

## OIR Typology

### Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

## Typology: Wholesale trade industry

*Based on workers' compensation Wholesale Trade 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 Wholesale 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 18 per cent of all claims but amount to 78 per cent of all Wholesale claims costs over the period. The average claim rate was 7.6 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 Wholesale industry are 1.4 times more likely to experience a significant injury as workers in all other industries.

Wholesale workers between the ages of 35 to 54 years represent half of all Wholesale claims with 30 or more workdays compensated.

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

*Body stressing* injuries represent nearly half of all relevant Wholesale claims. Almost all *body stressing* injuries were the result of muscle strains while lifting or handling objects.

*Falls, trips and slips* injuries represent nearly a quarter of all relevant Wholesale claims. *Falls, trips and slips* injuries were mainly the result of a fall at level.

Injuries resulting from *being hit by moving objects* represent 13 per cent of all relevant Wholesale claims.

On average, one Wholesale worker a year over the period were fatally injured. Most of the fatalities were the result of a vehicle incident.

## 2. Introduction

This document provides a Typology based on *mechanism of incident* and relates to the Wholesale trade (hereafter, Wholesale) 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 claims<sup>1</sup> data where:

- the industry division<sup>2</sup> is Wholesale
- 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 Wholesale claims and overall costs for each claim category. Although claims with 30 or more workdays compensated make up only 18 per cent of all claims over the period, they account for 78 per cent of total claim costs.

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

**Table 1. Wholesale trade claims by category (2016–17 to 2020–21)**

Category	No. Of claims	% of claims	Total claim costs <sup>^</sup>	% of costs
Less than 30 workdays compensated	11,938	82%	\$33,500,623	21%
30 or more workdays compensated	2,697	18%	\$122,969,299	78%
Fatality claims	4	0%	\$1,671,102	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,639</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>\$158M</b>	<b>100%</b>

<sup>^</sup>Total statutory costs over the period – 2016–17 to 2020–21

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

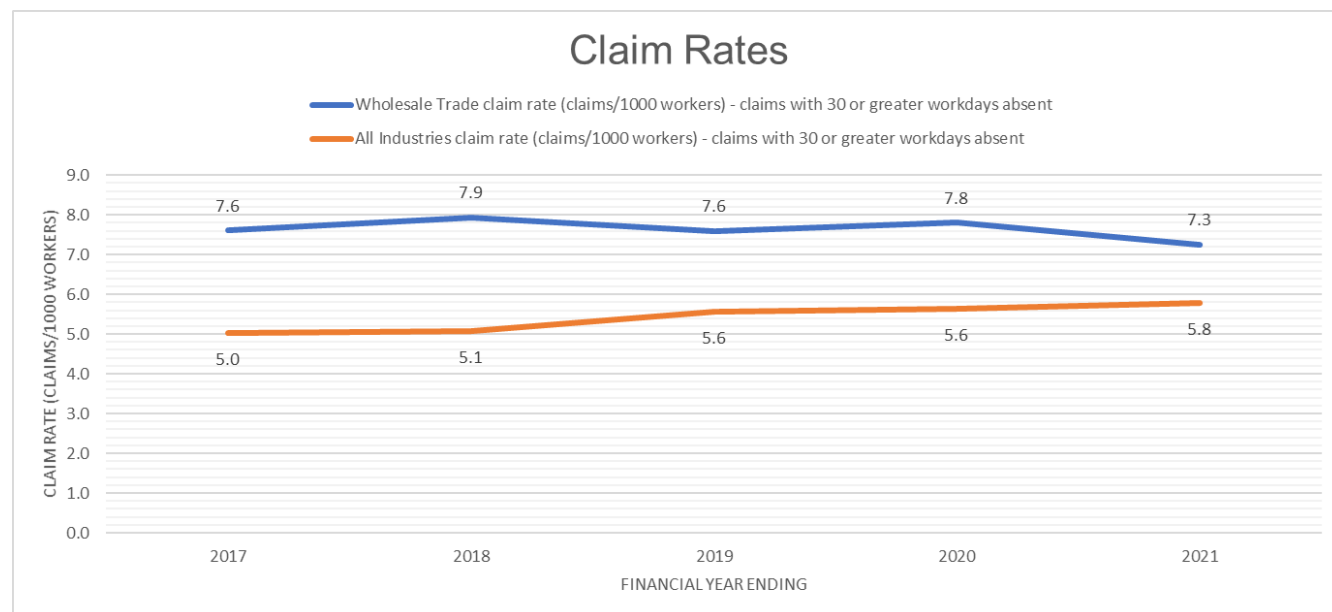
<sup>2</sup> Based on ABS: ANZSIC 2006 Classifications

## 3. Background – Wholesale industry

### 3.1 Incidence

The claim rate for Wholesale claims with 30 or more workdays compensated has remained relatively stable over the past five years. However, the Wholesale claim rate sits above the claim rate for all Queensland industries. The average claim rate for Wholesale over the period was 7.6 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 131 Queensland Wholesale workers each year will experience a significant injury (an injury which results in a claim requiring 30 or more workdays compensated). Wholesale workers are 1.4 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 – Wholesale trade claims with 30 or more workdays compensated**

Calendar year	No. of claims	Labour force <sup>3</sup>	Likelihood (1 in X workers)
2017	490	64,412	1 in 131
2018	511	64,372	1 in 126
2019	557	73,293	1 in 132
2020	560	71,816	1 in 128
2021	579	79,849	1 in 138
Average			1 in 131

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

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

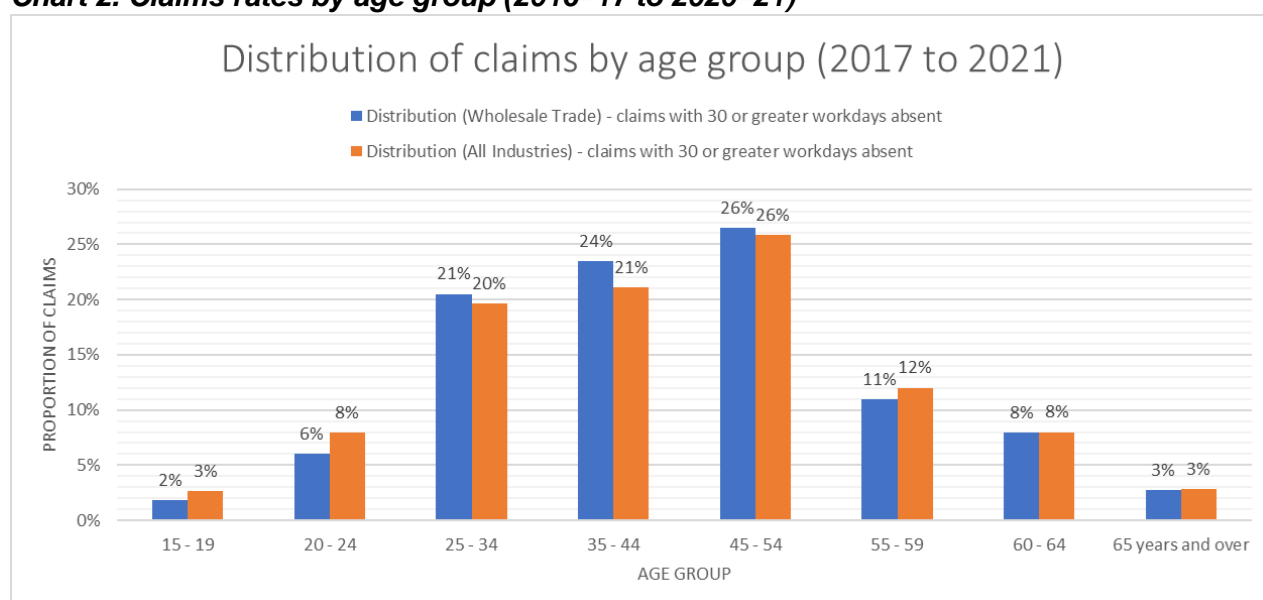
<i>Calendar year</i>	<i>No. of claims</i>	<i>Labour force<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>Likelihood (1 in X workers)</i>
2017	11,409	2,305,898	1 in 202
2018	11,991	2,404,564	1 in 201
2019	13,386	2,434,905	1 in 182
2020	13,559	2,437,683	1 in 180
2021	14,354	2,502,061	1 in 174
<b>Average</b>			<b>1 in 187</b>

### 3.3 Age distribution

Half of all Wholesale claims with 30 or more workdays compensated were for workers from the age of 35 to 54 years.

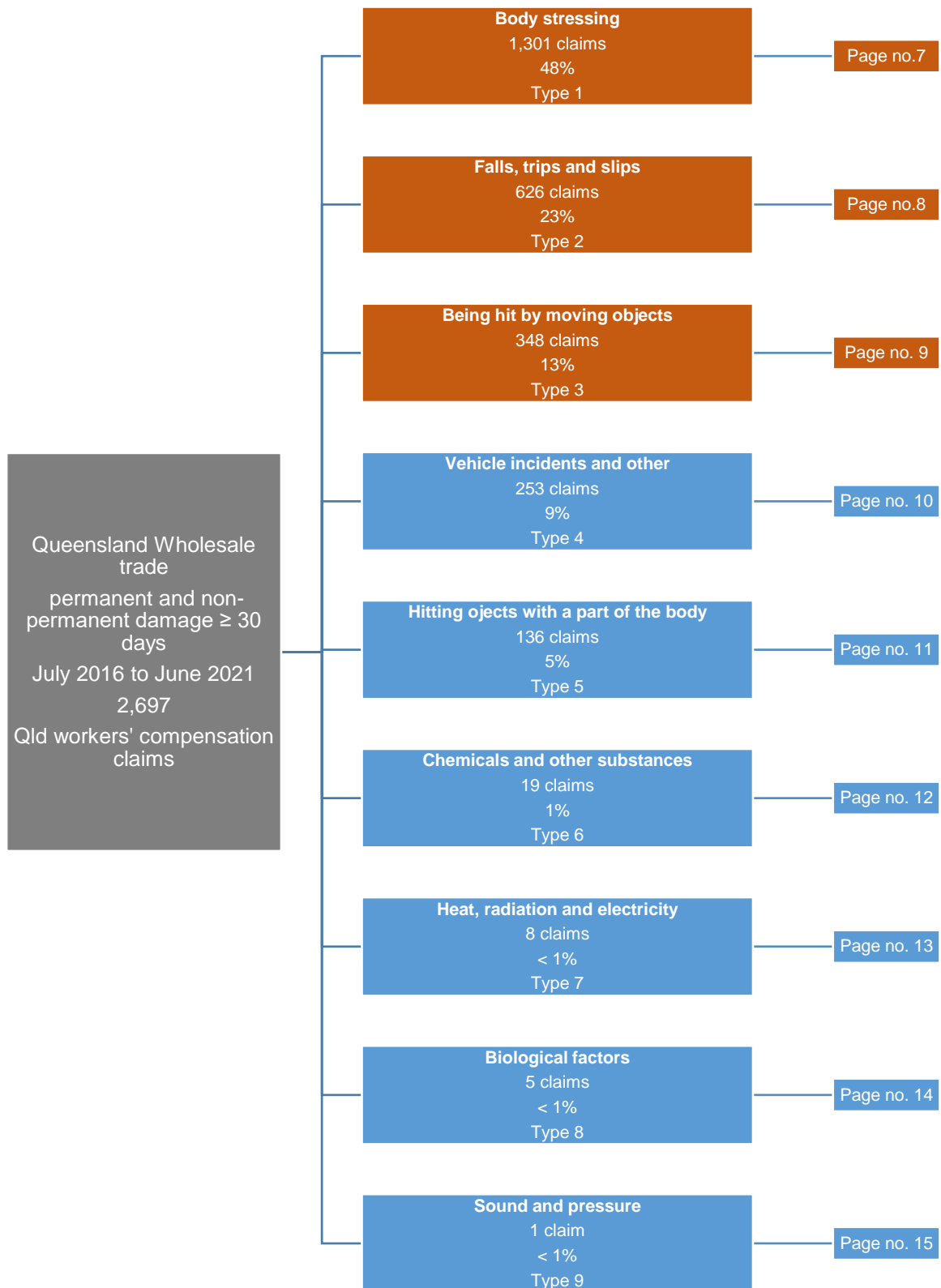
Chart 2 shows the distribution of claims with 30 or more workdays compensated by age group

**Chart 2. Claims rates by age group (2016–17 to 2020–21)**



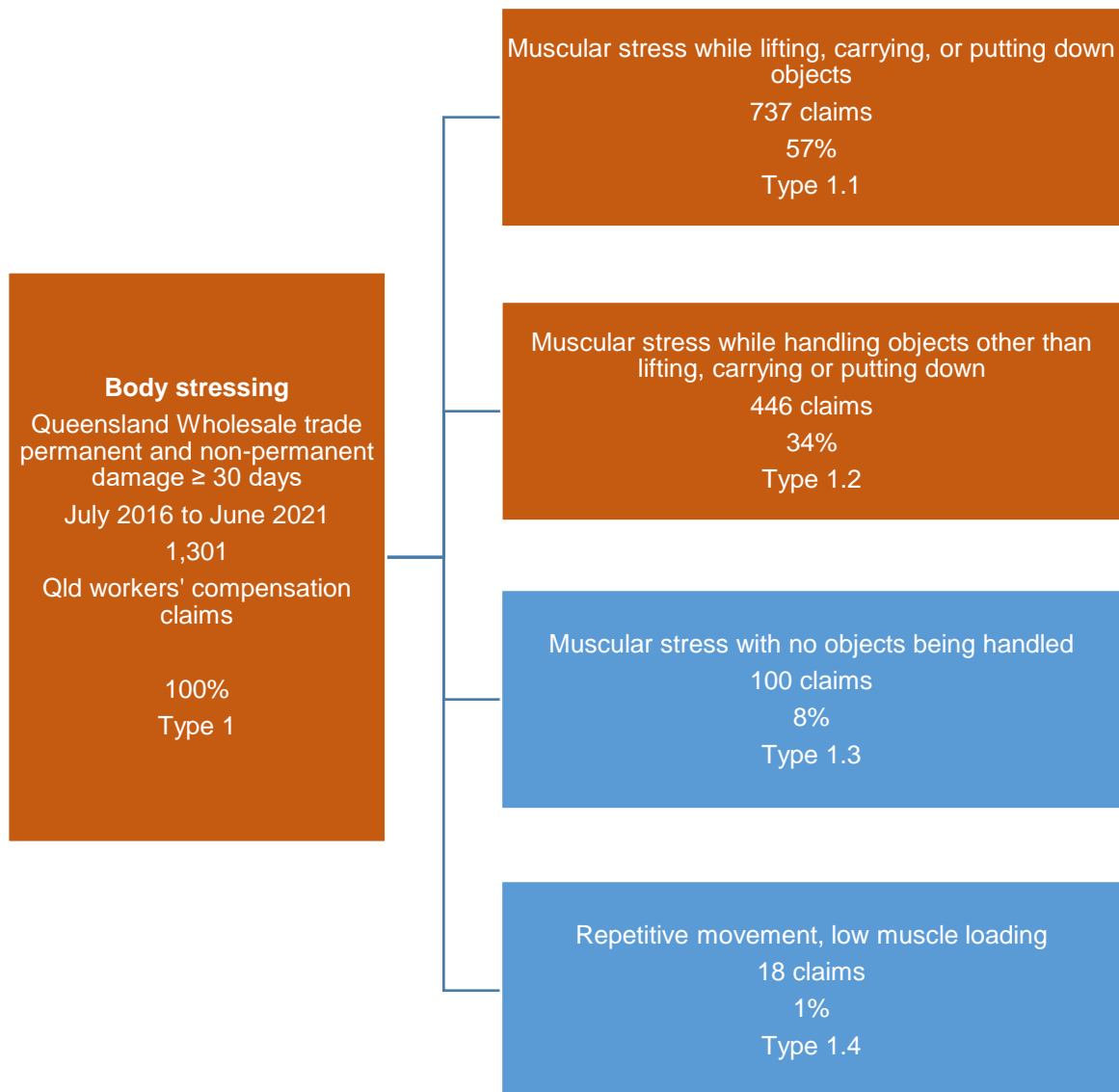
## 4. Typology by mechanism (group)

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



## 4.1 Type 1 – body stressing

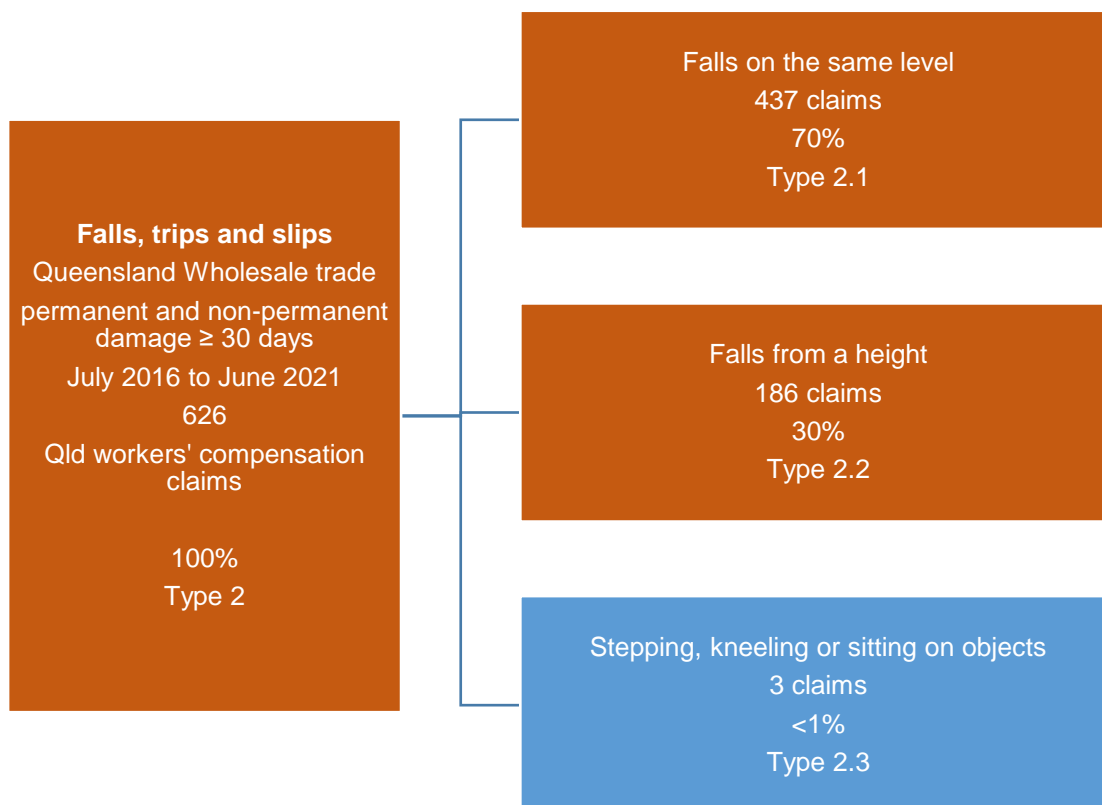
*Body stressing represents 48 per cent of all Queensland Wholesale claims  $\geq$  30 workdays compensated.*





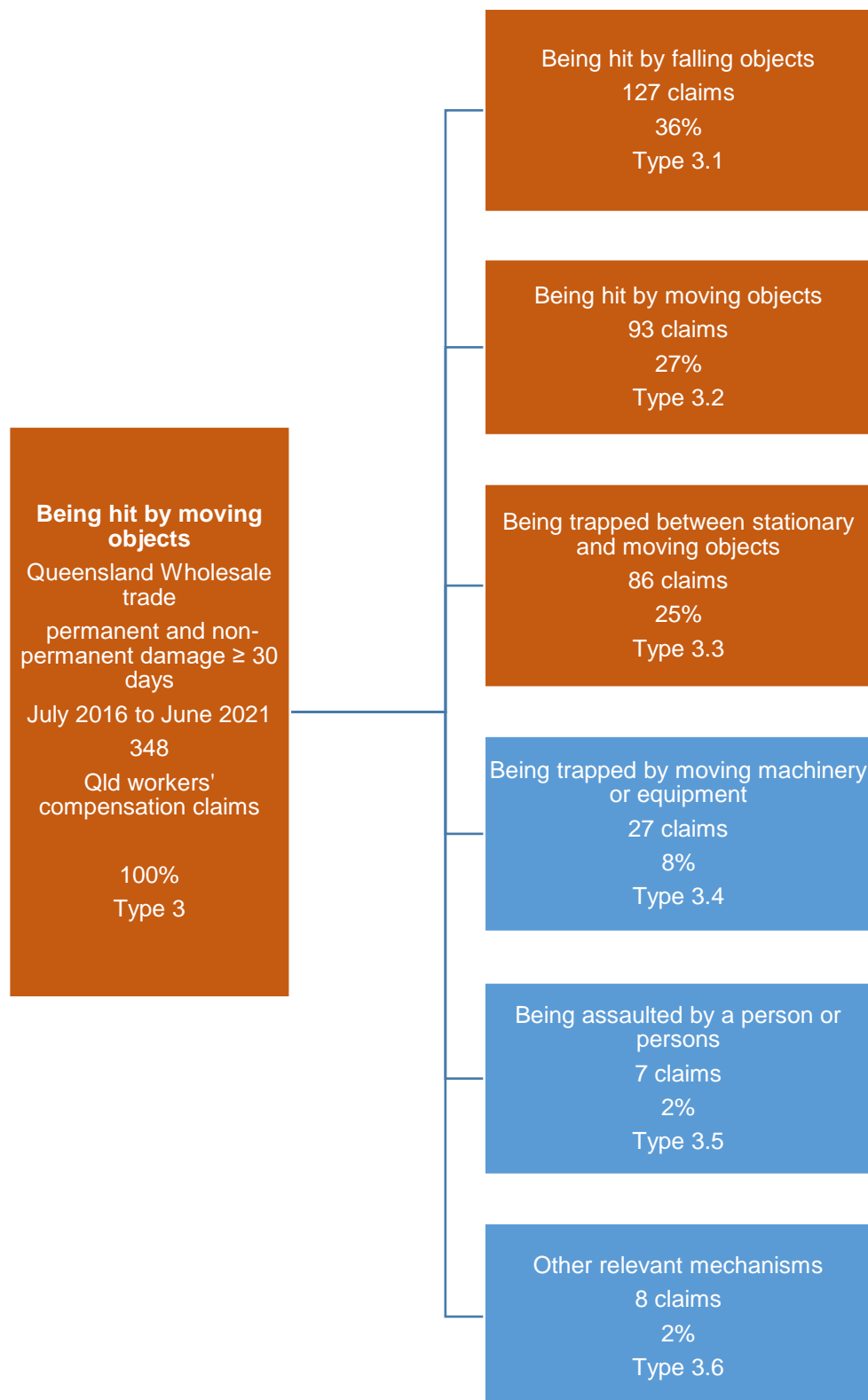
## 4.2 Type 2 – falls, trips and slips

*Falls, trips and slips represent 23 per cent of all Queensland Wholesale claims  $\geq$  30 workdays compensated.*



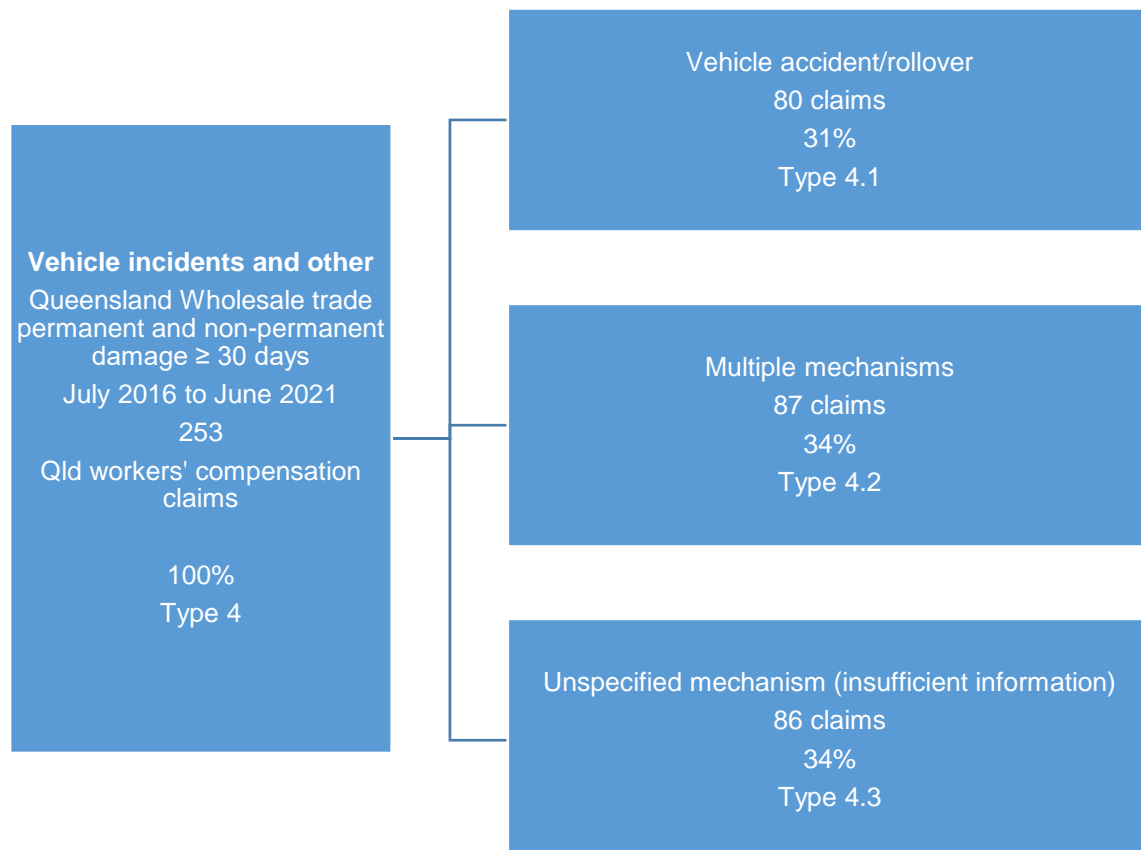
## 4.3 Type 3 – being hit by moving objects

*Being hit by moving objects represents 13 per cent of all Queensland Wholesale claims ≥ 30 workdays compensated.*



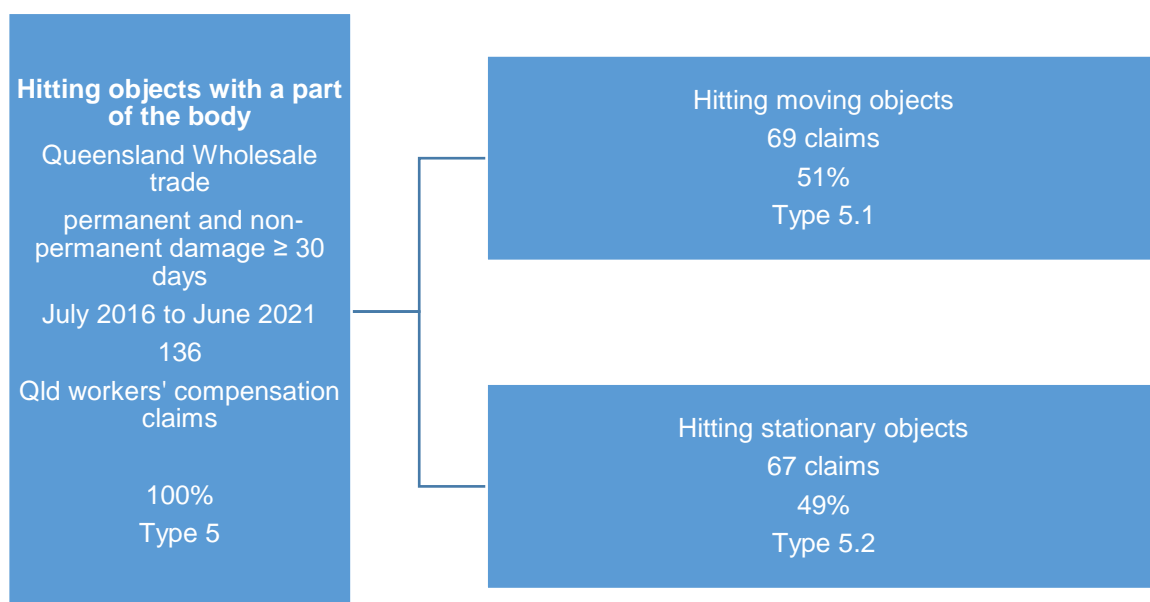
## 4.4 Type 4 – vehicle incidents and other

*Vehicle incidents and other represent nine (9) per cent of all Queensland Wholesale claims ≥ 30 workdays compensated.*



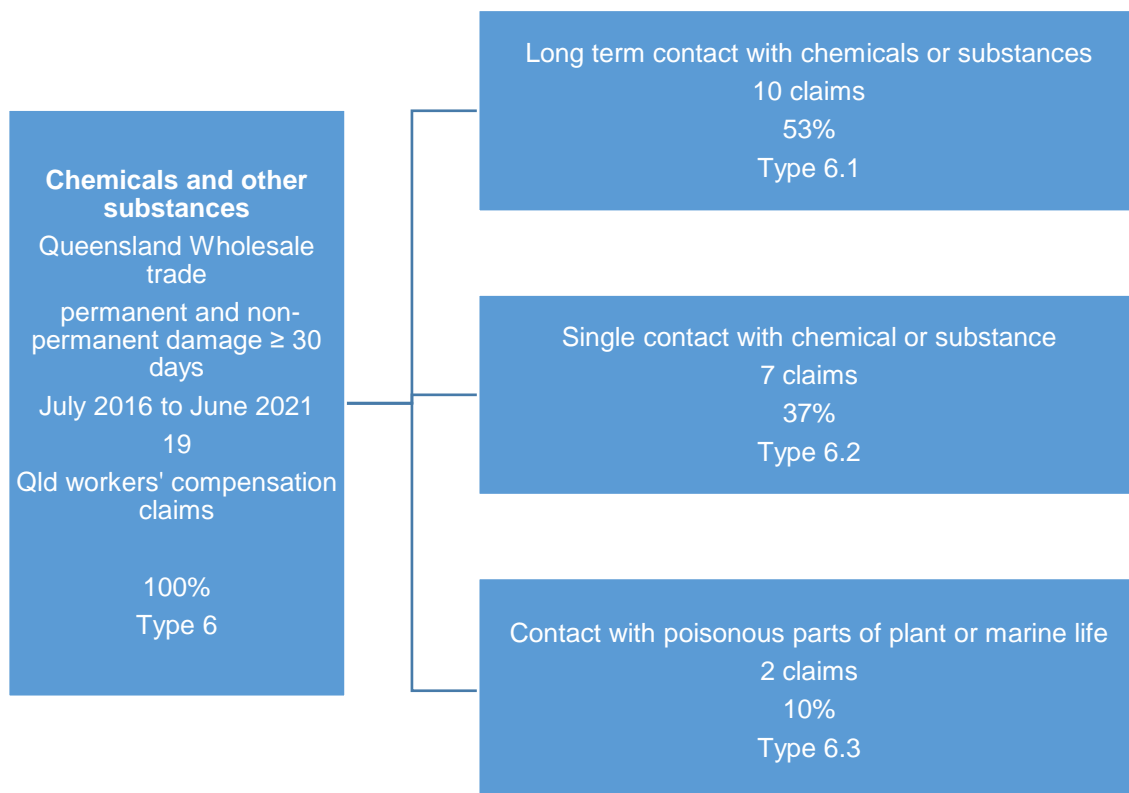
## 4.5 Type 5 – hitting objects with a part of the body

*Hitting objects with a part of the body represents five (5) per cent of all Queensland Wholesale claims ≥ 30 workdays compensated.*



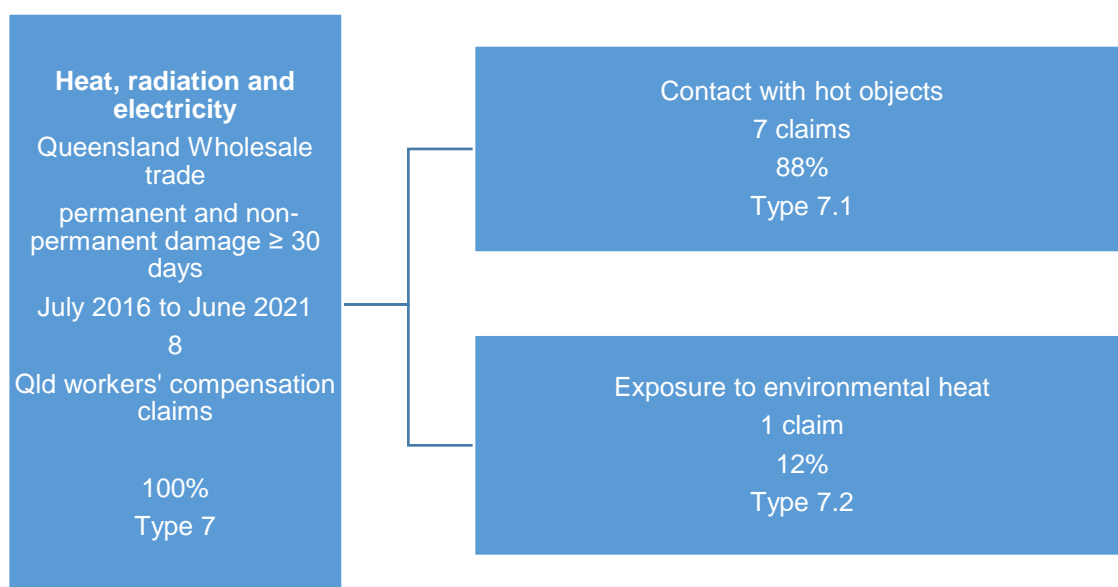
## 4.6 Type 6 – chemicals and other substances

*Chemicals and other substances represent one (1) per cent of all Queensland Wholesale claims  $\geq 30$  workdays compensated.*



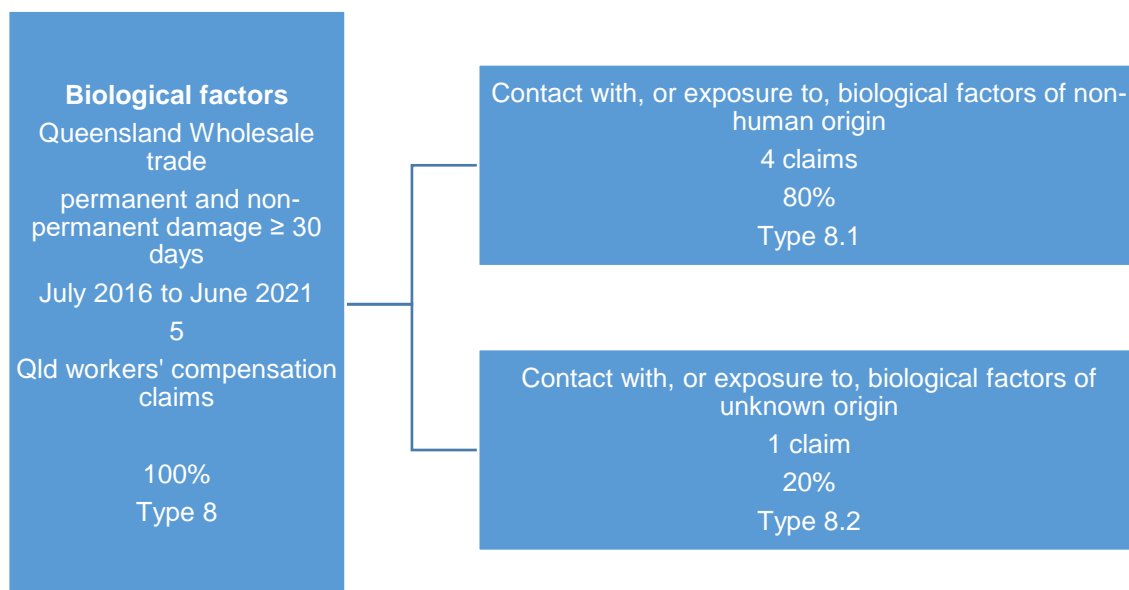
## 4.7 Type 7 – heat, radiation and electricity

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



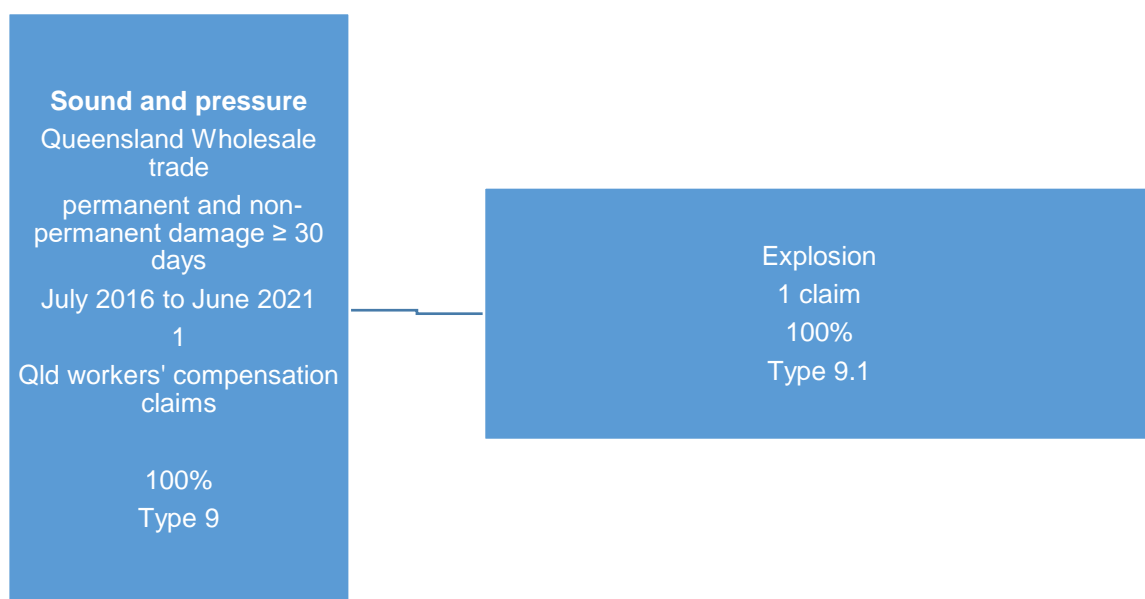
## 4.8 Type 8 – biological factors

*Biological factors represent less than one (1) per cent of all Queensland Wholesale claims ≥ 30 workdays compensated.*



## 4.9 Type 9 – sound and pressure

*Sound and pressure represent less than one (1) per cent of all Queensland Wholesale claims  $\geq 30$  workdays compensated.*





## 5. Typology – summary of key findings

Wholesale claims with 30 or more workdays compensated accounted for only 18 per cent of claims but 78 per cent of all costs over the period. The average claim rate was 7.6 claims per 1000 workers, higher than the rate for all Queensland industries.

Workers in the Wholesale industry are 1.4 times more likely to experience a significant injury as workers in all other industries.

Half of all Wholesale claims with 30 or more workdays compensated were lodged by Wholesale workers aged between 35 and 54 years.

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

*Body stressing* injuries made up nearly half of all relevant Wholesale claims. Almost all *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 Wholesale industry. For example, tasks involving loading and unloading goods.

*Falls, trips and slips* injuries represent nearly a quarter of all relevant Wholesale claims. *Falls, trips and slips* injuries were mostly the result of a fall at level.

Injuries resulting from *Being hit by moving objects* represent 13 per cent of all Wholesale claims with 30 or more workdays compensated.

On average, one Wholesale worker was fatally injured each year over the period. Most of the fatalities were the result of a vehicle incident.



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