

OIR Typology

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Typology: Transport industry

Based on workers' compensation Transport 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 Transport 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 27 per cent of all Transport claims and 80 per cent of the claim costs over the period. The average claim rate was 7.6 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 Transport industry are nearly one and a half times more likely to experience a significant injury as workers in all *other* industries.

Claims for older Transport workers aged 45 and over represent almost two-thirds of all Transport 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 vehicle incidents.

Body stressing injuries represent 42 per cent of all relevant Transport 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 over a quarter of all relevant Transport claims. *Falls, trips and slips* injuries were the result of either a fall from height or at level.

Injuries resulting from *vehicle incidents* represent 14 per cent of all relevant Transport claims. Not surprisingly, 75 per cent of the Transport related fatalities over the period were due to vehicle incidents.

2. Introduction

This document provides a Typology based on *mechanism of incident* and relates to the Transport, postal and warehousing (hereafter, Transport) 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 Transport
- 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 shows the number of Transport claims and overall costs for each claim category. Although claims with 30 or more workdays compensated make up only 27 per cent of all claims over the period, they account for 80 per cent of total claim costs.

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

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

Category	No. of claims	% of claims	Total claim costs [^]	% of costs
Less than 30 workdays compensated	13,466	73%	\$49M	15%
30 or more workdays compensated	5,094	27%	\$264M	80%
Fatality claims	36	0%	\$16M	5%
Total	18,596	100%	\$329M	100%

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

¹ Source: Queensland Employee Injury Database (QEIDB)

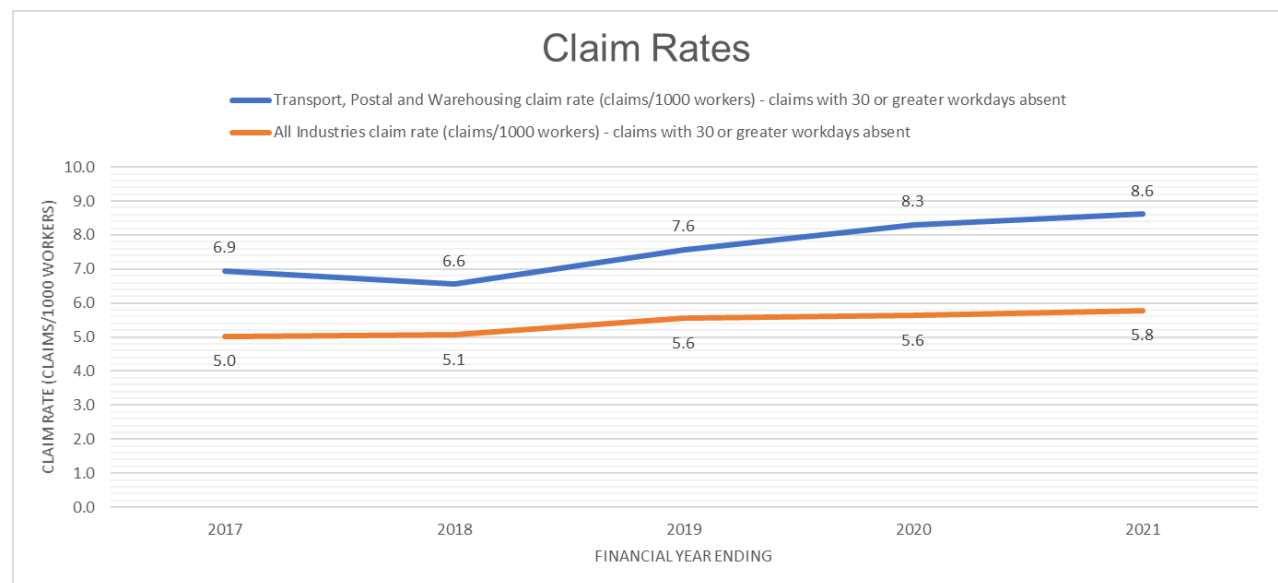
² Based on ABS: ANZSIC 2006 Classifications

3. Background – Transport industry

3.1 Incidence

The claim rate for Transport claims with 30 or more workdays compensated has increased over the past five years. The Transport claim rate sits above the claim rate for all Queensland industries. The average claim rate for Transport over the period was 7.6 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 132 Queensland Transport workers each year will experience a significant injury (an injury which results in a claim requiring 30 or more workdays compensated). Notably, Transport workers are 1.4 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 – Transport claims with 30 or more workdays compensated

Calendar year	No. of claims	Labour force ³	Likelihood (1 in X workers)
2017	920	132,428	1 in 144
2018	922	140,503	1 in 152
2019	1,032	136,321	1 in 132
2020	1,067	128,558	1 in 120
2021	1,153	133,883	1 in 116
Average			1 in 132

³ Source: ABS labour force data

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

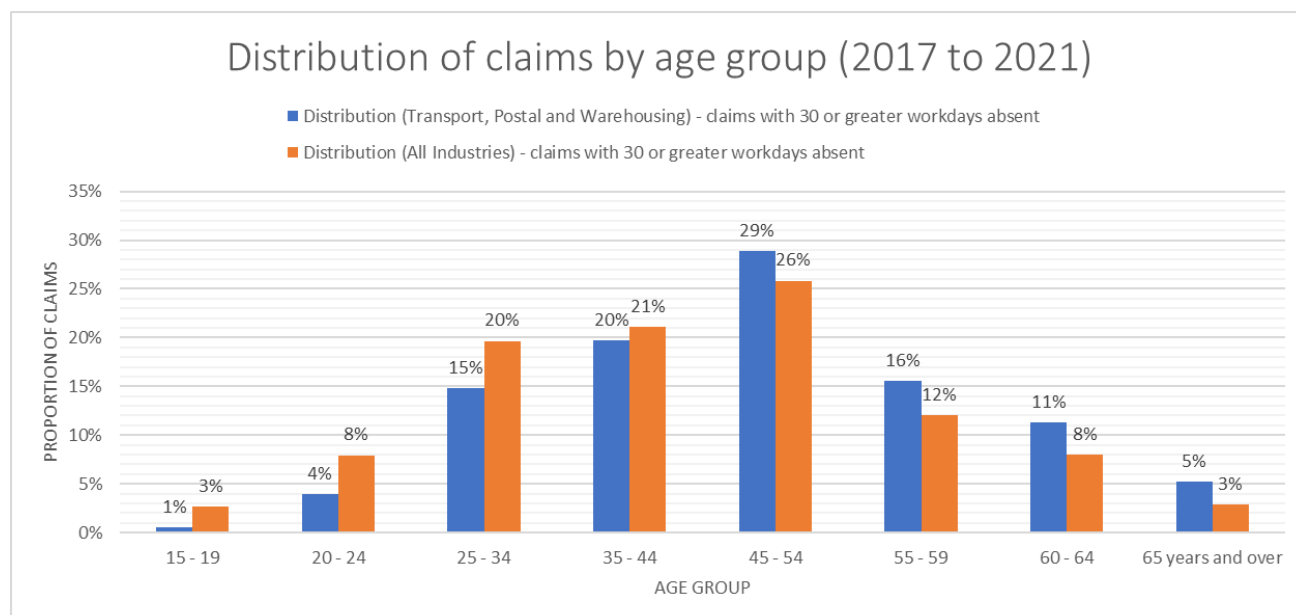
Calendar year	No. of claims	Labour force ³	Likelihood (1 in X workers)
2017	10,979	2,237,882	1 in 204
2018	11,580	2,328,433	1 in 201
2019	12,911	2,371,877	1 in 184
2020	13,052	2,380,940	1 in 182
2021	13,780	2,448,027	1 in 178
Average			1 in 189

3.3 Age distribution

Almost two-thirds of all Transport claims with 30 or more workdays compensated were for older workers 45 years and over.

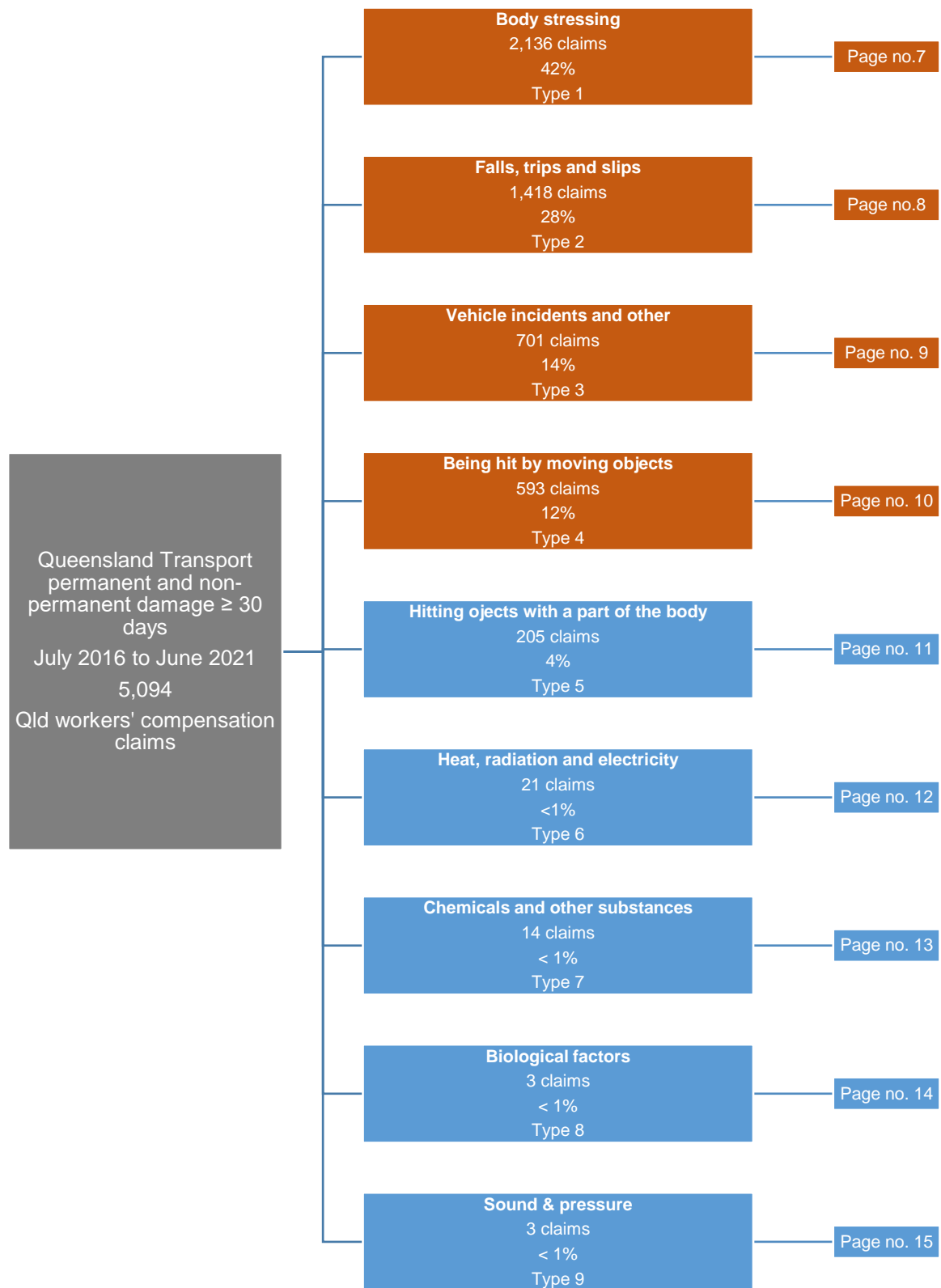
Chart 2 shows the distribution of claims with 30 or more workdays compensated by age group. Notably, the proportion of Transport claims by age are higher in every category from 45 years compared to all Queensland industries.

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



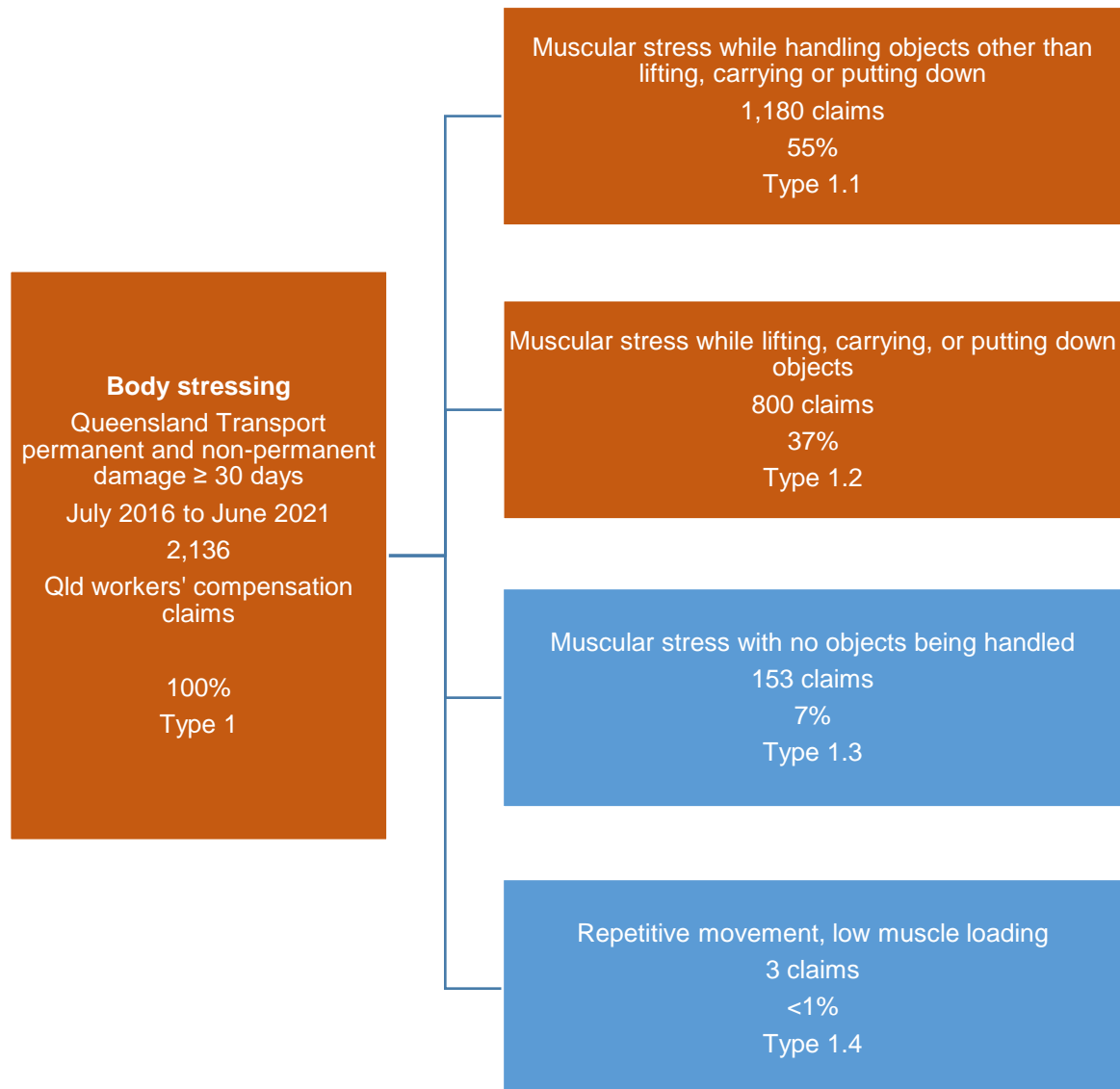
4. Typology by mechanism (group)

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



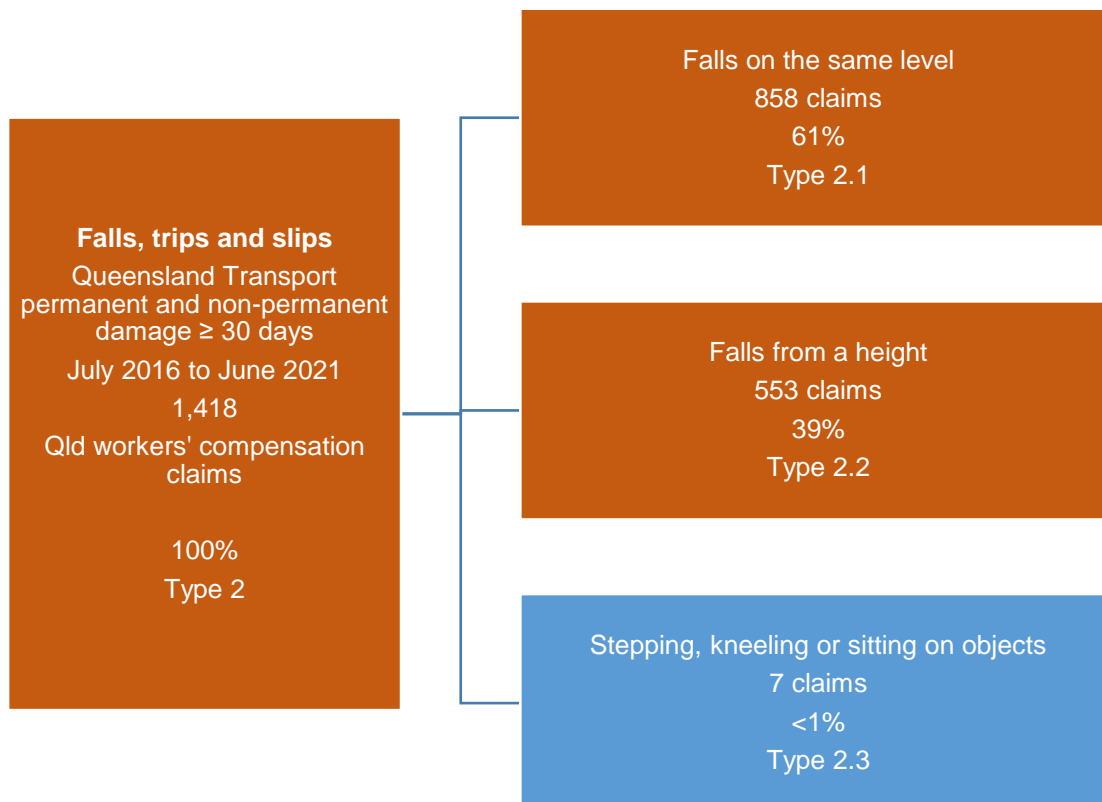
4.1 Type 1 – body stressing

Body stressing represents 42 per cent of all Queensland Transport claims \geq 30 workdays compensated.



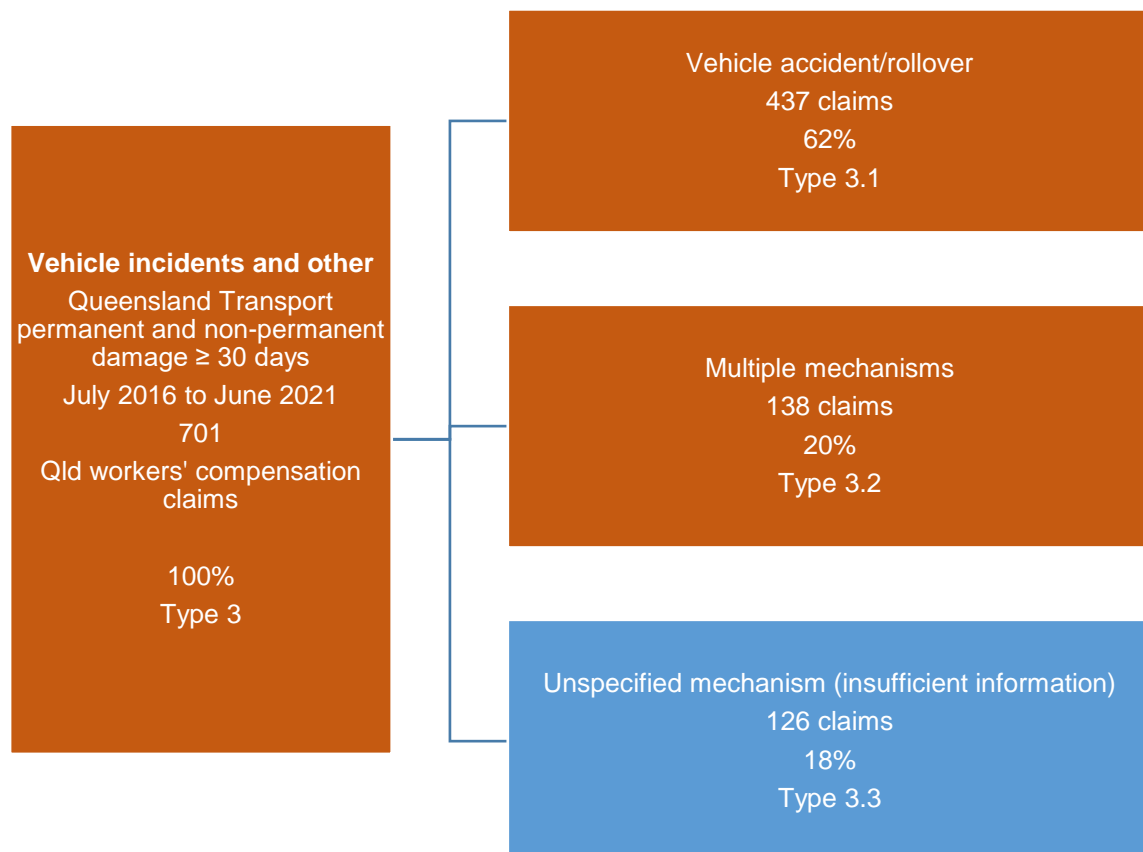
4.2 Type 2 – falls, trips and slips

Falls, trips and slips represents 28 per cent of all Queensland Transport claims ≥ 30 workdays compensated.



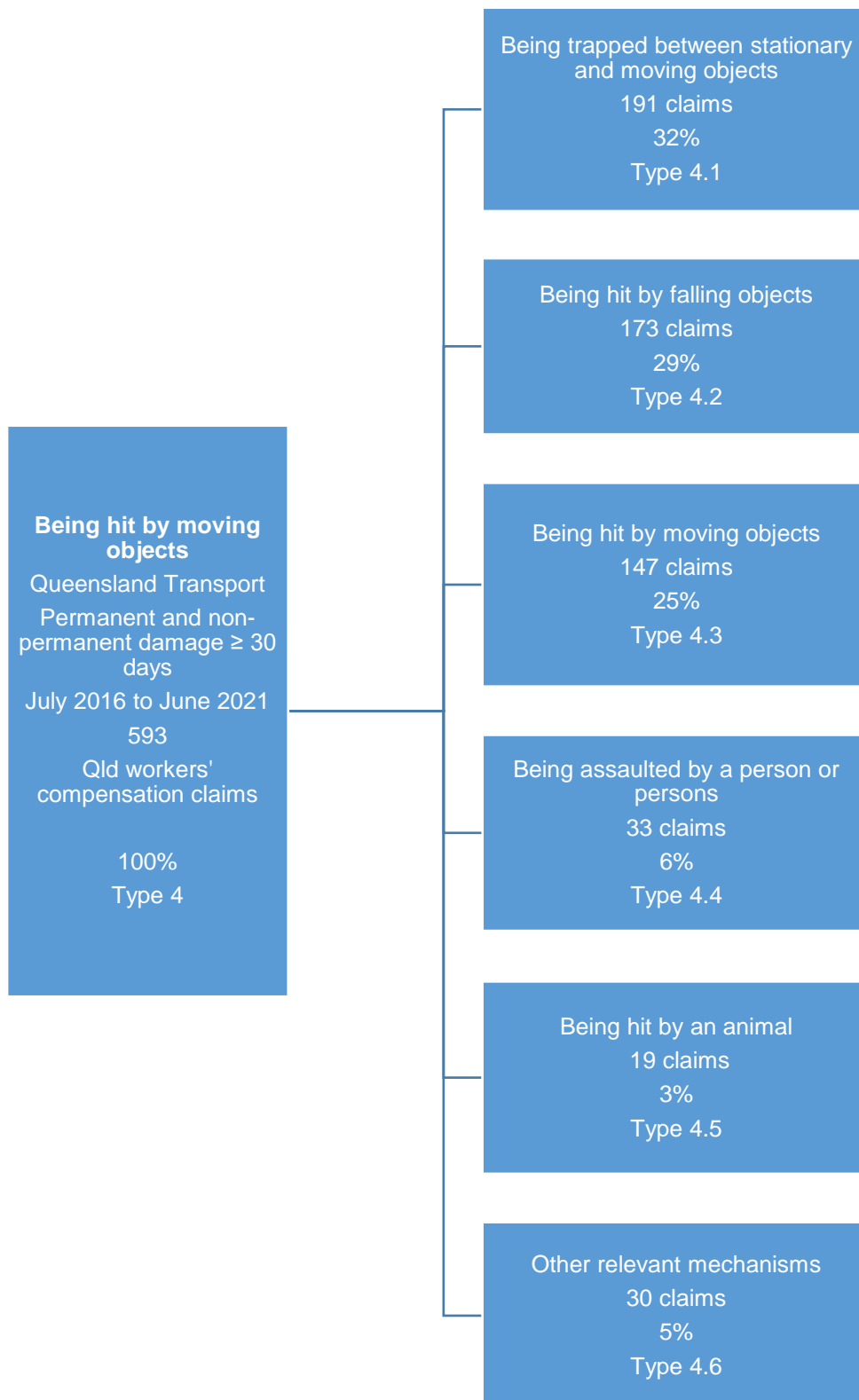
4.3 Type 3 – vehicle incidents and other

Vehicle incidents and other represent 14 per cent of all Queensland Transport claims ≥ 30 workdays compensated.



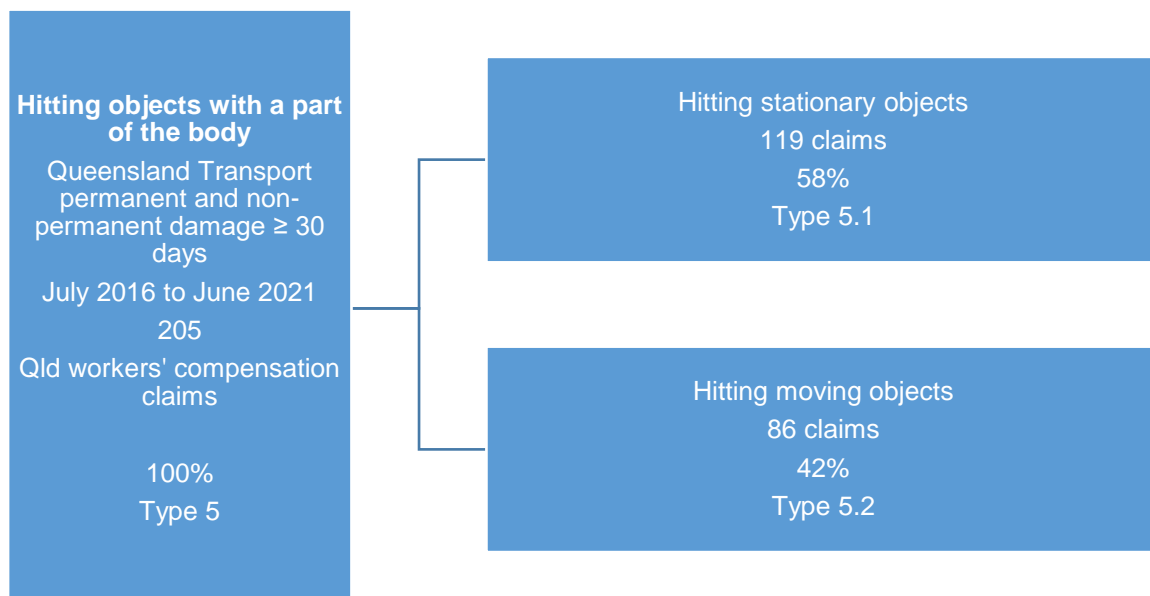
4.4 Type 4 – being hit by moving objects

Being hit by moving objects represents 12 per cent of all Queensland Transport claims ≥ 30 workdays compensated.



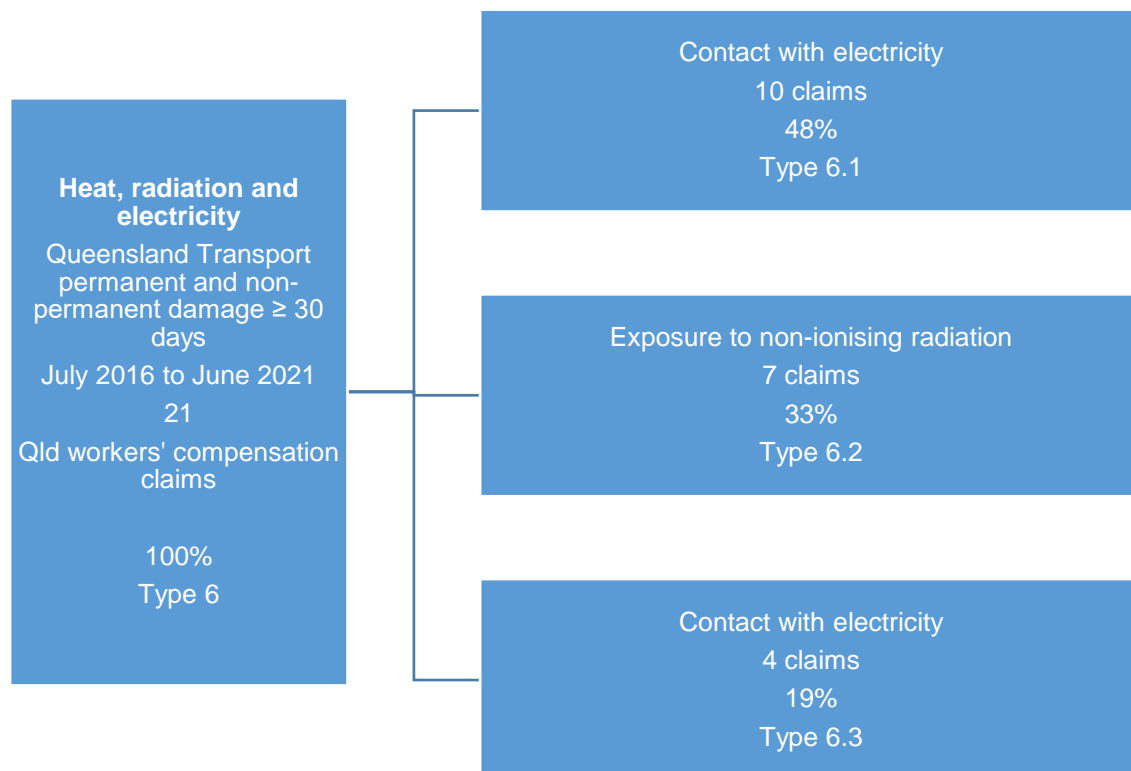
4.5 Type 5 – hitting objects with a part of the body

Hitting objects with a part of the body represents four (4) per cent of all Queensland Transport claims ≥ 30 workdays compensated.



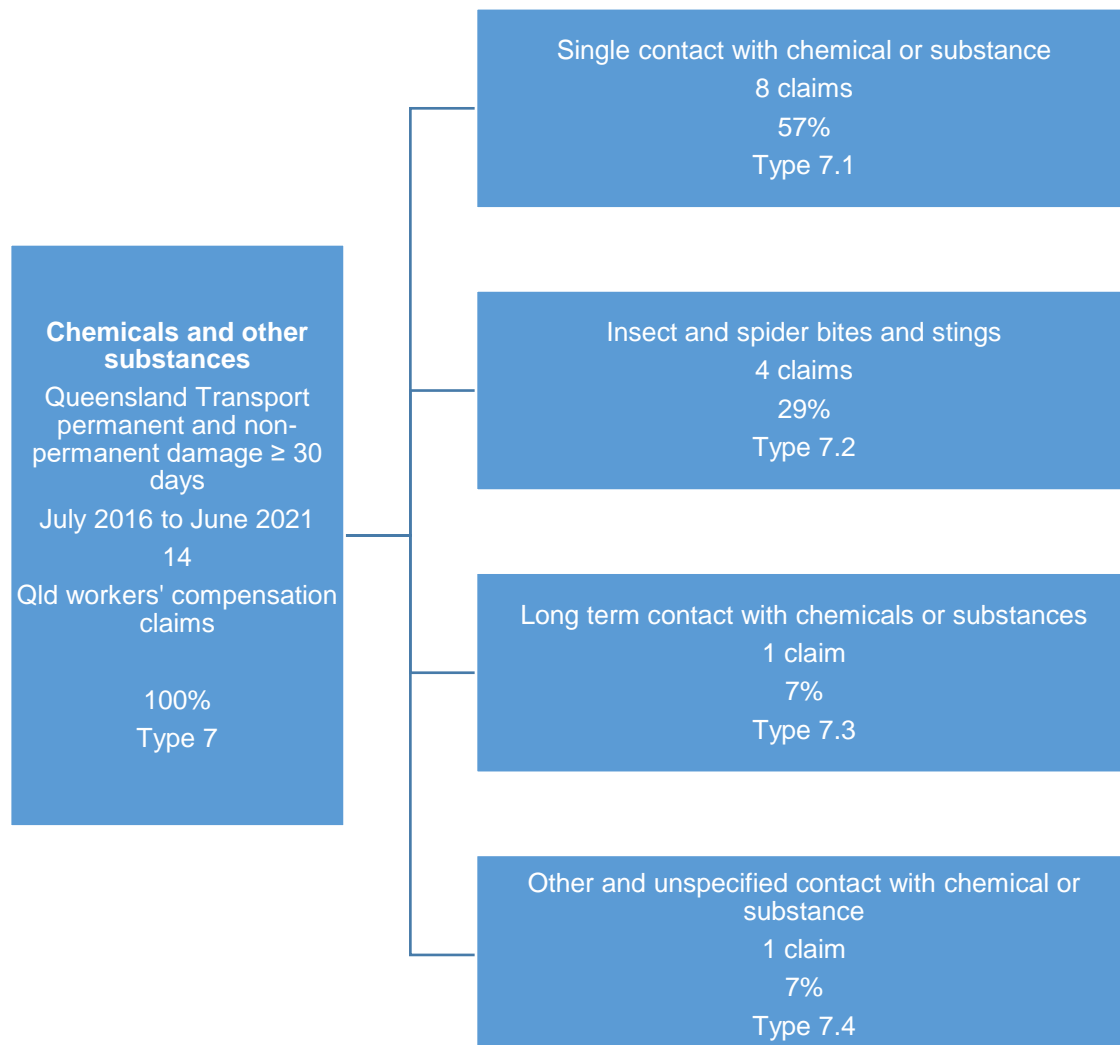
4.6 Type 6 – heat, radiation and electricity

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



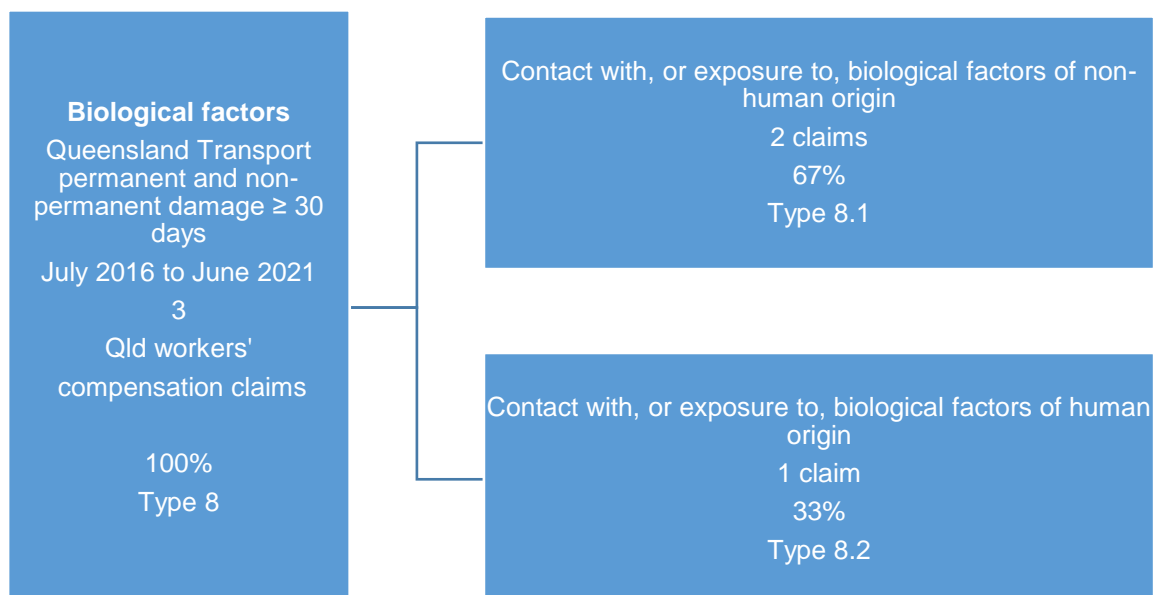
4.7 Type 7 – chemicals and other substances

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



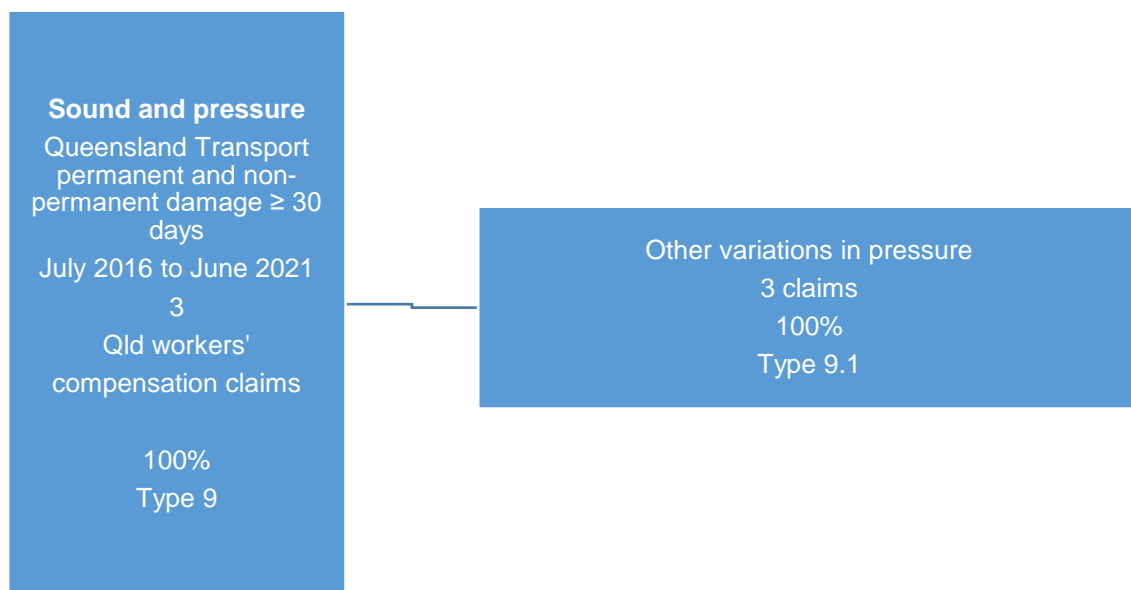
4.8 Type 8 – biological factors

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



4.9 Type 9 – sound and pressure

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



5. Typology – summary of key findings

Claims with 30 or more workdays compensated account for 27 per cent of all Transport claims and 80 per cent of the claim costs over the period.

The average claim rate was 7.6 claims per 1000 workers, higher than the average claim rate for all Queensland industries. Workers in the Transport industry are nearly one and a half times more likely to experience a significant injury as workers in all other industries.

Claims for older Transport workers aged 45 and over represent almost two-thirds of all Transport 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 vehicle incidents.

Body stressing injuries represent 42 per cent of all relevant Transport claims. Almost all 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 Transport industry.

Falls, trips and slips injuries represent 28 per cent of all relevant Transport claims. *Falls, trips and slips* injuries were the result of either a fall from height or at level.

Injuries resulting from *vehicle incidents* represent 14 per cent of all Transport claims with 30 or more workdays compensated. Not surprisingly, 75 per cent of the Transport related fatalities over the period were due to vehicle incidents.



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