

OIR Typology

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Typology: Health industry

Based on workers' compensation Health 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 Health 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 26 per cent of all Health claims and 82 per cent of Health claim costs over the period. The average claim rate was 6.5 claims per 1000 workers, which is higher than the average claim rate of 5.4 claims per 1000 workers for all Queensland industries. Workers in the Health industry are approximately 1.3 times as likely to experience a significant injury as workers in all *other* industries.

Health workers between the ages of 45 to 54 years represent approximately 31 per cent of all Health claims with 30 or more workdays compensated. Moreover, the distribution of claims with 30 or more workdays compensated indicates a higher proportion of Health workers over the age of 45 suffer significant injuries compared with All industries.

Ninety-seven per cent of claims with 30 or more workdays compensated were the result of either body stressing, falls, being hit by moving objects or vehicle incidents.

Body stressing injuries represent more than half of all relevant Health claims at 52 per cent. *Body stressing injuries* were mainly the result of either handling, carrying or lifting objects.

Fall related injuries represent 24 per cent of all relevant Health claims. Approximately, 90 per cent of the *fall* related injuries were due to a fall on the same level.

Injuries resulting from *being hit by moving objects* represent 11 per cent of all health claims while *vehicle incidents* represent 10 per cent of all relevant claims.

2. Introduction

This document provides a Typology based on *mechanism of incident* and relates to the Health Care and Social Assistance (Hereafter the Health industry only) industry. 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).

Scope

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

- the industry division² is Health
- 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).

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

Table 1 below shows the number of Health claims and overall costs for each claim category. Although claims with 30 or more workdays compensated make up 26 per cent of all claims over the period, they account for 82 per cent of total claim costs. Health claims with 30 or more workdays compensated include permanent and non-permanent impairment damage claims and involve injuries of a significant nature.

Table 1. Health claims by category (2016-17 to 2020-21)

Category	No. of claims	% of claims	Total claim costs[^]	% of costs
Less than 30 workdays compensated	33,411	74%	\$79M	18%
30 or more workdays compensated	11,496	26%	\$365M	82%
Fatality claims	5	0%	\$3M	<1%
Total	44,912	100%	\$447M	100%

¹ Source: Queensland Employee Injury Database (QEIDB)

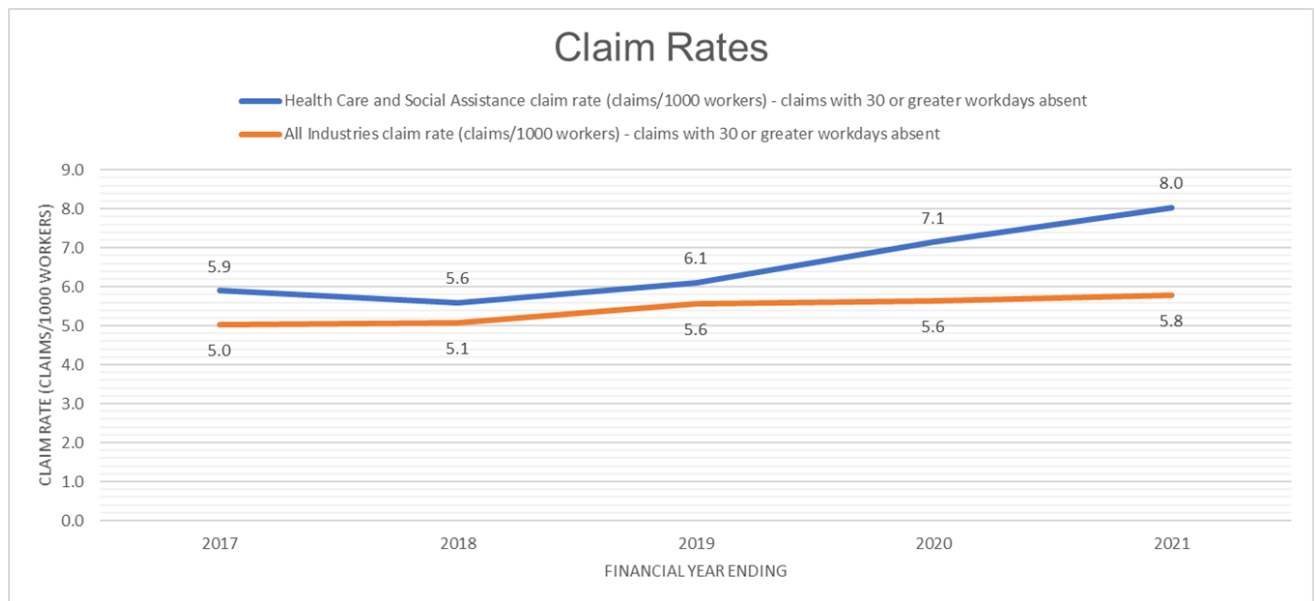
² Based on ABS: ANZSIC 2006 Classifications [^]Total statutory costs over the period – 2016–17 to 2020–21

3. Background – health industry

3.1 Incidence

The claim rate for Health claims with 30 or more workdays compensated has increased over the five years to June 2021. The Health claim rate sits above the claim rate for all Queensland industries. The average claim rate for Health over the period was 6.5 claims per 1000 workers compared with an 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 152 Queensland Health industry workers each year will experience a significant injury (an injury which results in a claim requiring 30 or more workdays compensated). Notably, Health workers are approximately 1.3 times more likely to experience a significant injury when compared to all other Queensland industries as a whole. Refer to tables 2 and 3 below.

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

Calendar year	No. of claims	Labour force ³	Likelihood (1 in X workers)
2017	1,844	312,464	1 in 169
2018	1,966	351,256	1 in 179
2019	2,140	350,518	1 in 164
2020	2,535	354,877	1 in 140
2021	3,011	375,000	1 in 125
Average			1 in 152

³ Source: ABS labour force data

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

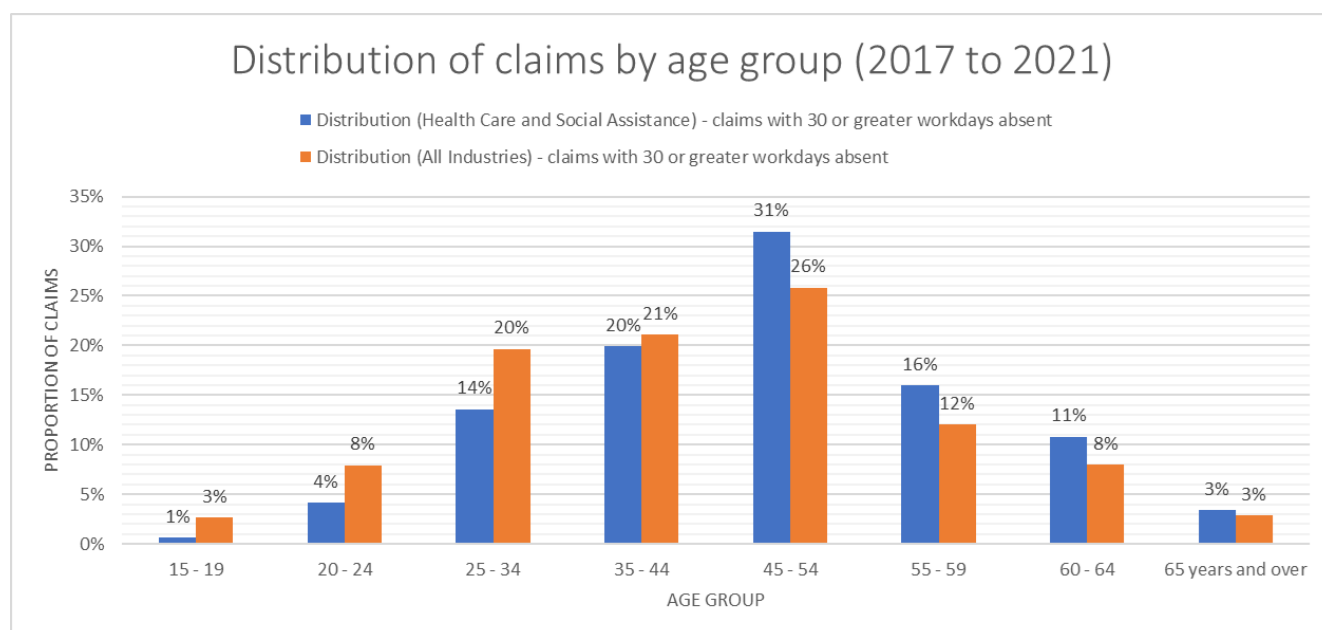
<i>Calendar year</i>	<i>No. of claims</i>	<i>Labour force³</i>	<i>Likelihood (1 in X workers)</i>
2017	10,055	2,057,846	1 in 205
2018	10,536	2,117,680	1 in 201
2019	11,803	2,157,680	1 in 183
2020	11,584	2,154,621	1 in 186
2021	11,922	2,206,910	1 in 185
Average			1 in 191

3.3 Age distribution

Thirty-one per cent of Health claims with 30 or more workdays compensated were for workers between the ages of 45 and 54 years.

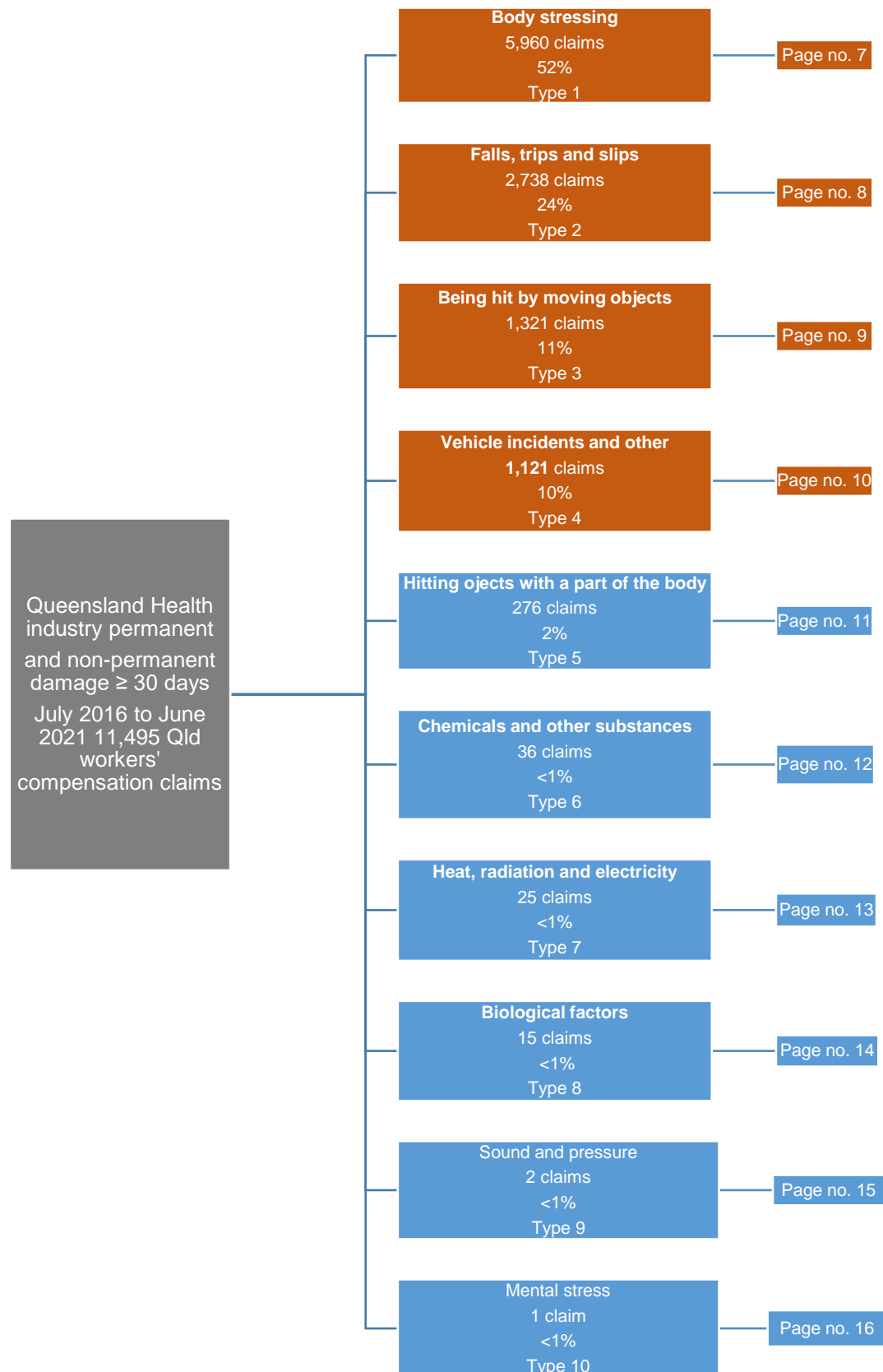
Chart 2 shows the distribution of claims with 30 or more workdays compensated by age group. Notably, the proportions for Health workers are higher than the proportions for all Queensland industries for all older age categories from 45 years.

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



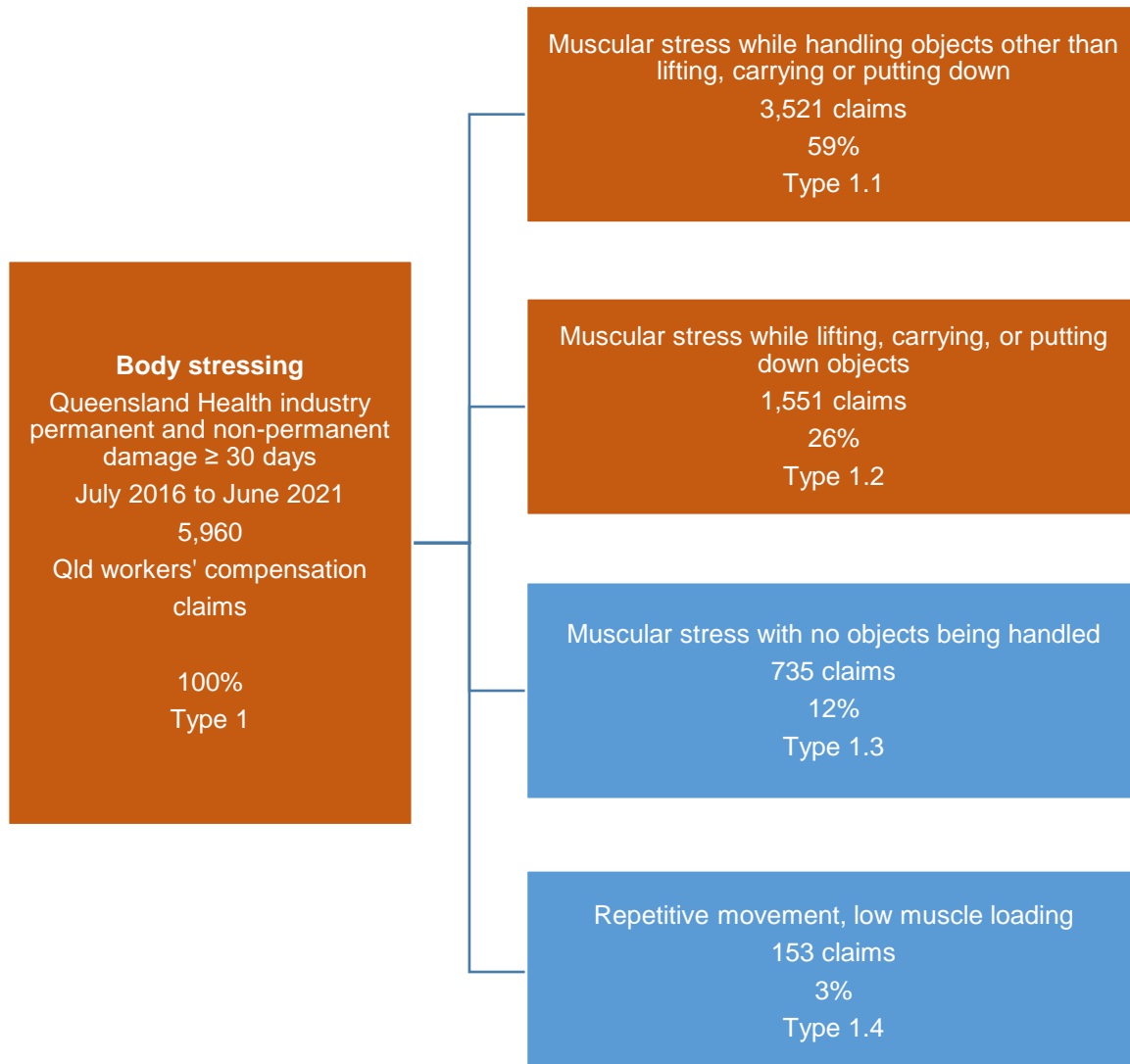
4. Typology by mechanism (group)

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



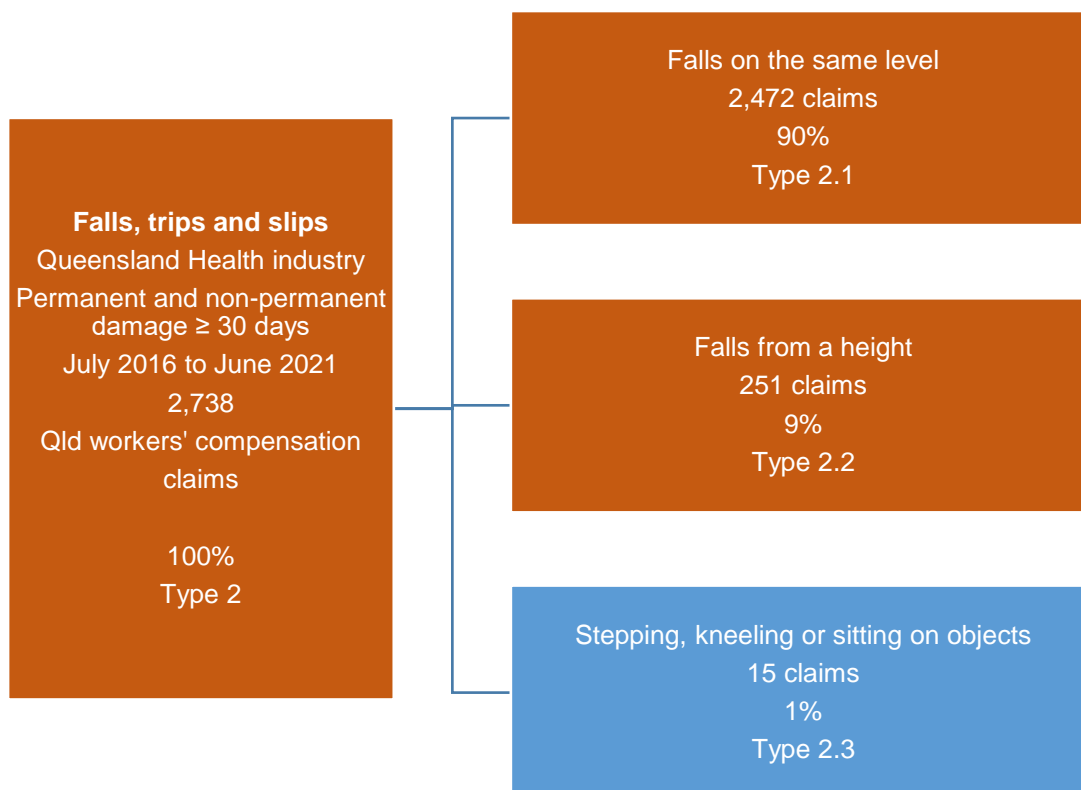
4.1 Type 1 – body stressing

Body stressing represents 52 per cent of all Queensland Health claims \geq 30 workdays compensated.



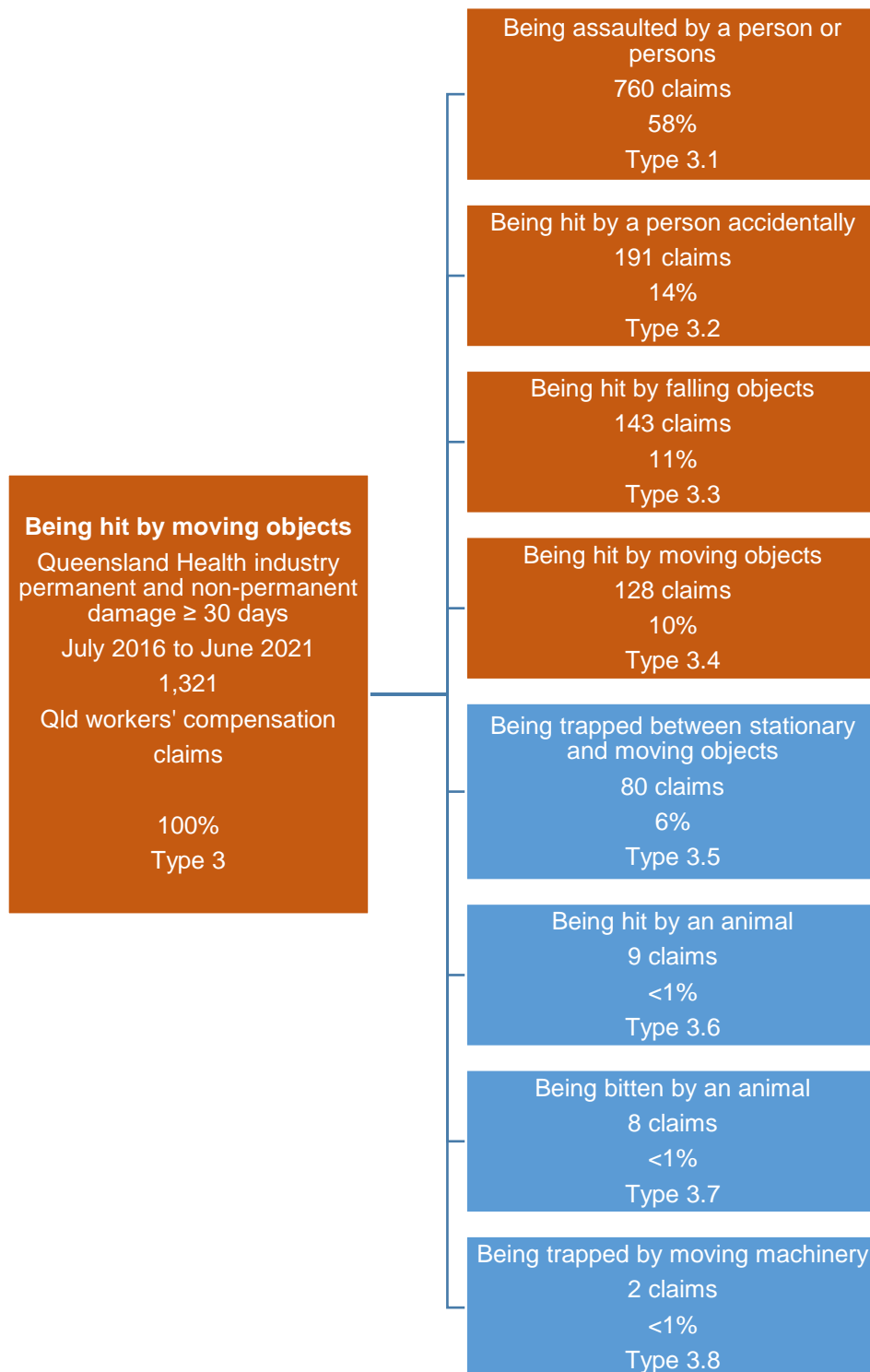
4.2 Type 2 – falls, trips and slips

Falls, trips and slips represents 24 per cent of all Queensland Health claims \geq 30 workdays compensated.



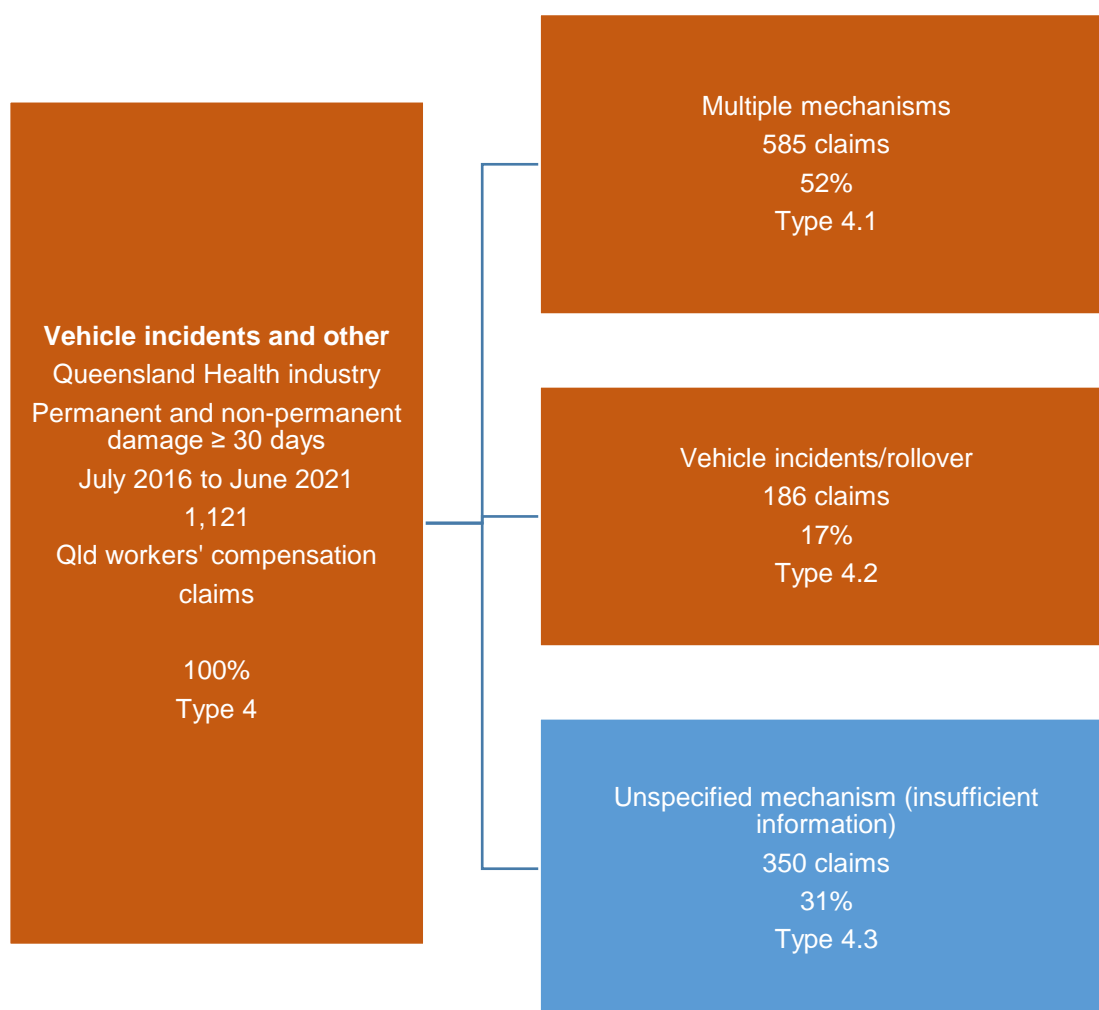
4.3 Type 3 – being hit by moving objects

Being hit by moving objects represents 11 per cent of all Queensland Health claims \geq 30 workdays compensated.



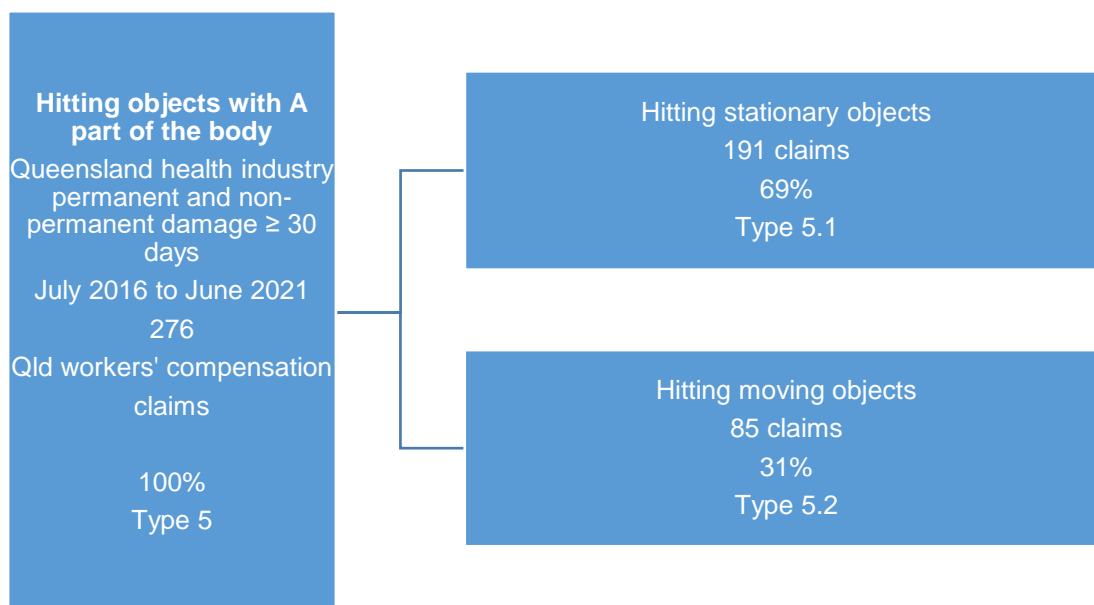
4.4 Type 4 – vehicle incidents

Vehicle incidents and other represents 10 per cent of all Queensland Health claims \geq 30 workdays compensated.



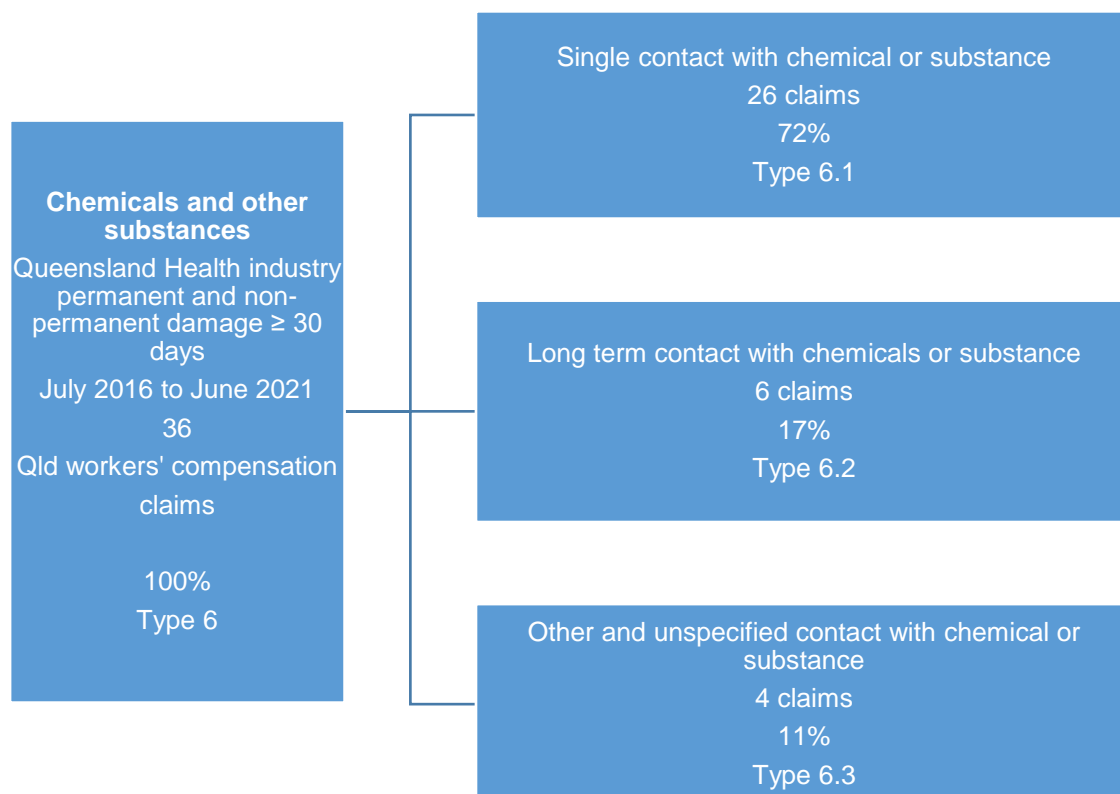
4.5 Type 5 – hitting objects with a part of the body

Hitting objects with a part of the body represents two (2) per cent of all Queensland Health claims ≥ 30 workdays compensated.



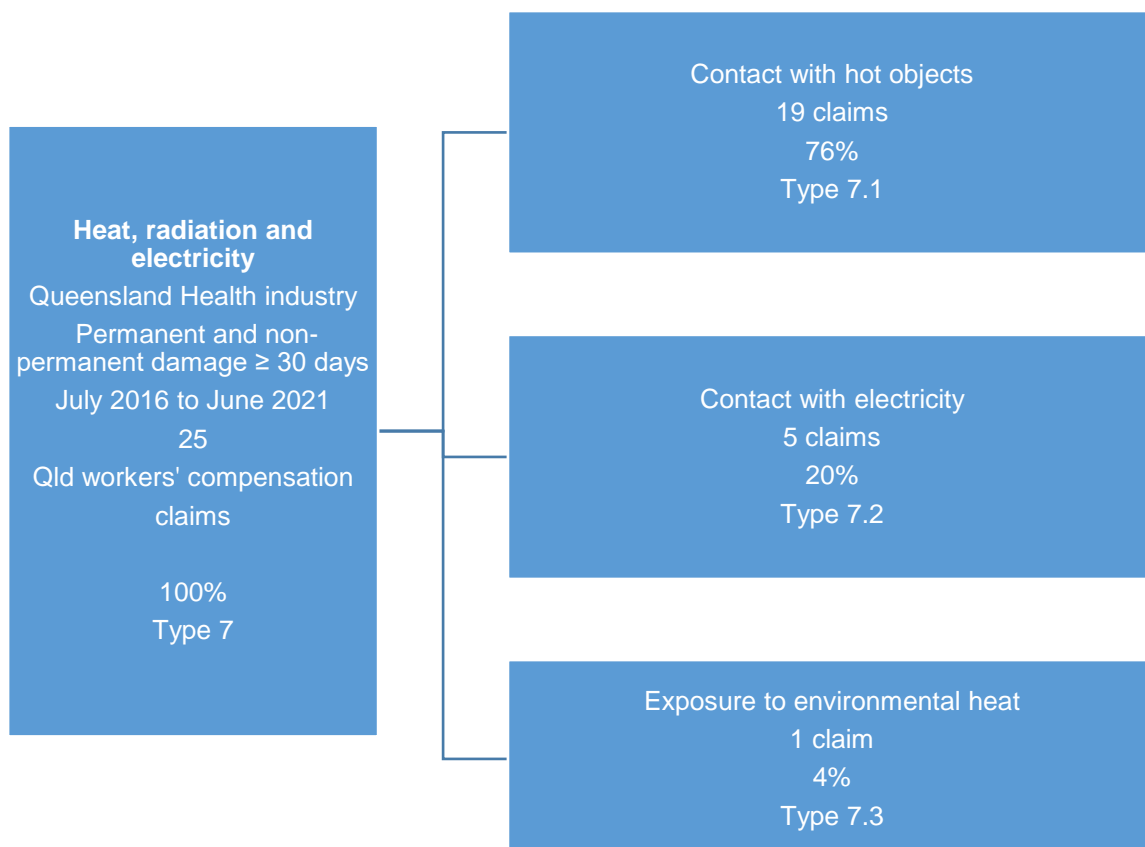
4.6 Type 6 – chemicals and other substances

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



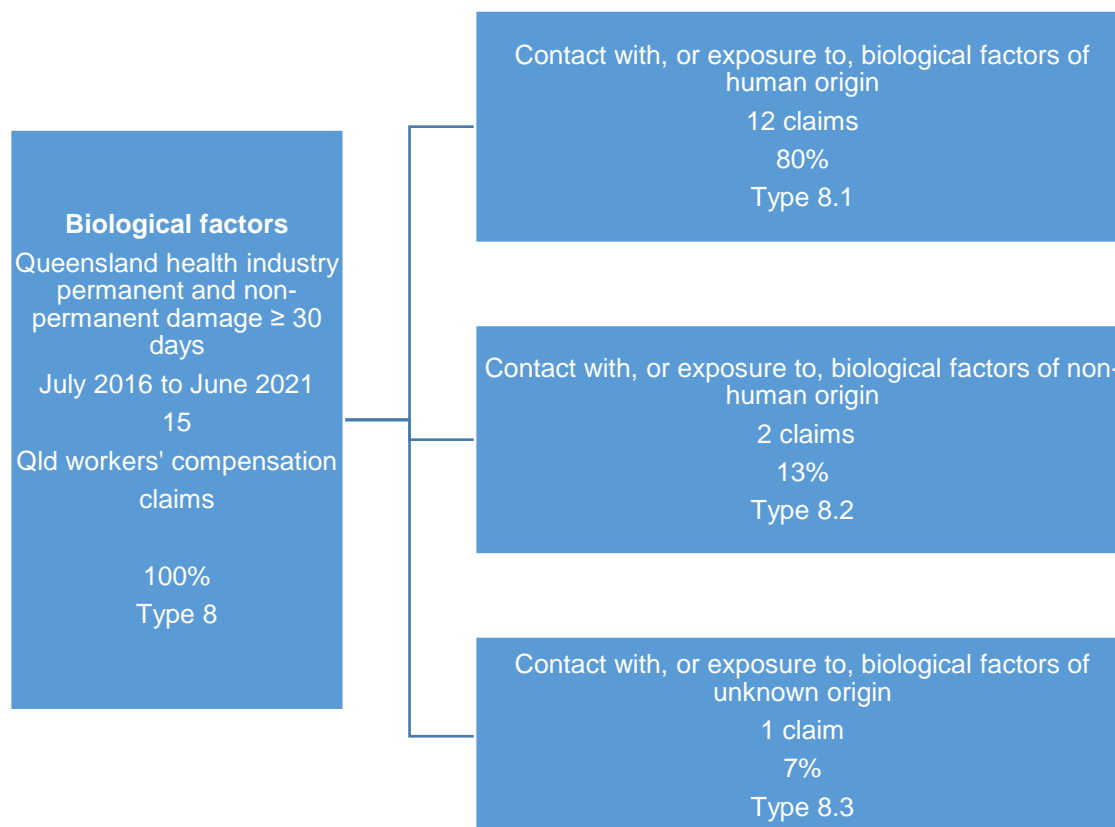
4.7 Type 7 – heat, radiation and electricity

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



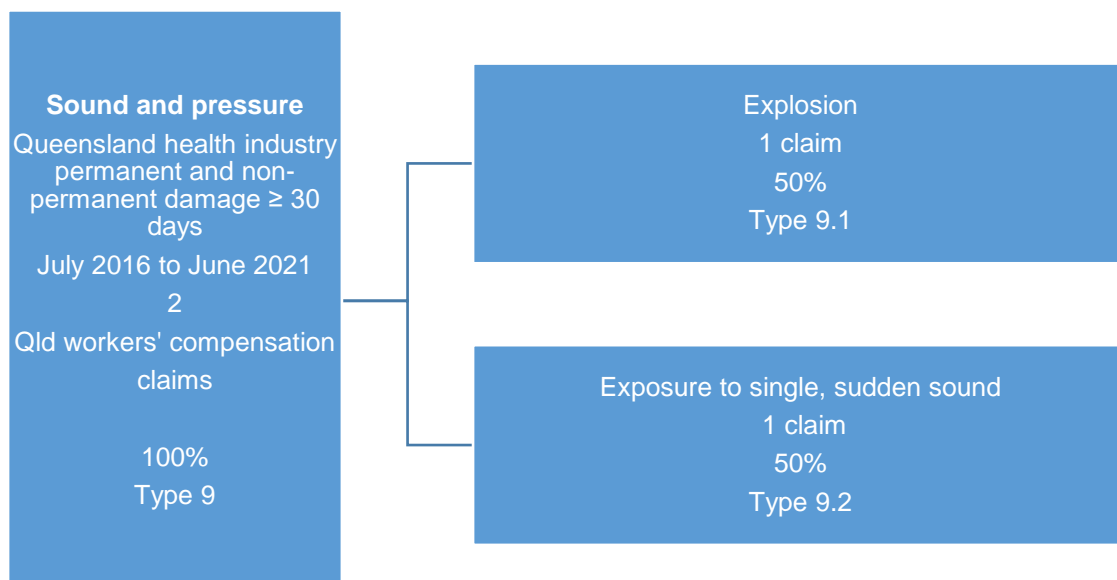
4.8 Type 8 – biological factors

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



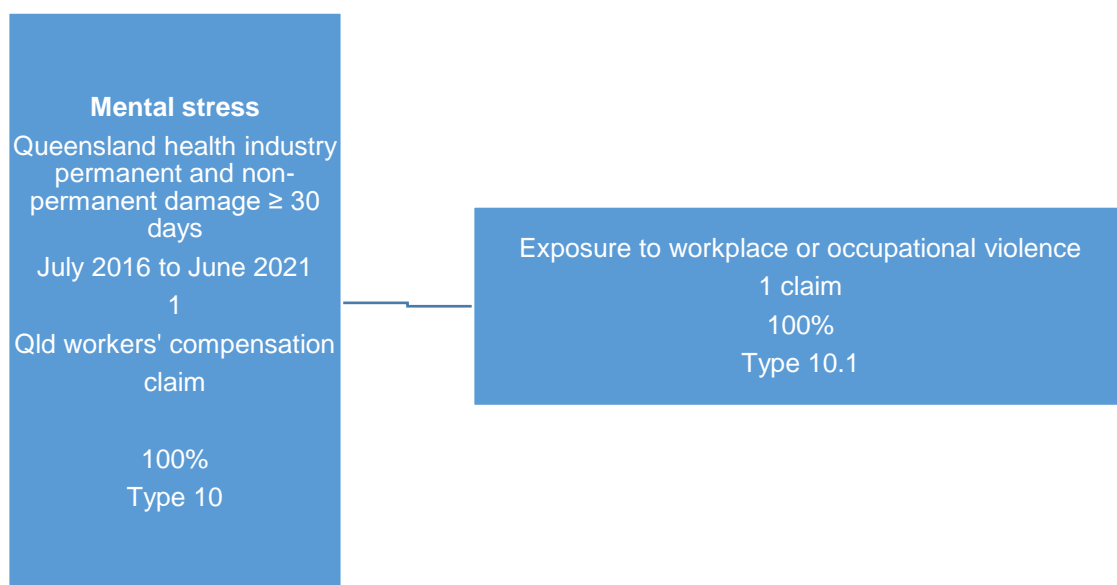
4.9 Type 9 – sound and pressure

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



4.10 Type 10 – mental stress

Mental stress represents less than one (1) per cent of all Queensland Health claims \geq 30 workdays compensated.



5. Typology – summary of key findings

Claims with 30 or more workdays compensated account for 26 per cent of all Health claims and 82 per cent of Health claim costs over the period. The average claim rate was 6.5 claims per 1000 workers, which is higher than the claim rate for all Queensland industries. Workers in the Health industry are approximately 1.3 times as likely to experience a significant injury as workers in all *other* industries.

The distribution of claims with 30 or more workdays compensated indicates a higher proportion of Health workers over the age of 45 suffer significant injuries compared with All industries.

Ninety seven per cent of claims with 30 or more workdays compensated were the result of either body stressing, falls, being hit by moving objects or vehicle incidents.

Body stressing injuries represent more than a half of all relevant Health claims. *Body stressing injuries* were mainly the result of either handling, carrying or lifting objects.

Fall related injuries represent 24 per cent of all relevant Health claims. Approximately, 90 per cent of the *fall* related injuries were due to a fall on the same level.

Being hit by moving object injuries represent 11 per cent of all relevant Health claims. Approximately, 58 per cent of the *being hit* related injuries were due to being assaulted by a person or persons.

Injuries resulting from *vehicle incidents* represent 10 per cent of all relevant Health claims. Two Health workers were fatally injured over the period due to a vehicle related injury.



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