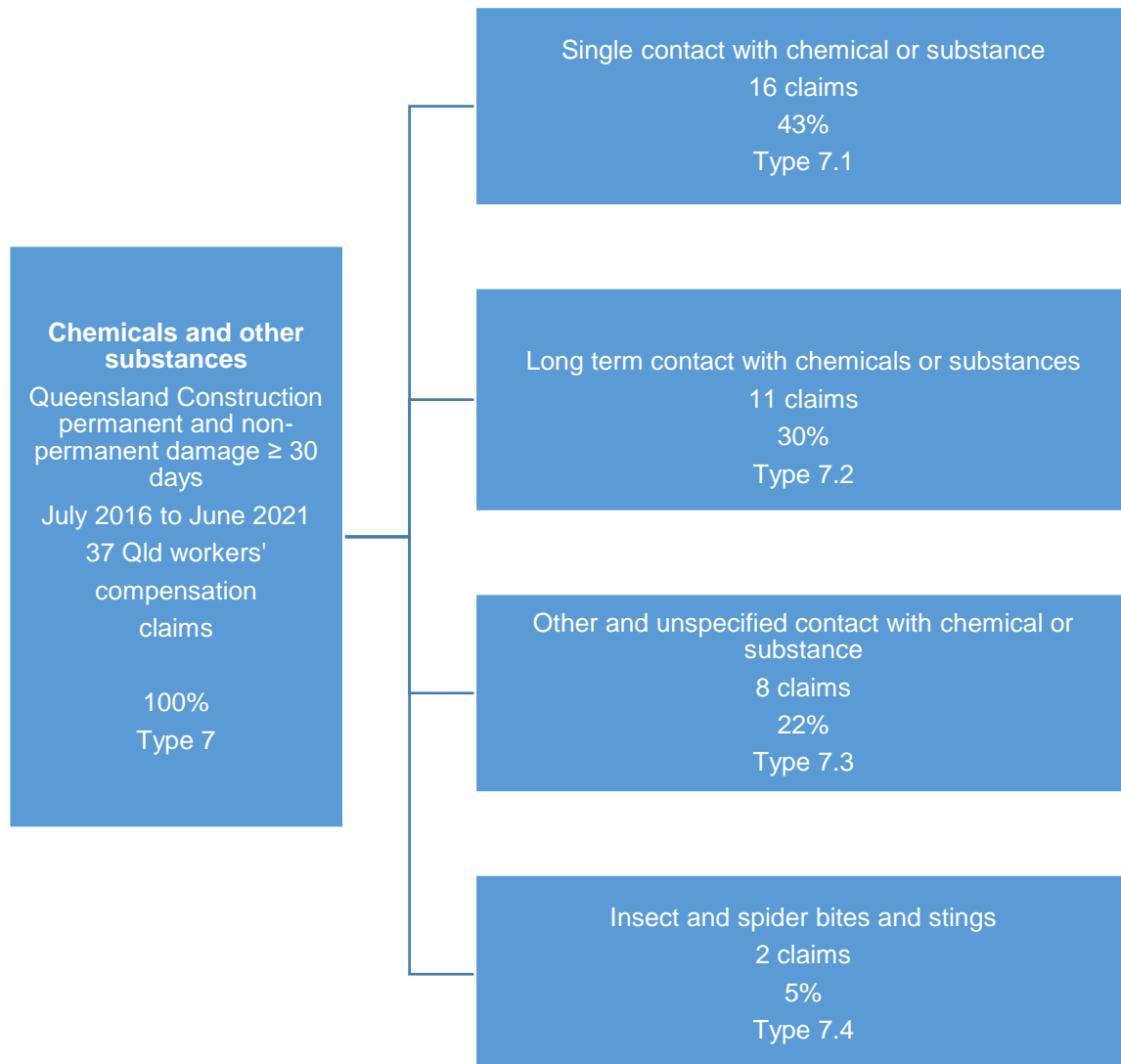
4.6 Type 6 – heat, radiation and electricity

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



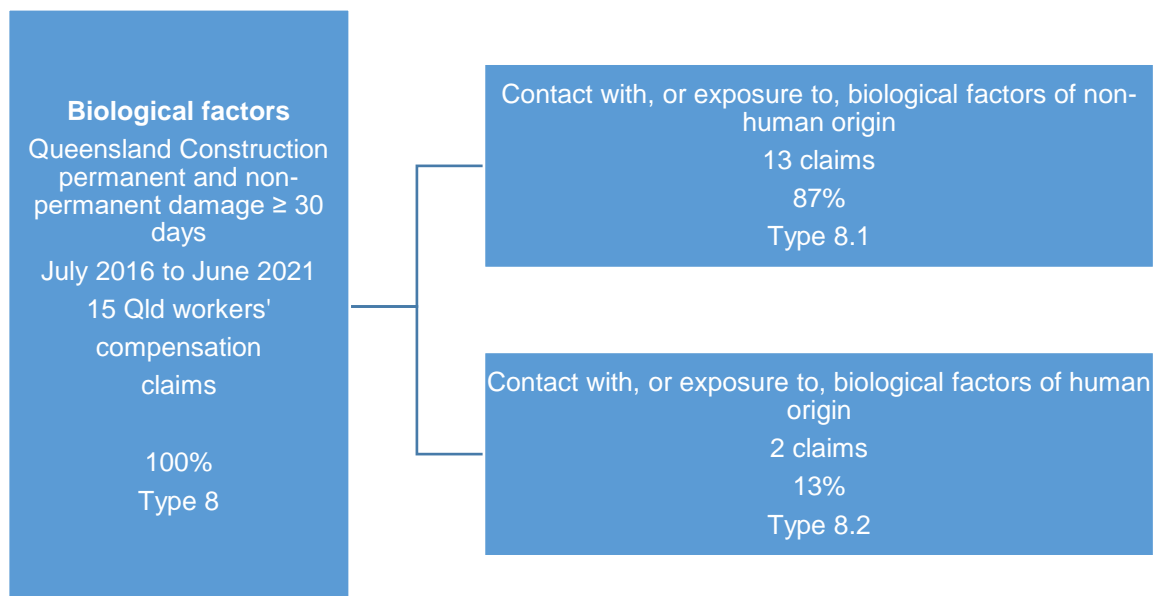
4.7 Type 7 – chemicals and other substances

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



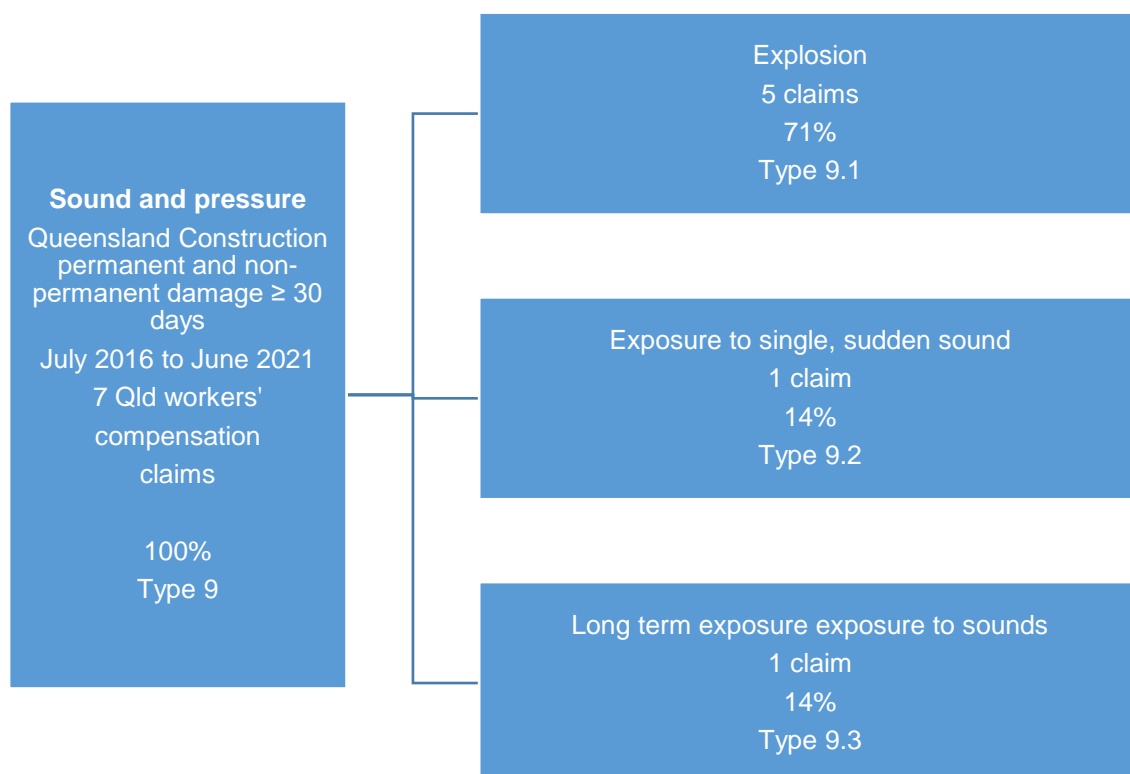
4.8 Type 8 – biological factors

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



4.9 Type 9 – sound and pressure

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



5. Typology – summary of key findings

Claims with 30 or more workdays compensated account for 25 per cent of all Construction claims and 81 per cent of construction claim costs over the period. The average claim rate was 7.9 claims per 1000 workers, higher than the average claim rate for all Queensland industries. Workers in the Construction industry are one and a half times as likely to experience a significant injury as workers in all other industries.

Construction workers between the ages of 25 to 34 years represent the largest amount of claimants.

Over 80 per cent of claims with 30 or more workdays compensated were the result of either *body stressing*, *falls* or *being hit by a moving object*.

Body stressing injuries represent 36 per cent of all relevant Construction claims. Almost all of the *Body stressing* injuries were the result of muscle strains while lifting or handling objects. This is not surprising given the physically demanding nature of the Construction industry.

Falls, trips and slips injuries represent 32 per cent of all relevant Construction claims. *Falls, trips and slips injuries* were the result of either a fall from height or at level. This is an area of concern as two (2) construction workers over the five years to June 2021 were fatally injured as result of a fall from height.

Injuries resulting from *being hit by moving objects* represent 14 per cent of all relevant Construction claims. Notably, on average, one Construction worker a year over the period was fatally injured as a result of being hit by a moving object.



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