

# OIR Typology

## Workplace Health and Safety Queensland Board Report

### Typology: Health industry

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A report on the circumstances causing injuries or diseases which were compensated for 60 days or more.

*Note: Data extracted January 2018*

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# 1. Executive summary

This document provides a Typology based on Queensland Health industry claims with 60 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 60 or more workdays compensated account for 67 per cent of all Health claims costs over the period. The average claim rate was 3.5 claims per 1000 workers, which is marginally higher than the average claim rate of three claims per 1000 workers for all Queensland industries. Workers in the Health industry are approximately 1.2 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 40 per cent of all Health claims with 60 or more workdays compensated. Moreover, the average claim rates for Health workers are slightly higher than the rates for all Queensland industries for those aged *45 to 54* and *60 to 64*. However, the claim rates for the remaining age groups sit slightly below the rates for all Queensland industries.

Over 85 per cent of claims with 60 or more workdays compensated were the result of either body stressing, falls or vehicle incidents.

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

*Fall* related injuries represent 21 per cent of all relevant Health claims. Approximately, 85 per cent of the *fall* related injuries were due to a fall on the same level.

Injuries resulting from *vehicle incidents* represent 14 per cent of all relevant Health claims. On average, one Health worker per year was fatally injured over the period due to a vehicle related injury.

## 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).

### 2.2 Scope

The Typology was developed using accepted workers' compensation claims<sup>1</sup> data where:

- the industry division<sup>2</sup> is Health
- 60 or more workdays are compensated
- psychological and commuting claims are excluded
- the claim intimation date is between 1 January 2012 and 31 December 2016 (the period).

#### 2.2.1 Why focus on claims with 60 or more workdays compensated?

Table 1 below shows the number of Health claims and overall costs for each claim category. Although claims with 60 or more workdays compensated make up only 12 per cent of all claims over the period, they account for 67 per cent of total claim costs.

Health claims with 60 or more workdays compensated include permanent and non-permanent impairment damage claims and involve injuries of a significant nature.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Queensland Employee Injury Database (QEIDB)

<sup>2</sup> Based on ABS: ANZSIC 2006 Classifications

**Table 1. Health claims by category (2012 to 2016)**

Category	No. of claims	% of claims	Total claim costs <sup>^</sup>	% of costs
Less than 60 workdays compensated	36,050	88%	\$100M	33%
60 or more workdays compensated	5,062	12%	\$205M	67%
Fatality claims	8	<1%	\$2M	<1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>41,120</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$307M</b>	<b>100%</b>

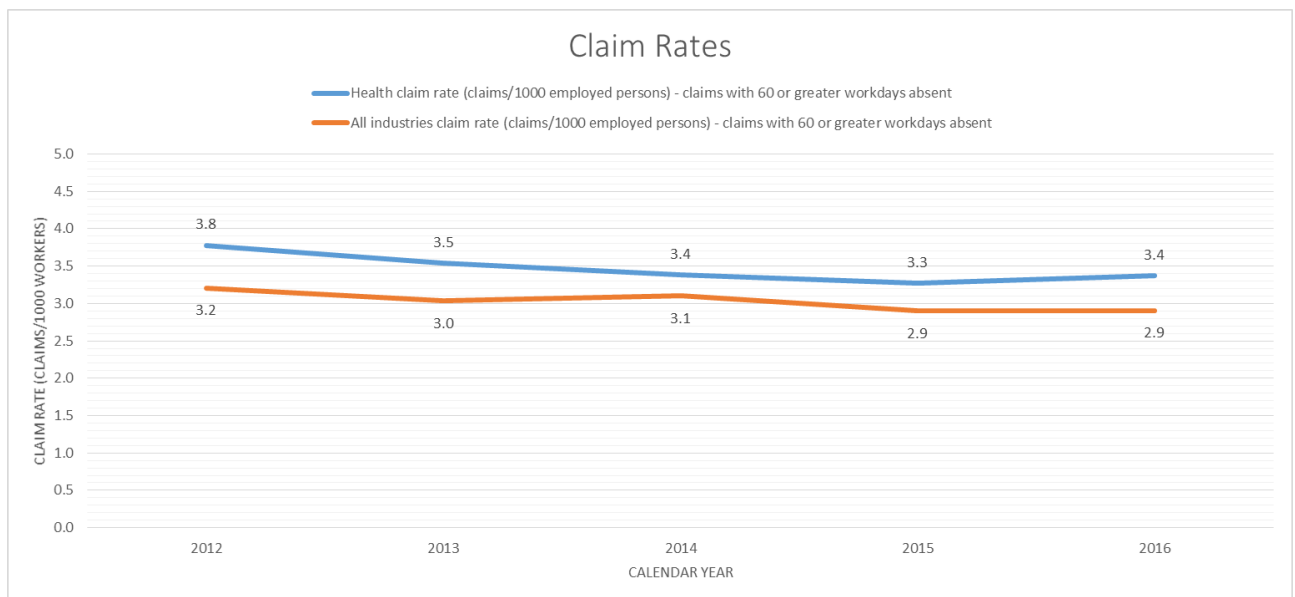
<sup>^</sup>Total statutory costs over the period - 2012 to 2016

## 3. Background – health industry

### 3.1 Incidence

The claim rate for Health claims with 60 or more workdays compensated has decreased over the past five years. The Health claim rate sits slightly above the claim rate for all Queensland industries. The average claim rate for Health over the period was 3.5 claims per 1000 workers, which is marginally higher than the average claim rate of 3 claims per 1000 workers for all industries. Refer to chart 1 below.

**Chart 1. Claim rates (2012 to 2016)**



### 3.2 Likelihood of ≥60 workdays compensated claims

On average, one in every 289 Queensland Health industry workers each year will experience a significant injury (an injury which results in a claim requiring 60 or more workdays compensated). Notably, Health workers are approximately 1.2 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 60 or more workdays compensated**

Calendar year	No. of claims	Labour force <sup>3</sup>	Likelihood (1 in X workers)
2012	1,054	278,900	1 in 265
2013	970	274,200	1 in 283
2014	994	293,700	1 in 295
2015	998	305,200	1 in 306
2016	1,046	310,300	1 in 297
<b>Average</b>			<b>1 in 289</b>

**Table 3. Likelihood - All other industry claims (excluding Health) with 60 or more workdays compensated**

Calendar year	No. of claims	Labour force <sup>3</sup>	Likelihood (1 in X workers)
2012	6,272	2,004,800	1 in 320
2013	5,994	2,021,700	1 in 337
2014	6,223	2,032,000	1 in 327
2015	5,827	2,047,500	1 in 351
2016	5,840	2,058,300	1 in 352
<b>Average</b>			<b>1 in 337</b>

### 3.3 Age distribution

*The rates in this section are significantly higher than other rates calculated in this paper due to different source denominators being used for age analysis. As such, they are not comparable.*

Almost 40 per cent of Health claims with 60 or more workdays compensated were for workers between the ages of 45 and 54 years.

Chart 2 shows the claim rates for claims with 60 or more workdays compensated by age group. Notably, the average claim rates for Health workers are slightly higher than the rates for all Queensland industries for those aged 45 to 54 and 60 to 64. However, the claim rates for the remaining age groups sit slightly below the rates for all Queensland industries.

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<sup>3</sup> Source: ABS labour force data

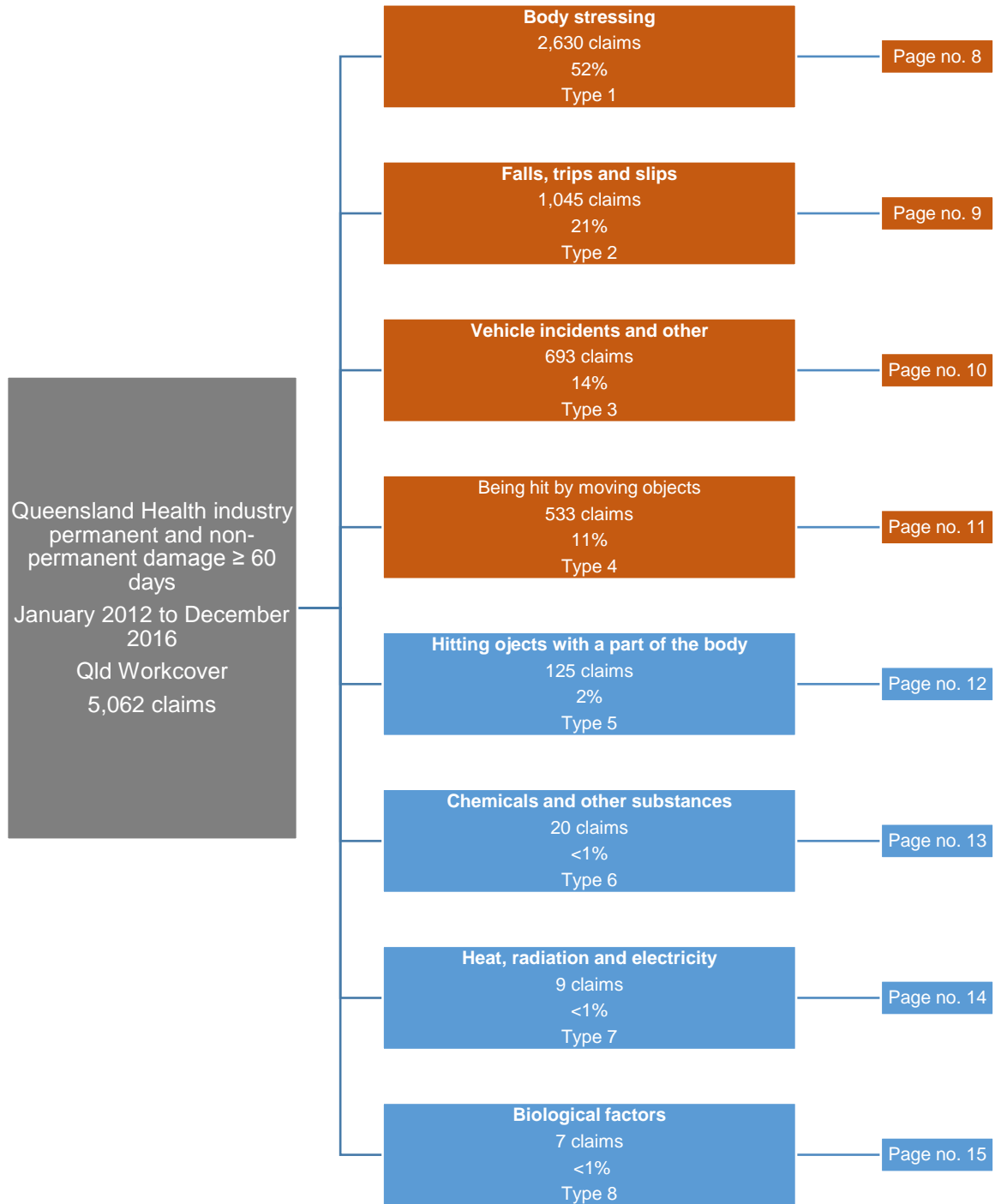
**Chart 2. Claims rates by age group (2012 to 2016)**



*Note: the age group rates were calculated using the average number of claims over the period (2012-2016) divided by the 2016 Census labour force numbers multiplied by 1000.*

## 4. Typology by mechanism (group)

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

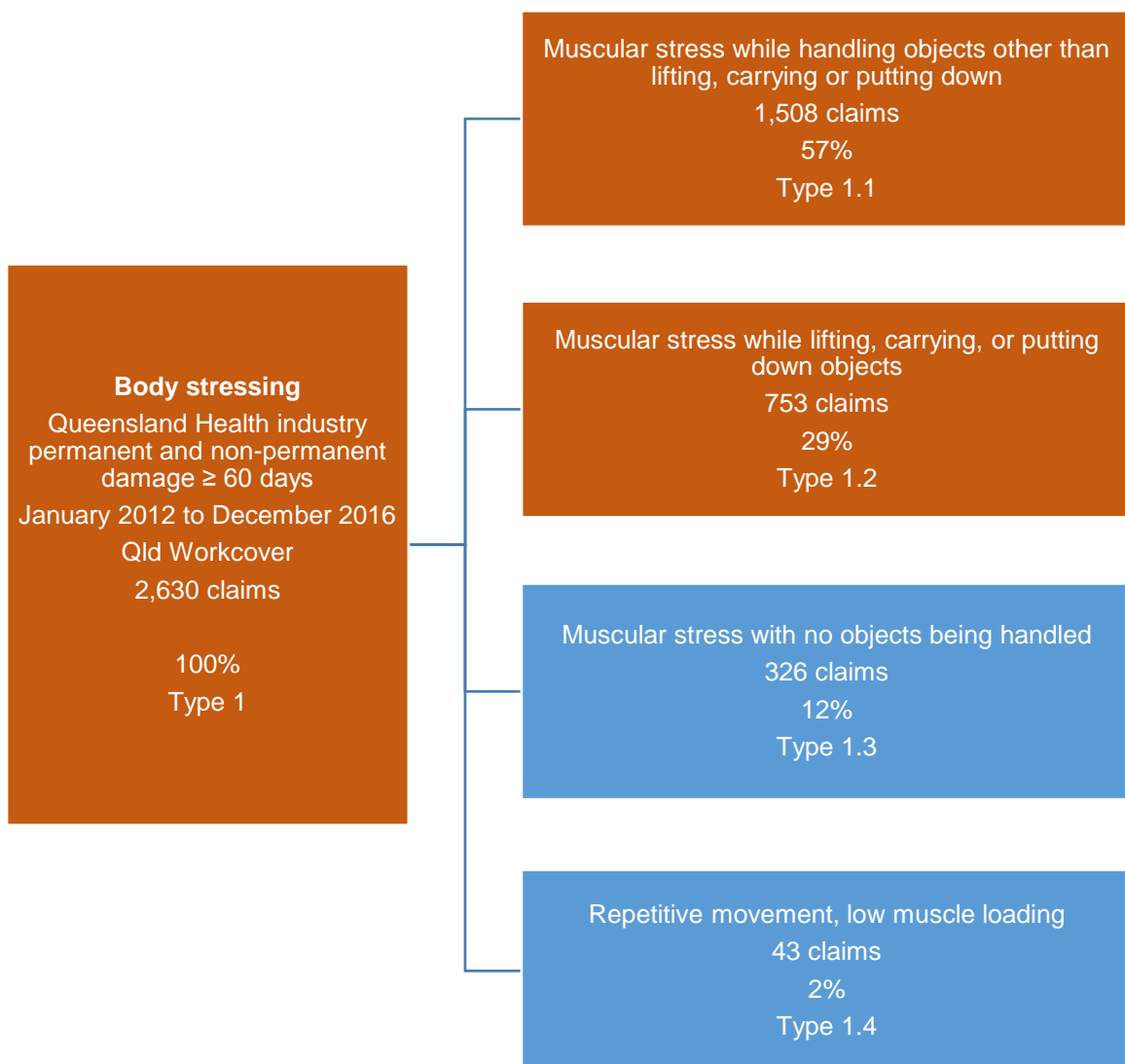




## 4.1 Type 1 – body stressing

*Body stressing represents 52 per cent of all Queensland Health claims ≥ 60 workdays compensated.*

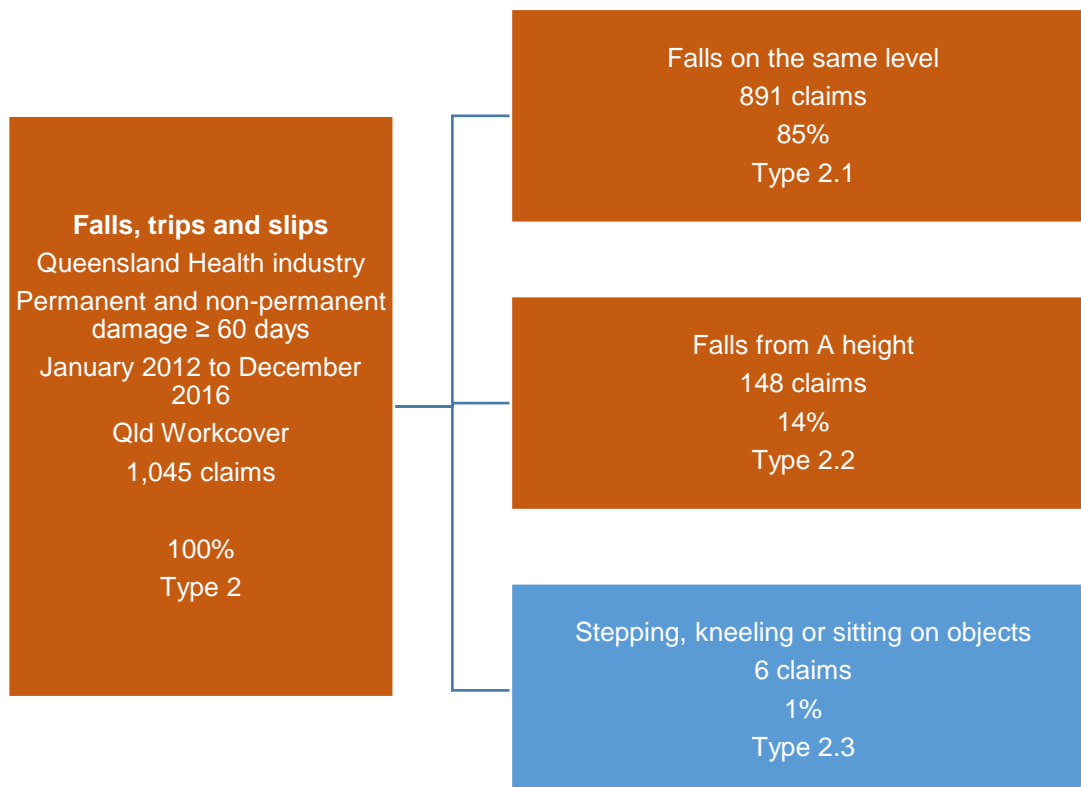
Many claims for body stressing were for carers and aides (1,029 claims or 39%) and nearly half (43%) of those claims related to back injuries.



## 4.2 Type 2 – falls, trips and slips

*Falls, trips and slips* represents 21 per cent of all Queensland Health claims  $\geq$  60 workdays compensated.

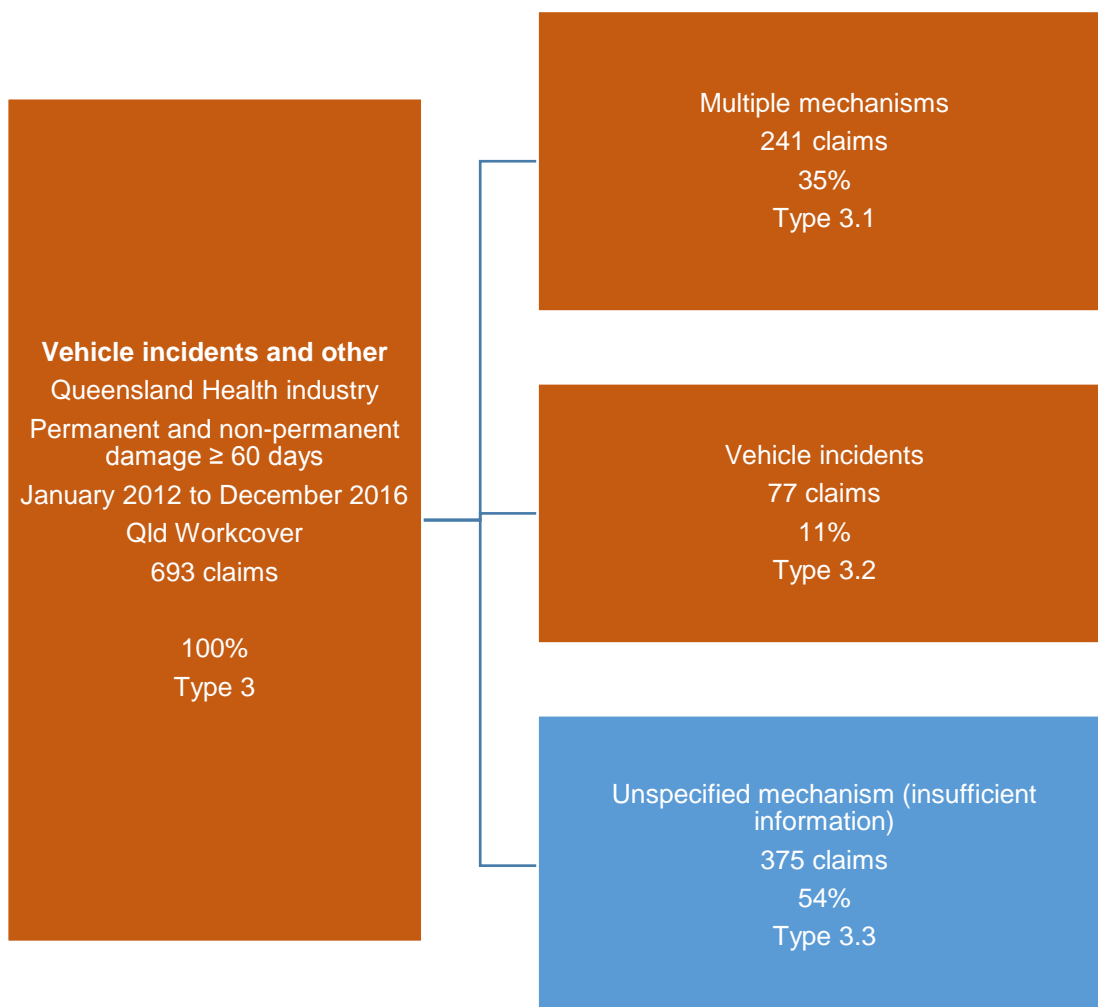
Carers and aides made up 39% of *falls, trips and slips* claims and nearly a half of those claims were associated with lower limbs (45%). Nearly a quarter (23%) of lower limb injuries of carers and aides were fractures.



## 4.3 Type 3 – vehicle incidents

*Vehicle incidents and other represents 14 per cent of all Queensland Health claims ≥ 60 workdays compensated.*

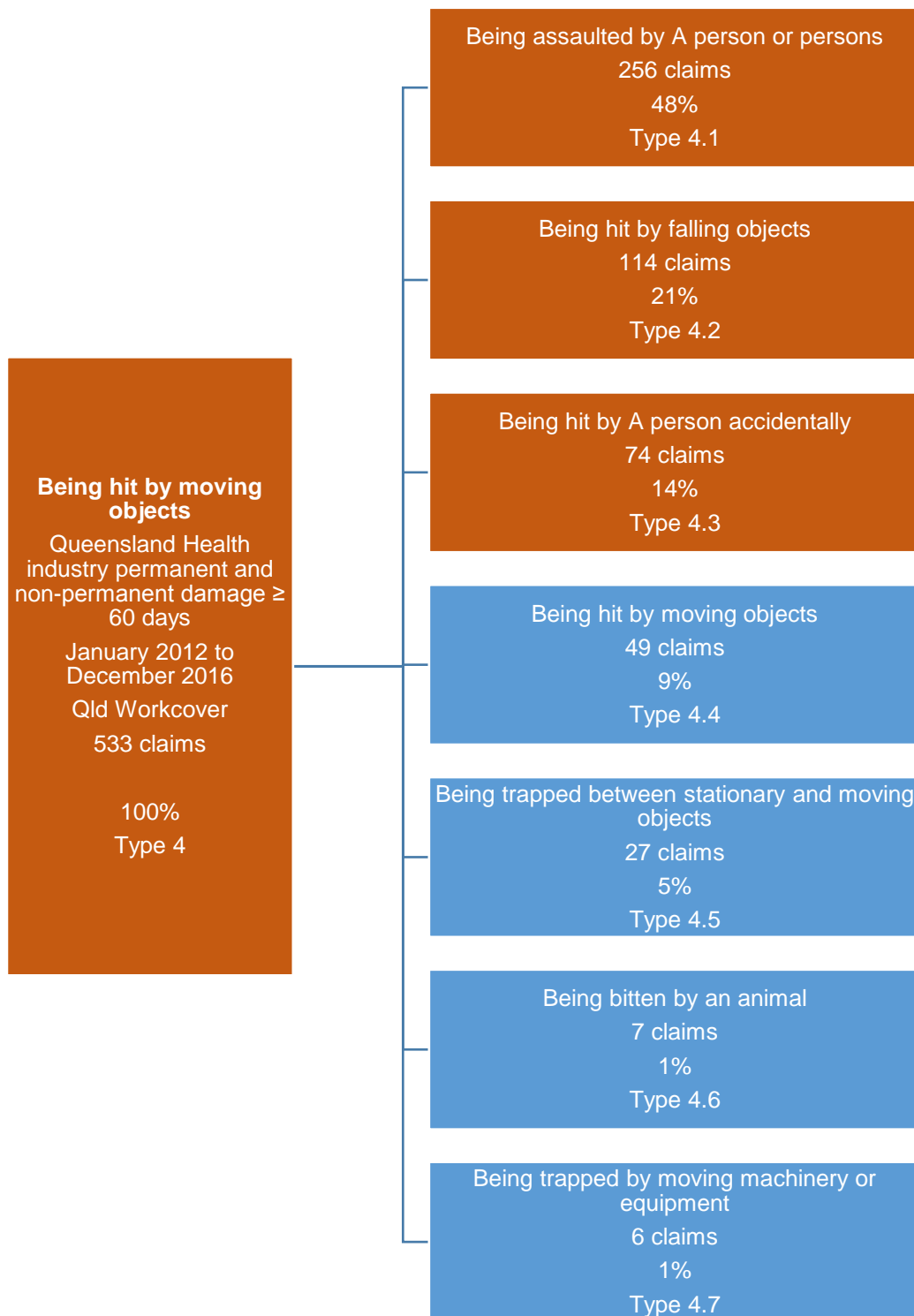
More than a quarter of vehicle incidents and other claims were for carers and aides (27%).



## 4.4 Type 4 – being hit by moving objects

*Being hit by moving objects represents 11 per cent of all Queensland Health claims ≥ 60 workdays compensated.*

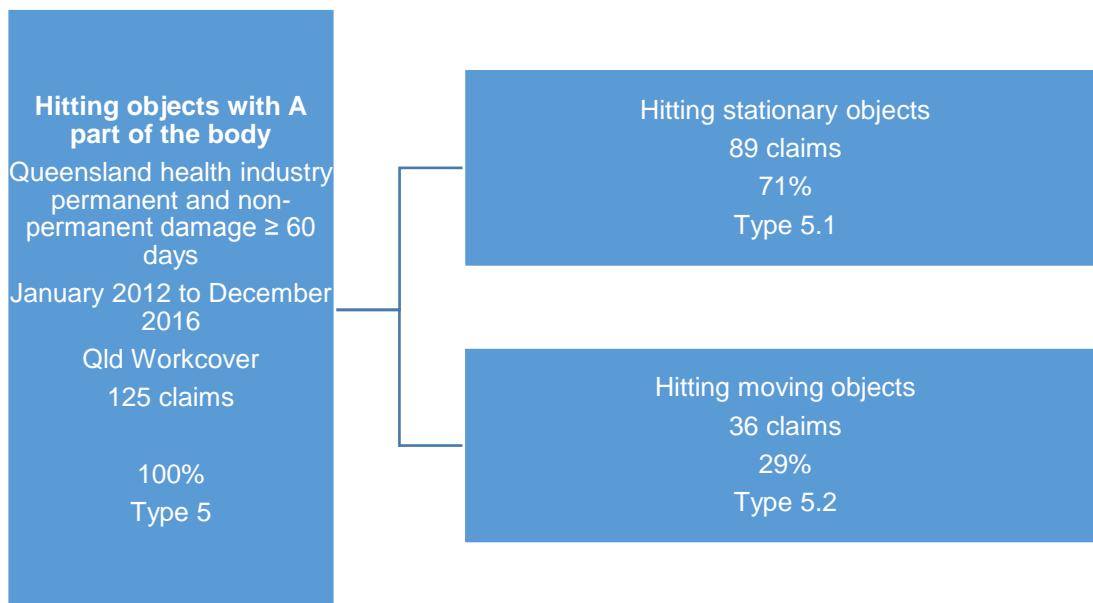
Carers and aides (38%) and health and welfare support workers (23%) accounted for nearly two thirds of claims (61%) where workers were hit by moving objects, and nearly half of those claims (44%) were associated with the upper limbs.



## 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 ≥ 60 workdays compensated.*

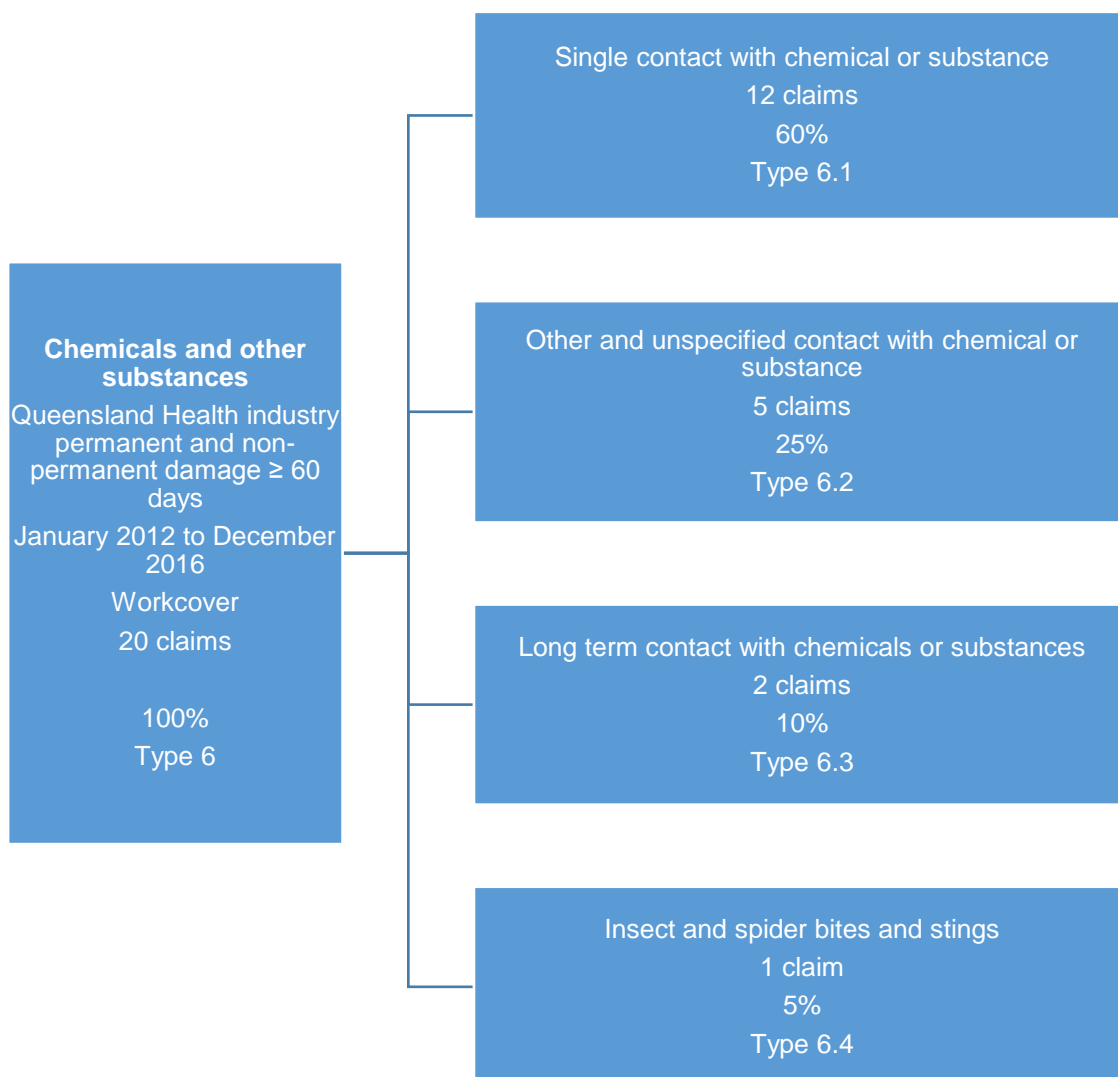
Carers and aides accounted for nearly a third (31%) of claims for this mechanism group and more than two thirds of those claims (69%) were associated with limbs.



## 4.6 Type 6 – chemicals and other substances

*Chemicals and other substances represents less than one (1) per cent of all Queensland Health claims ≥ 60 workdays compensated.*

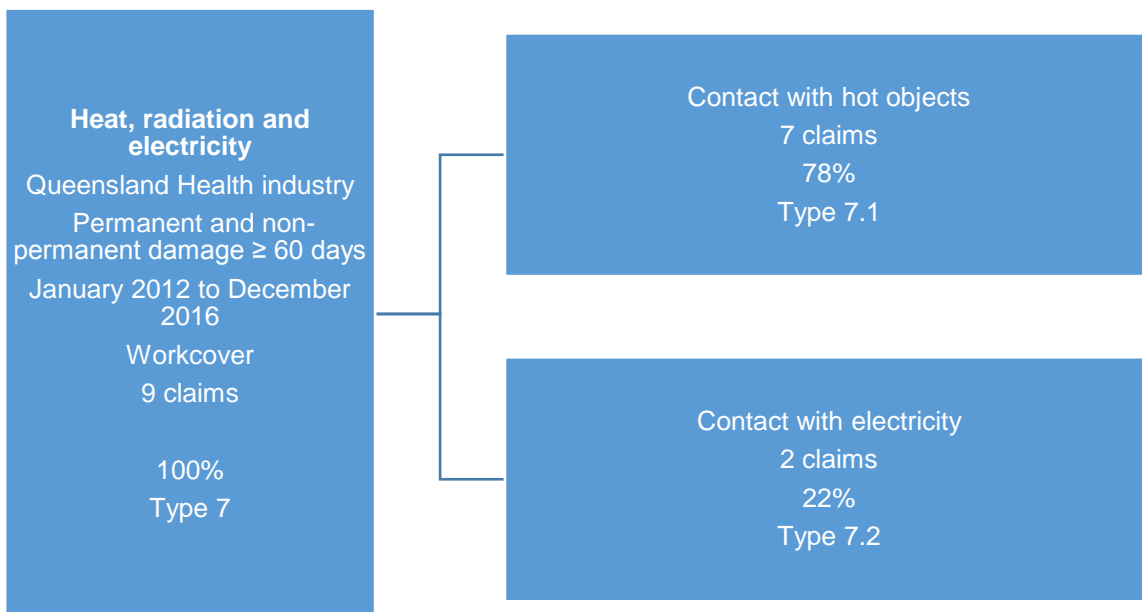
Single contact with chemical or substance was the mechanism of most claims in this group, making up 60% of the total. Of those 12 claims, two thirds were due to poisoning (42%) or contact dermatitis (25%).



## 4.7 Type 7 – heat, radiation and electricity

*Heat, radiation and electricity represents less than one (1) per cent of all Queensland Health claims ≥ 60 workdays compensated.*

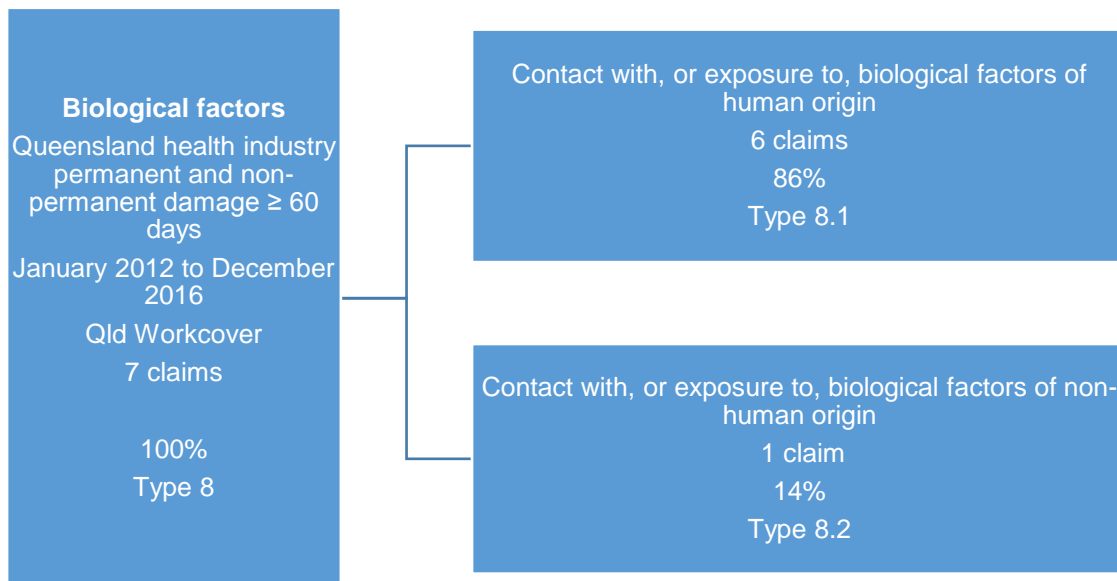
Most (7 claims or 78%) of these claims were for hot burns.



## 4.8 Type 8 – biological factors

*Biological factors represents less than one (1) per cent of all Queensland Health claims ≥ 60 workdays compensated.*

These claims were due to diverse causes including exposure to substances, q-fever, infectious or parasitic diseases, anxiety/depression.





## 5. Typology – summary of key findings

Over 85 per cent of claims with 60 or more workdays compensated were the result of either body stressing, falls 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 21 per cent of all relevant Health claims. Approximately, 85 per cent of the *fall* related injuries were due to a fall on the same level.

Injuries resulting from *vehicle incidents* represent 14 per cent of all relevant Health claims. On average, one Health worker per year was fatally injured over the period due to a vehicle related injury.

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