



LONG DURATION CLAIMS



Long duration claims in the WA workers' compensation scheme


2012/13 - 2015/16


Statistical Report
June 2017 (Reissue)



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WorkCover WA is the government agency responsible for overseeing the WA workers' compensation and injury management system. WorkCover WA undertakes a range of educational, advisory, enforcement and performance monitoring activities to ensure the WA workers' compensation scheme is fair, accessible and cost-effective for all participants.

Long Duration Claims - 2012/13 to 2015/16
Published June 2017 (Reissue)

Due to an inaccuracy with the nationally supplied data, the number of employees and hours worked for 2014/15 has been revised. This revised report addresses this issue and therefore, the frequency and incidence rates for 2014/15 have been updated.

Data was extracted on 19 April 2017

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LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 1 | OVERVIEW



LOST-TIME CLAIMS

LONG DURATION



Claims lodged

16,761

The number of **lost-time claims** 10% over four years

5,374

The number of **long duration claims** 12% over four years

During 2015/16, over 16,000 lost-time claims were lodged, of which 5,374 (32%) were for long duration claims. While the number of lost-time claims decreased, the number of long duration claims increased.

Frequency rates

7.9

The frequency rate of **lost-time claims** 10% over four years

2.5

The frequency rate of **long duration claims** 12% over four years

For claims lodged in 2015/16, the frequency rate for lost-time claims was 7.9 lost-time claims per million hours worked, compared to long duration claims at 2.5 claims per million hours worked.

Total claim costs

\$784 million

The total claim costs of **lost-time claims** 1% over four years

\$664 million

The total claim costs of **long duration claims** 3% over four years

Long duration claim costs accounted for 85% of total lost-time claims costs in 2015/16 and remained stable.

Top industry



Manufacturing



Agriculture, forestry and fishing

Between 2012/13 and 2015/16, Manufacturing was the industry with the highest frequency rate for all lost-time claims, compared to Agriculture, forestry and fishing for long duration claims.

Top claimant attributes



Males aged between 60 to 64 years



Males aged between 60 to 64 years

In 2015/16, workers who were males aged between 60 to 64 years had the highest incidence rate for both long duration claims and total lost-time claims.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 1 | KEY INDICATORS

Long duration claims claim numbers

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend
1-59 days	13,807	12,722	11,977	11,387	▼
60+ days	4,801	4,955	4,860	5,374	▲
All lost-time claims	18,608	17,677	16,837	16,761	▼

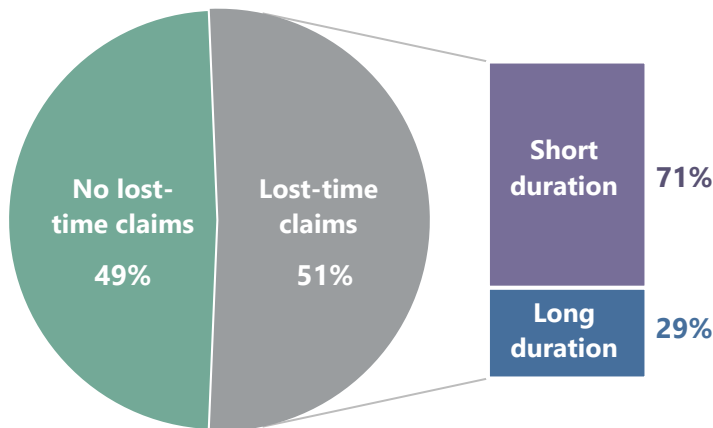
▲ Increasing ■ Stable ▼ Decreasing

From 2012/13 to 2015/16, the number of lost-time claims shows a decreasing trend.

However, claims with 60+ days lost increased over the period. These claims are referred to as **long duration claims**.

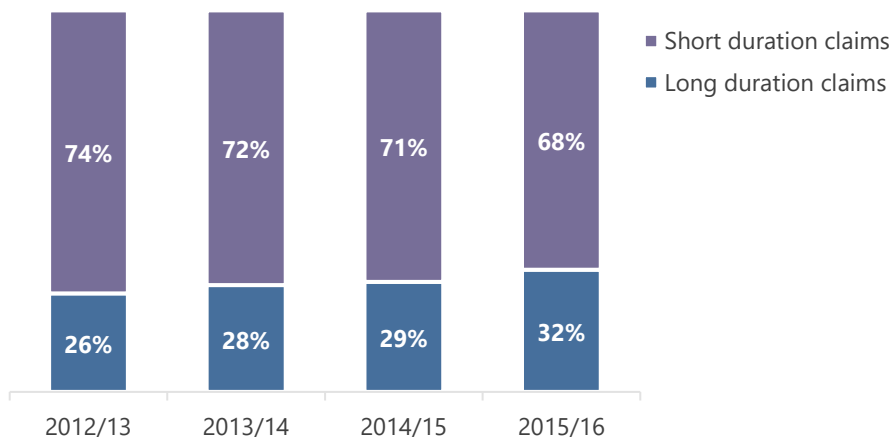
Long duration claims proportion of claims

2012/13 to 2015/16



Over four years, long duration claims make up **almost a third** of all lost-time claims.

Long duration claims comparison to short duration claims



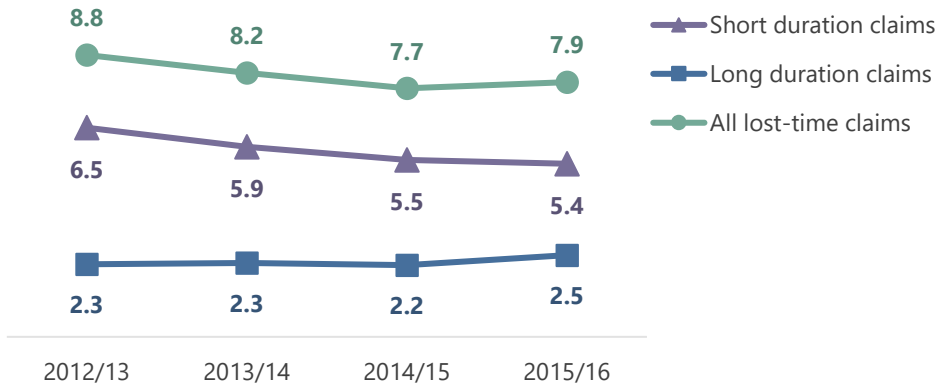
In comparison to **short duration claims** (claims with less than 60 days lost), the proportion of **long duration claims** increased from 26% to 32% over four years.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 1 | KEY INDICATORS

Long duration claims frequency rates

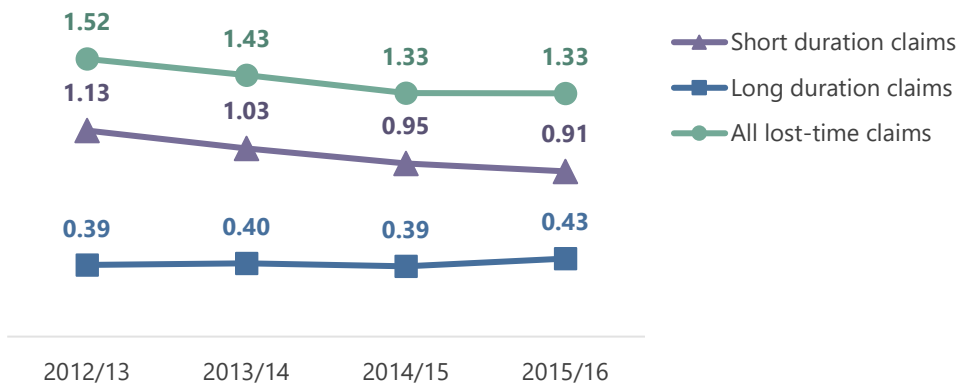


Frequency rate measures the number of lost-time claims per million hours worked.

The overall frequency rate for **lost-time claims** and **short duration claims** show a decreasing trend between 2011/12 and 2014/15.

However, the frequency rate for **long duration claims** increased (12%) to **2.5 claims** per million hours worked during the same period.

Long duration claims incidence rates



Incidence rate is the number of lost-time claims per 100 employees in WA.

Similar to the frequency rate, the incidence rate for **long duration claims** increased to **0.43 claims** per hundred employees.



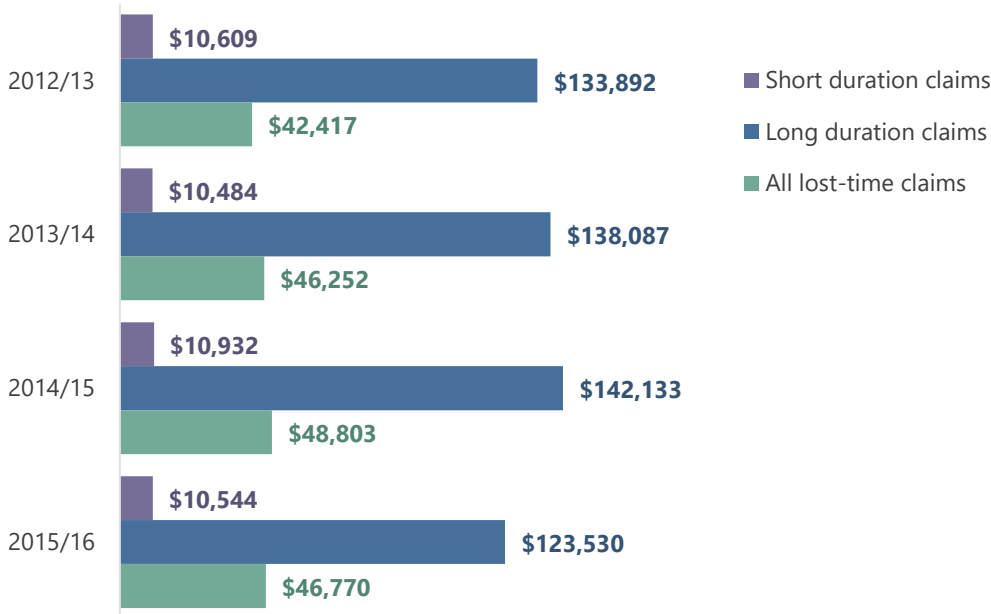
In 2015/16, a **long duration claim** was lodged for every **230** WA employees.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 1 | KEY INDICATORS

Long duration claims average claim costs

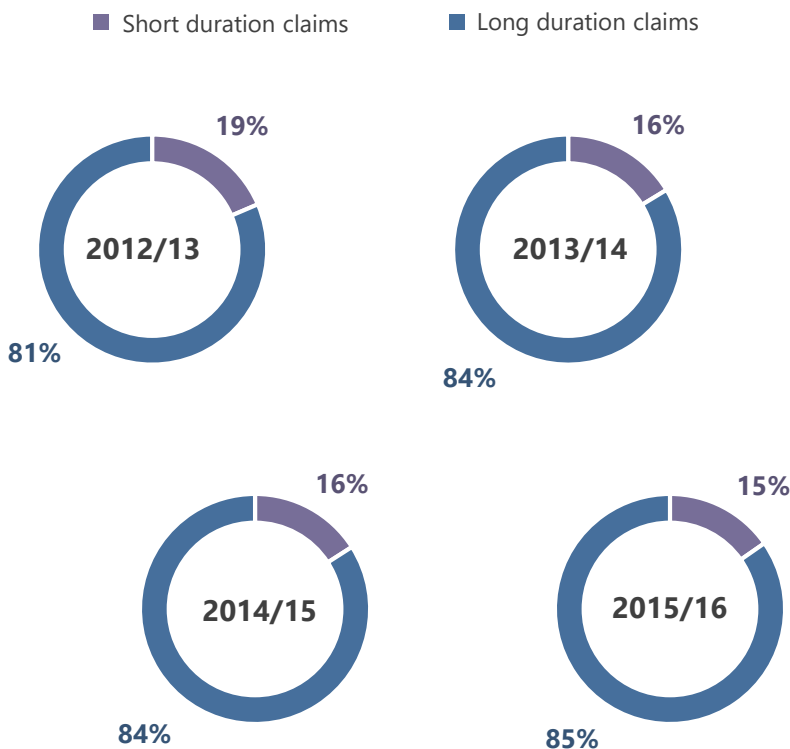


On average, **long duration claim costs** three times as much as overall lost-time claims.

From 2012/13 to 2015/16, the average cost for **long duration claims** show a decreasing trend. In 2015/16, the average cost for long duration claims was **\$123,530**.

However, the 2015/16 figure is preliminary due to the high proportion of unfinalised claims.

Long duration claims proportion of claim costs



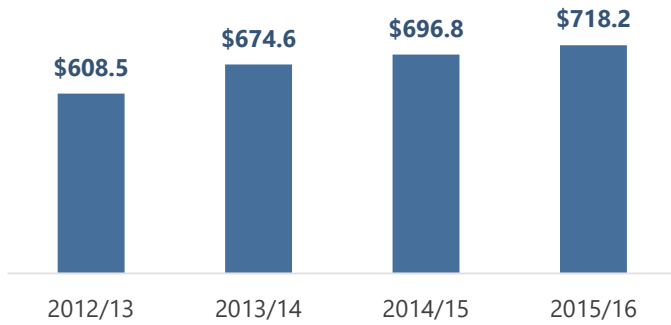
For 2015/16, **long duration claims** accounted for **85%** of total lost-time claim costs, and the remaining **15%** were associated with **short duration claims**. This proportion was stable over the four-year period.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

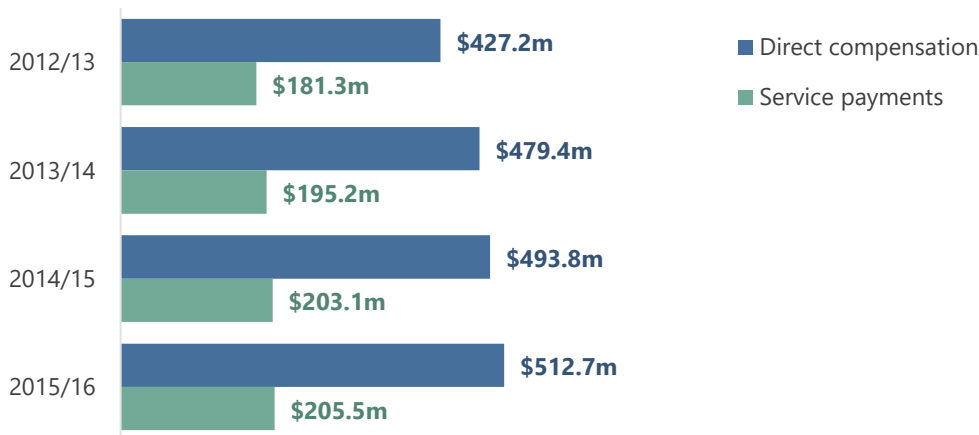
SECTION 1 | KEY INDICATORS

Long duration claims adjusted payments (\$million)



After adjusting for inflation, **\$718.2 million** was paid for long duration claims in 2015/16.

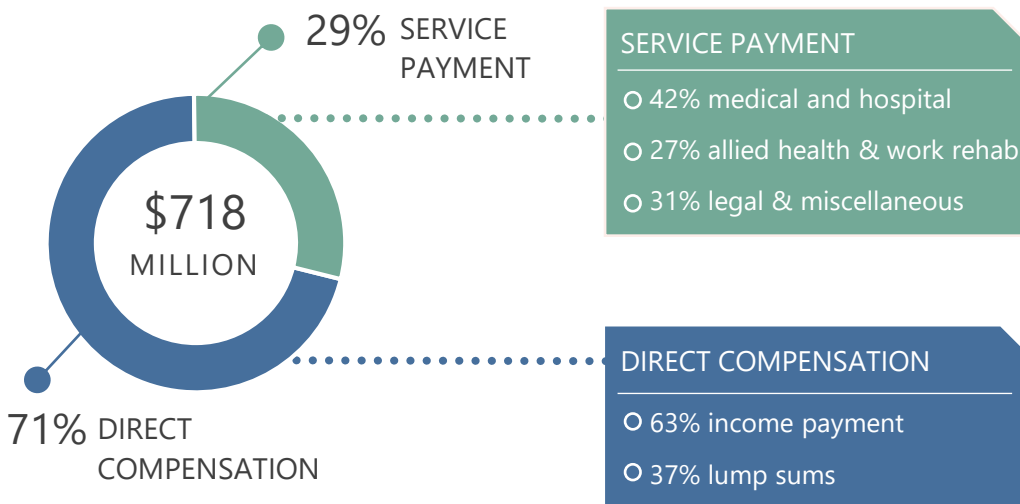
Long duration claims payment types (\$million)



Direct compensation consists of income replacement payments and lump sums.

These payments consistently make up the larger proportion of claim payments.

Long duration claim payments 2012/13 to 2015/16



Over four years, **service payments** accounted for less than a **third** of long duration claim payments.

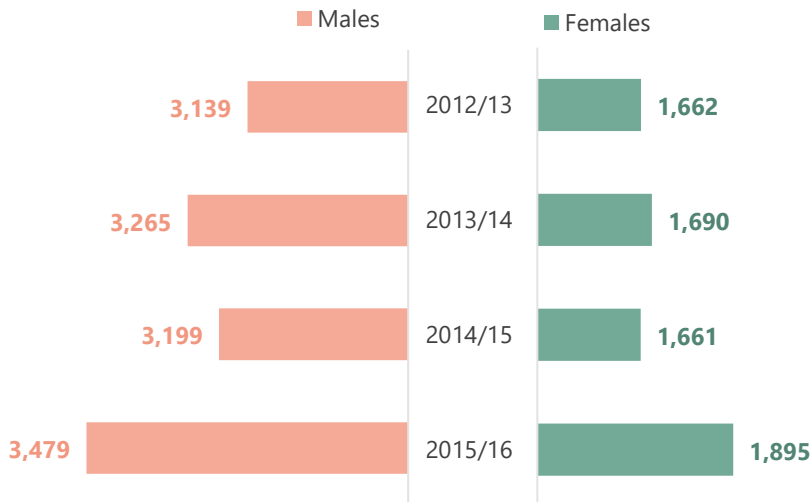
Service payments include medical & hospital, allied health, workplace rehabilitation, legal & other services.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

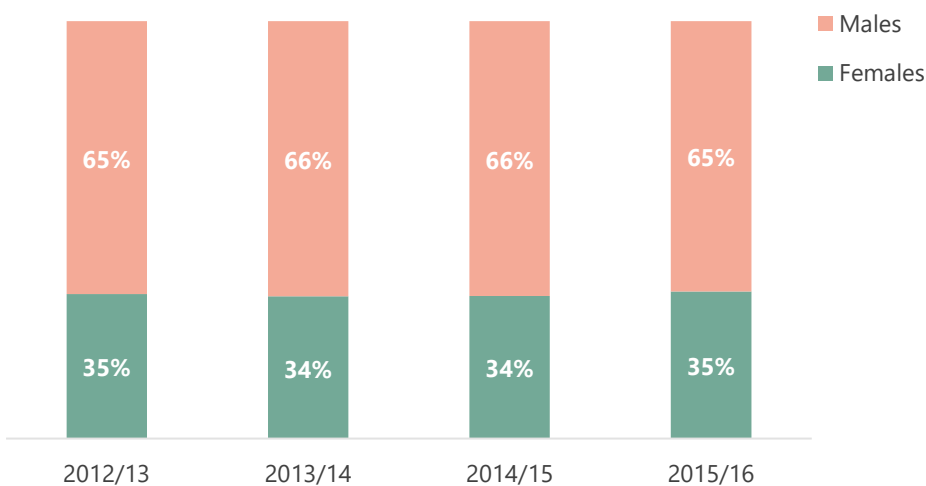
Long duration claims by gender



Over four years, males continued to lodge more long duration claims compared to females.

Between 2012/13 and 2015/16, long duration claims lodged by **males** increased by **11%**, and **females** increased by **14%**.

Long duration claims proportions by gender



The ratio of long duration claims lodged by males and females remained stable.

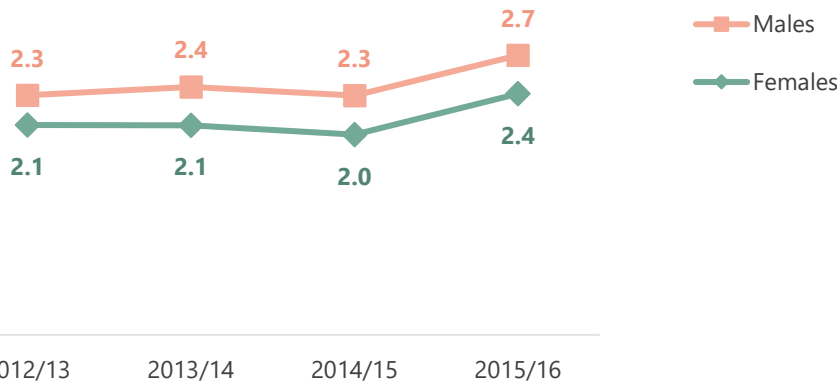
In 2015/16, **65%** of long duration claims were lodged by **males**, and the remaining **35%** were for **females**.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

Long duration claims frequency rate by gender

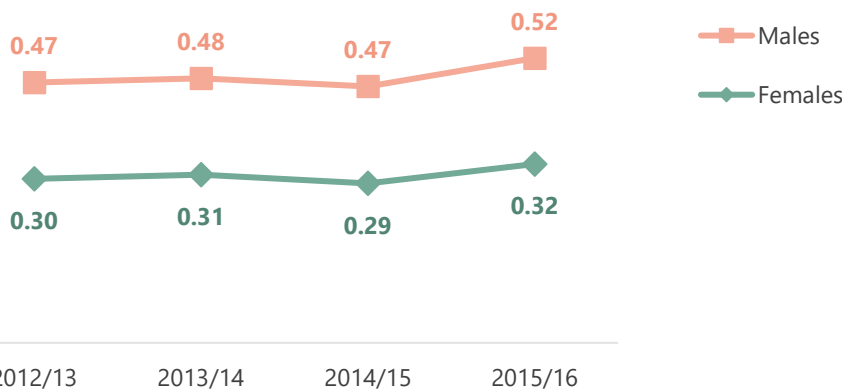


Frequency rates for both males and females increased over four years.

In 2015/16, for every million hours worked, **males** lodged **2.7 long duration claims**.

In contrast, for every million hours worked, **2.4 long duration claims** were lodged by **females** in the same year.

Long duration claims incidence rate by gender



Between 2012/13 and 2015/16, the **incidence rate** for both males and females increased.

In 2015/16, **males** lodged **0.52 claims** per hundred employees, whereas **females** lodged **0.32 claims** per hundred employees.



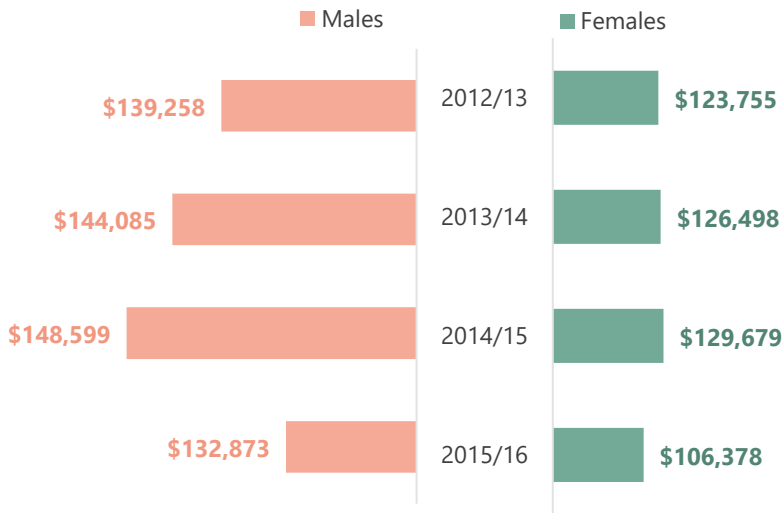
The **incidence rate** of long duration claims for males is almost **double** the rate of females.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

Long duration claims average costs by gender



Males consistently incurred higher average claim costs for long duration claims, compared to **females**.

For 2015/16, the average long duration claim cost for **males** was **\$132,873** and **\$106,378** for **females**.

Figures for 2015/16 are considered preliminary, as there is a high proportion of unfinalised claims.



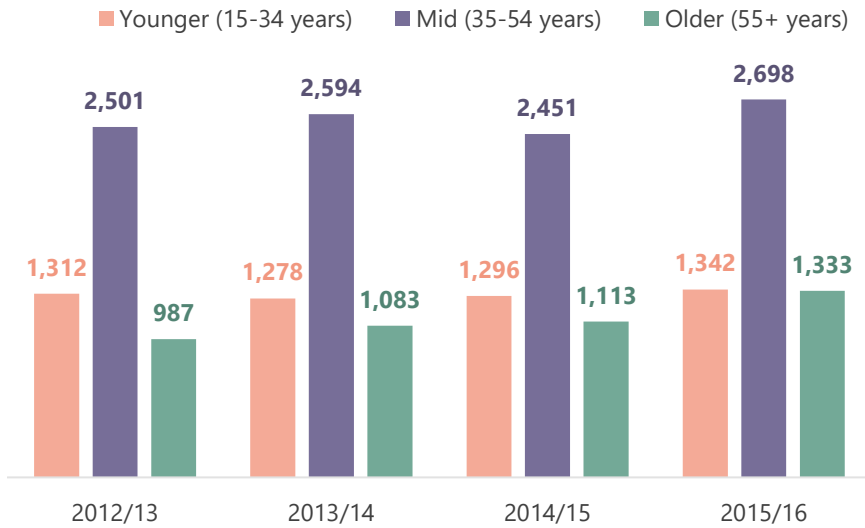
Over four years, the average long duration claim cost for males was **\$20,000** higher than females.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

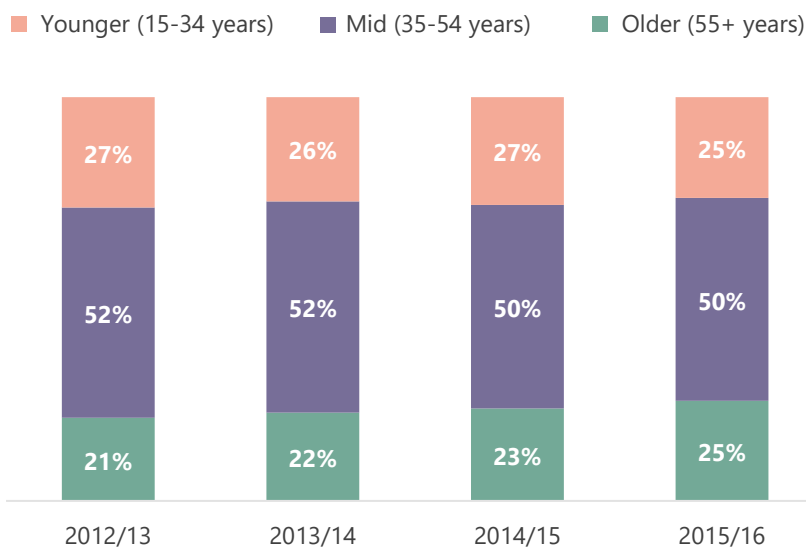
Long duration claims by age group



The **mid age group** (35-54 years) lodged the **most long duration claims** across four years.

The **older age group** (55+ years) had the **largest increase** (35%) in the number of long duration claims.

Long duration claims proportion by age group



Over four years, **a quarter** of long duration claims were lodged by the **younger age group** (15-34 years).

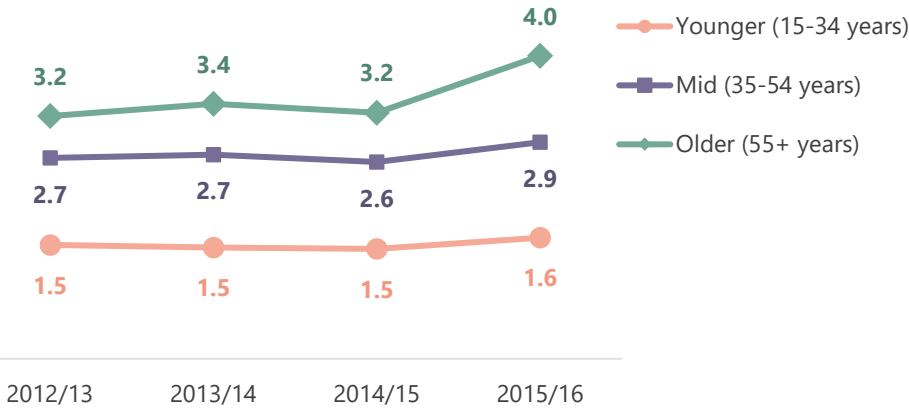
The **older age group** show an **increasing trend** in the proportion of long duration claims, increasing from 21% to 25% over four years.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

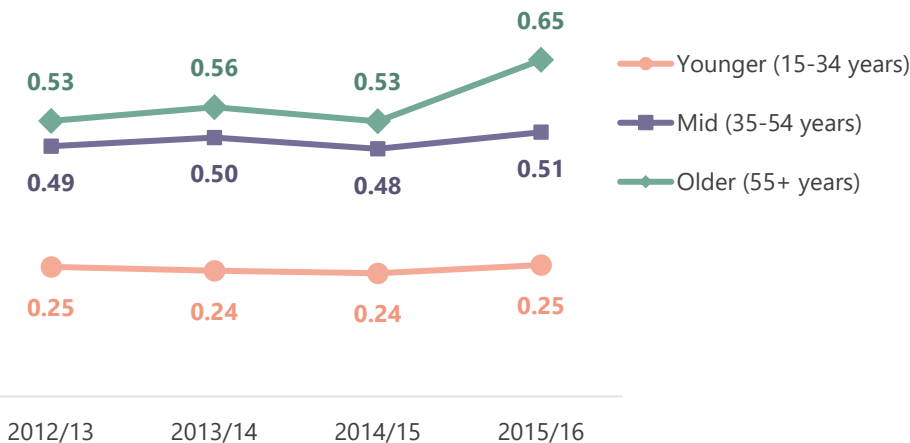
Long duration claims frequency rates by age group



The **older age group** had the highest and the largest increase in its frequency rate. In the latest year, **4.0 long duration claims** per million hours worked were lodged by the older age group.

The **younger age group** consistently had the lowest frequency rate. In 2015/16, the younger age group lodged **1.6 long duration claims** per million hours worked.

Long duration claims incidence rates by age group



Incidence rates for all age groups increased from 2012/13 to 2015/16.

The **older age group** continues to have the highest incidence rate across all age groups, where **0.65 long duration claims** per 100 employees were lodged in 2015/16.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

Long duration claims average costs by age group

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend
Younger (15-34 years)	\$113,144	\$120,612	\$121,655	\$113,256	■
Mid (35-54 years)	\$145,382	\$147,699	\$150,705	\$127,369	▼
Older (55+ years)	\$132,466	\$135,684	\$147,101	\$126,110	■
All long duration claims	\$140,265	\$138,809	\$159,851	\$125,568	▼

▲ Increasing ■ Stable ▼ Decreasing



The mid age group's average long duration claim cost was around **\$2,500** higher than all long duration claims.

The **mid age group** consistently had the **highest average long duration claim costs** across all age groups.

The overall average claim costs for all age groups show a decreasing trend, however figures for the latest year are preliminary due to the high proportion of unfinalised claims.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

Long duration claims by occupation

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend
Labourers	1,091	1,077	1,110	1,236	▲
Technicians & trades workers	1,175	1,148	1,104	1,220	■
Machinery operators & drivers	961	1,023	974	1,001	■
Community & personal service workers	696	738	709	803	▲
Professionals	383	383	406	441	▲
Sales workers	170	251	217	292	▲
Clerical & administrative workers	188	190	196	195	■
Managers	137	145	144	186	▲

▲ Increasing ■ Stable ▼ Decreasing

Long duration proportion of claims by occupation

2012/13 to 2015/16



Occupations with the highest number of long duration claims were **Labourers, Technicians and trades workers** and **Machinery operators and drivers**.

These occupations account for **almost two-thirds** of all long duration claims lodged between 2012/13 and 2015/16.

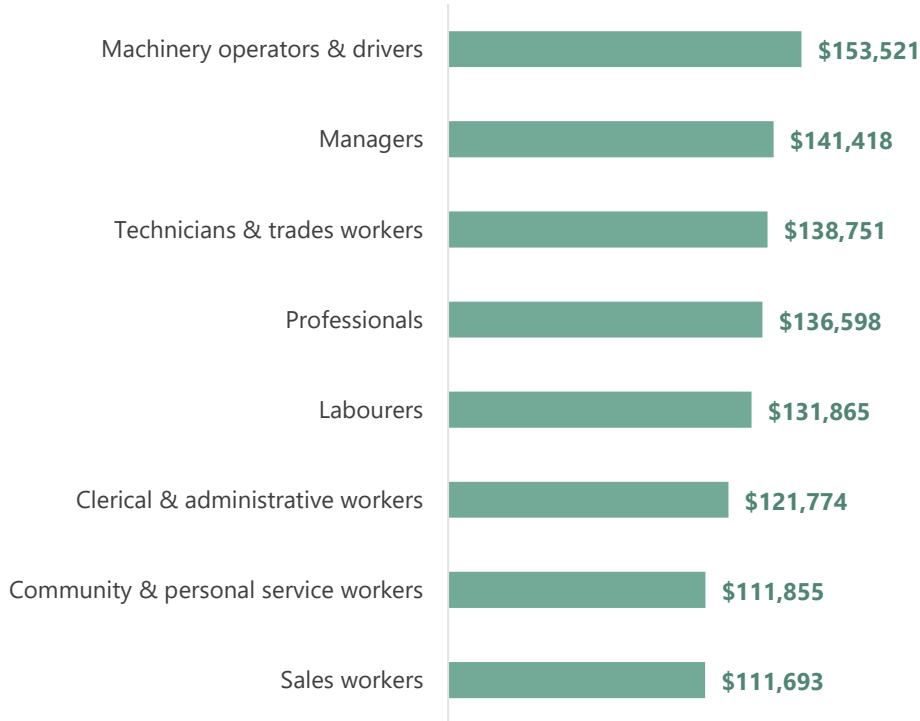


LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

Long duration claims average costs by occupation

2012/13 to 2015/16



Across four years, **Machinery operators and drivers** had the highest average long duration claim cost of \$153,521.

Over the same period, **Sales workers** had the lowest average long duration claim cost of \$111,693.



The average long duration claim costs for **manual labour** occupations were consistently **higher** than other occupation groups.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

Long duration claims by industry

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend
Construction	831	814	848	944	▲
Health care & social assistance	724	749	770	827	▲
Mining	549	579	443	466	▼
Manufacturing	511	513	494	506	■
Transport, postal & warehousing	358	365	358	379	▲
Retail trade	284	320	328	404	▲
Education & training	293	279	272	305	■
Public administration & safety	211	216	228	256	▲
Accommodation & food services	214	191	190	237	▲
Wholesale trade	179	178	178	203	▲
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	153	159	177	196	▲
Other services	113	139	139	158	▲
Administrative & support services	83	106	119	122	▲
Arts & recreation services	102	92	88	113	▲
Professional, scientific & technical services	68	105	85	100	▲
Electricity, gas, water & waste services	51	70	67	76	▲
Rental, hiring & real estate services	49	54	40	48	■
Financial & insurance services	15	11	19	18	▲
Information media & telecommunications	13	15	17	16	▲

▲ Increasing ■ Stable ▼ Decreasing

The **Construction** industry consistently had the **highest** number of long duration claims across four years.

Health care and social assistance had the **second highest** number of long duration claims over the same period.

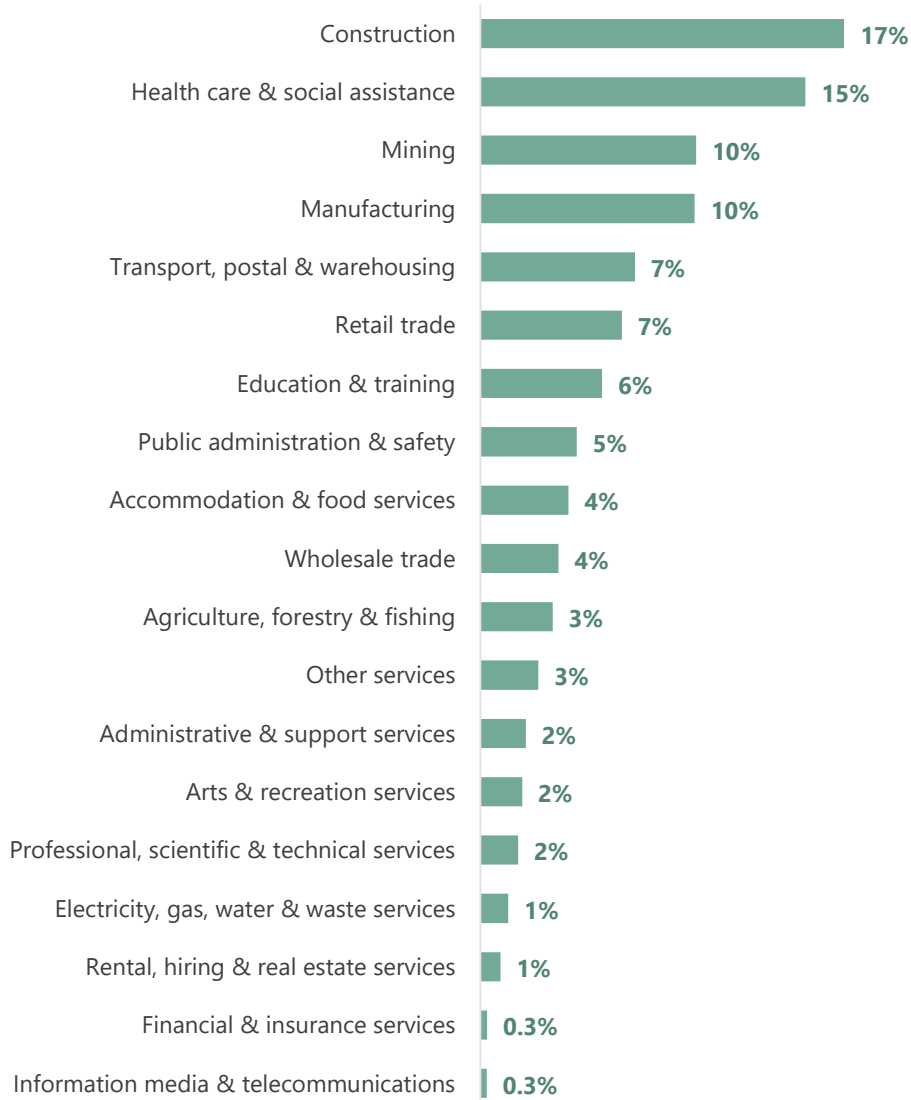


LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

Long duration claims proportions by industry

2012/13 to 2015/16



Between 2012/13 and 2015/16, **Construction** continued to have the **highest** proportion of long duration claims (17%), followed by **Health care and social assistance** (15%).

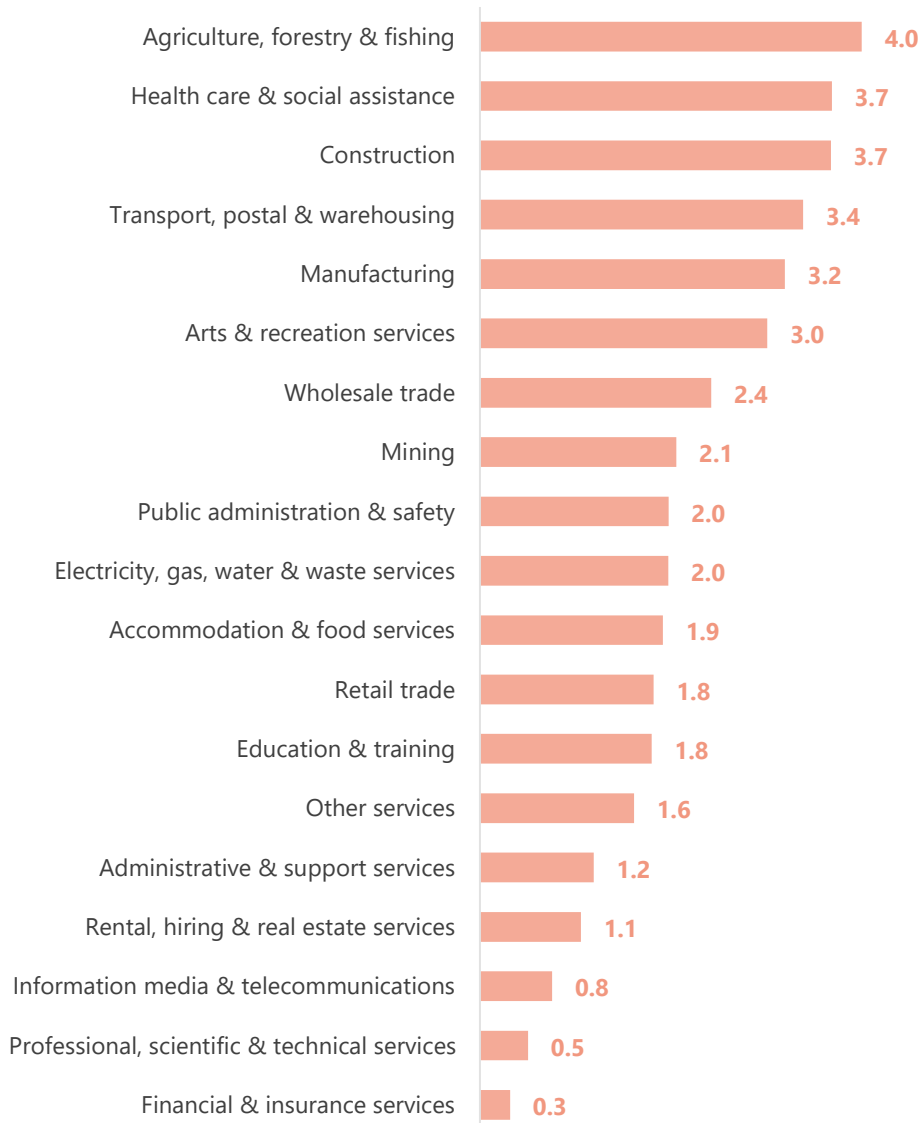


LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

Long duration claims frequency rates by industry

2012/13 to 2015/16



Over four years, the **Agriculture, forestry and fishing** industry had the highest frequency rate of **4.0 long duration** claims per million hours worked, followed by the **Health care and social assistance** industry with **3.7 long duration** claims per million hours worked.

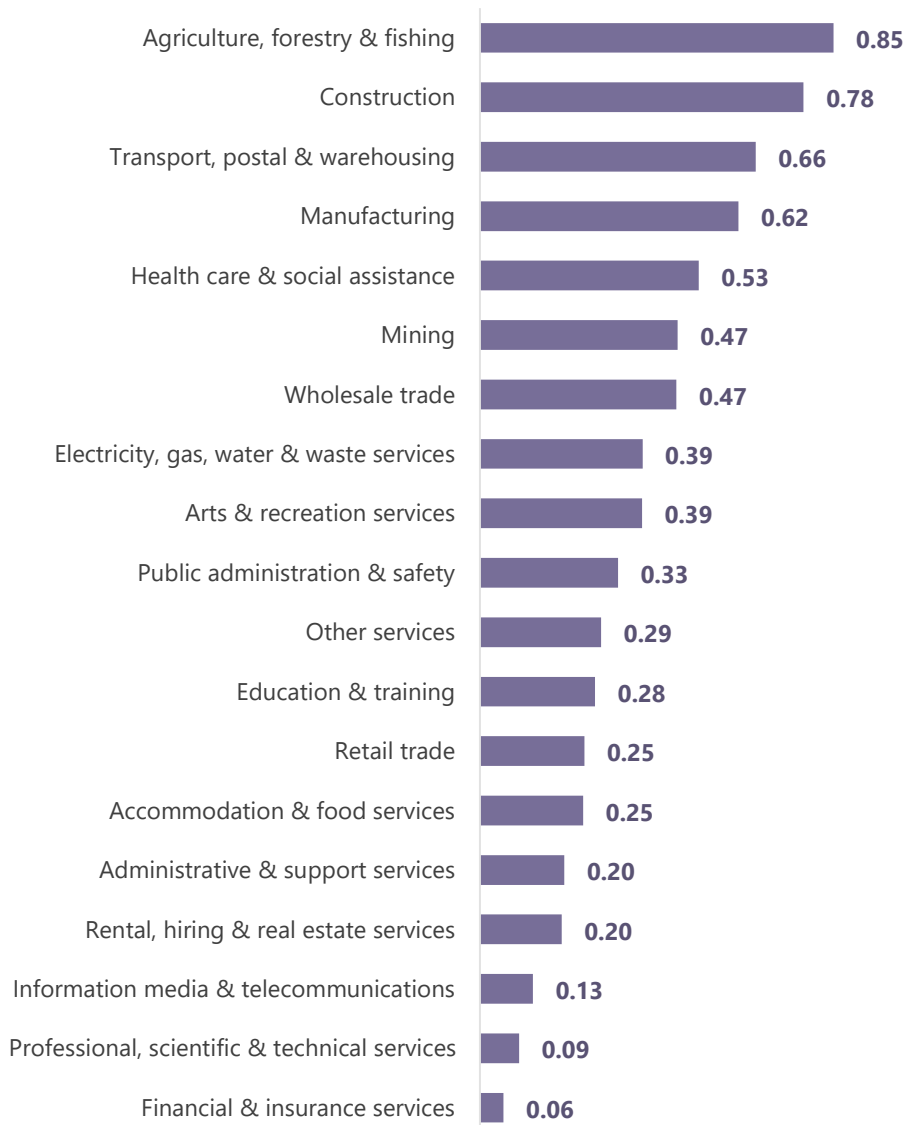


LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

Long duration claims incidence rates by industry

2012/13 to 2015/16



Agriculture, forestry and fishing had the highest incidence rate for long duration claims (**0.85 claims** per hundred employees), followed by **Construction** (**0.78 claims** per hundred employees).



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

Long duration claims average costs by industry

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend
Mining	\$176,297	\$180,845	\$161,958	\$147,830	▼
Construction	\$136,702	\$140,711	\$171,435	\$150,334	▲
Electricity, gas, water & waste services	\$148,067	\$156,543	\$145,618	\$138,597	▼
Manufacturing	\$147,098	\$151,126	\$152,477	\$116,182	▼
Transport, postal & warehousing	\$139,623	\$141,059	\$140,558	\$136,783	■
Professional, scientific & technical services	\$127,550	\$135,901	\$136,030	\$145,087	▲
Rental, hiring & real estate services	\$127,720	\$124,840	\$133,767	\$153,605	▲
Agriculture, forestry & fishing	\$103,237	\$120,235	\$185,249	\$122,202	▲
Wholesale trade	\$118,588	\$140,601	\$153,045	\$119,449	■
Information media & telecommunications	\$122,061	\$142,568	\$105,074	\$140,588	▲
Financial & insurance services	\$138,182	\$115,958	\$152,489	\$94,159	▼
Public administration & safety	\$123,391	\$131,736	\$129,995	\$117,643	■
Other services	\$134,864	\$121,479	\$115,564	\$119,148	▼
Health care & social assistance	\$122,290	\$126,806	\$121,035	\$110,698	▼
Administrative & support services	\$113,821	\$113,644	\$125,372	\$111,508	■
Accommodation & food services	\$108,069	\$128,724	\$118,568	\$108,093	■
Retail trade	\$126,523	\$121,676	\$121,438	\$92,151	▼
Education & training	\$114,694	\$112,797	\$111,913	\$101,219	▼
Arts & recreation services	\$119,468	\$98,624	\$113,619	\$89,579	▼

▲ Increasing ■ Stable ▼ Decreasing

From 2012/13 to 2015/16, Mining had the highest average long duration claim cost.

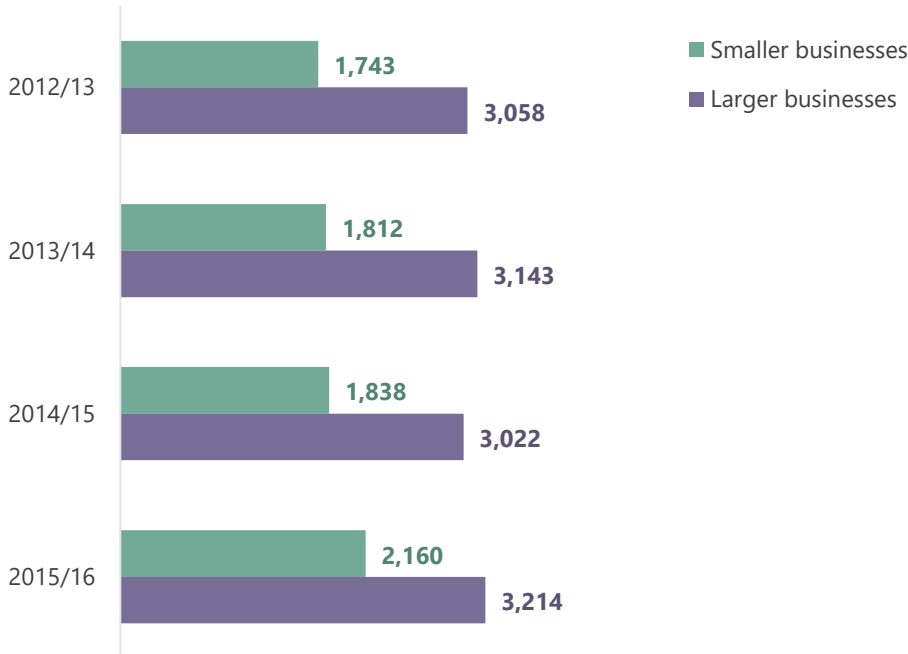
In contrast, Arts and recreation services had the lowest average long duration claim cost over the same period.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

Long duration claims by size of employer



Larger businesses (50+ employees) consistently had more long duration claims lodged from 2012/13 to 2015/16.

However, **smaller businesses** (less than 50 employees) had the largest increase in the number of long duration claims over the same period.

Long duration claims proportion of claims by size of employer



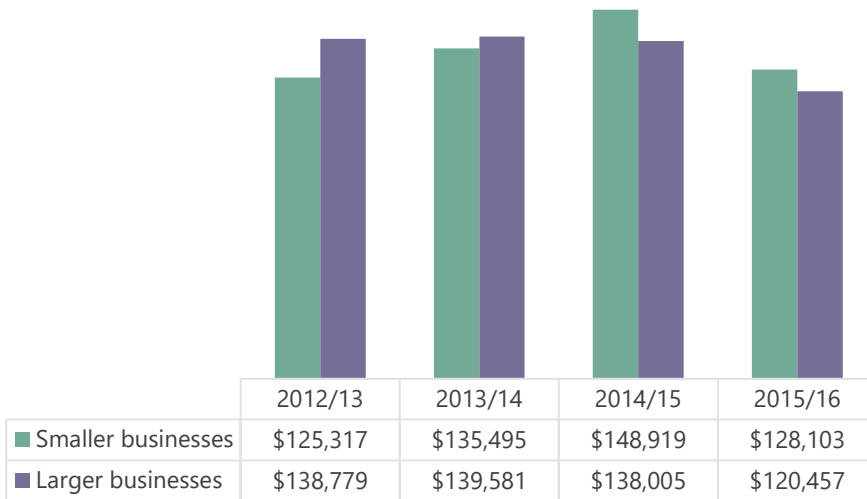
Although larger businesses have more long duration claims, the proportion of long duration claims for **larger businesses** shows a **decreasing trend** from 2012/13 to 2015/16.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 2 | CLAIMANT CHARACTERISTICS

Long duration claims average cost by size of employer



The average cost of long duration claims decreased over the four-year period.

Long duration claims lodged by workers in **smaller businesses** had the higher average claim cost in 2015/16. However, the discrepancy in the average long duration claim cost between smaller and larger business has reduced since 2012/13.

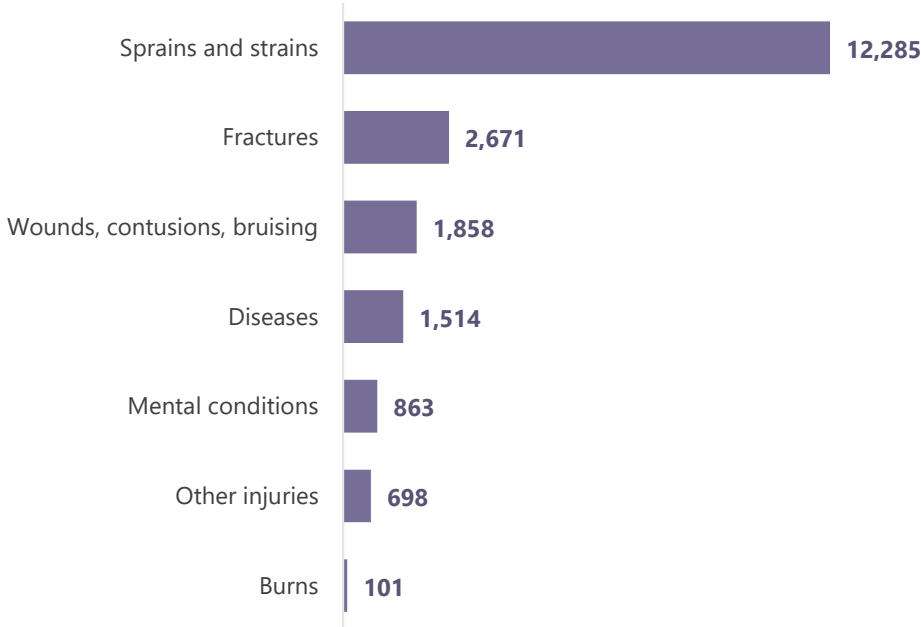


LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 3 | INJURY/DISEASE ATTRIBUTES

Long duration claims by nature of injury/disease

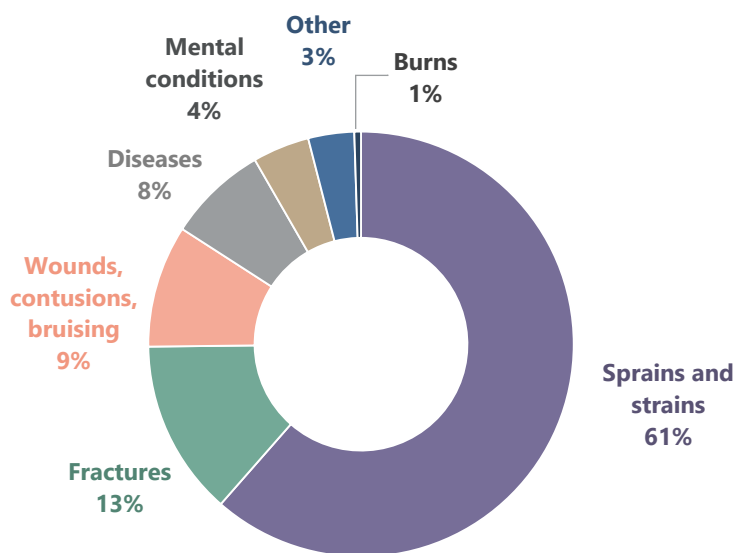
2012/13 to 2015/16



Between 2012/13 and 2015/16, the most common injury/disease type for long duration claims was **sprains and strains**, followed by **fractures**.

Long duration claims proportions by nature of injury/disease

2012/13 to 2015/16



The majority of long duration claims (61%) were associated with **sprains and strains** - traumatic joint/ligament or muscle/tendon injuries.

Sprains and strains and fractures accounted for the **majority** (74%) of long duration claims between 2012/13 and 2015/16.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 3 | INJURY/DISEASE ATTRIBUTES

Long duration claims average costs by nature of injury/disease

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend
Burns	\$149,307	\$205,920	\$517,706	\$128,554	▼
Diseases	\$134,027	\$139,883	\$140,641	\$117,909	▼
Fractures	\$128,992	\$123,502	\$167,863	\$122,050	▼
Mental conditions	\$144,850	\$153,699	\$157,824	\$140,712	■
Other injuries	\$128,720	\$143,798	\$139,780	\$128,561	■
Sprains and strains	\$134,478	\$138,257	\$135,304	\$122,756	▼
Wounds, contusions, bruising	\$133,162	\$142,601	\$125,838	\$124,907	▼

▲ Increasing ■ Stable ▼ Decreasing

The average cost of long duration claims associated with **burns** had the **largest decrease** over the same period.

However, data for 2015/16 is preliminary due to the high proportion of unfinalised claims.



For the most common type of injury (**sprains and strains**), the average long duration claim cost varies between **\$122,756 to \$138,257**.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

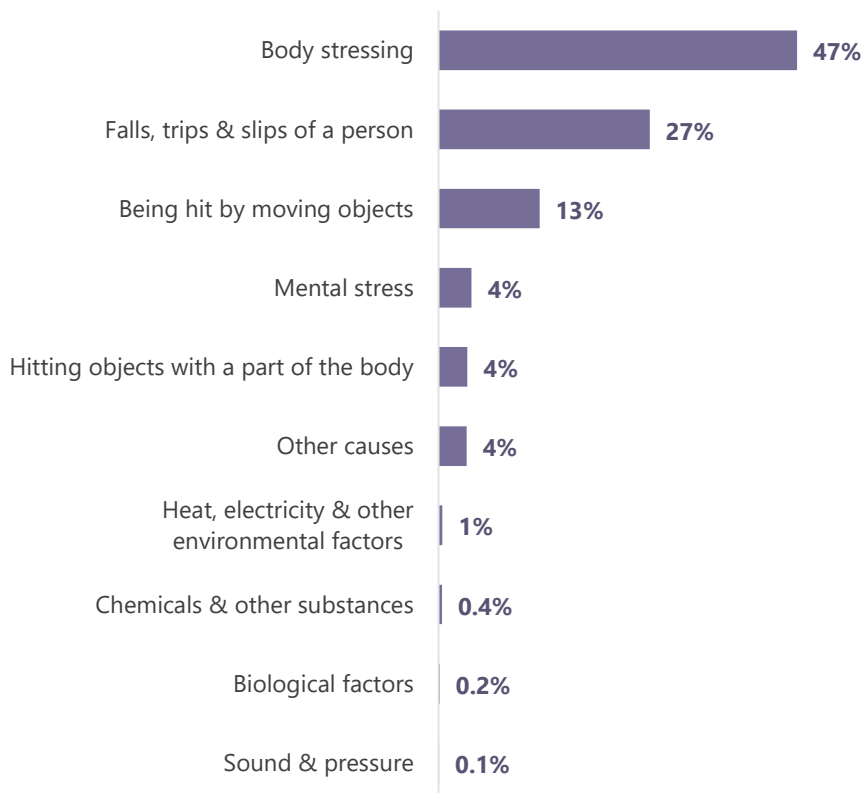
SECTION 3 | INJURY/DISEASE ATTRIBUTES

Long duration claims by mechanism of incident

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend
Body stressing	2,286	2,371	2,218	2,432	▲
Falls, trips & slips of a person	1,255	1,354	1,387	1,488	▲
Being hit by moving objects	624	616	649	732	▲
Mental stress	213	201	203	240	▲
Hitting objects with a part of the body	189	158	171	232	▲
Other causes	179	189	166	195	▲
Heat, electricity & other environmental factors	30	24	23	24	▲
Chemicals & other substances	15	26	25	22	▼
Biological factors	6	10	11	7	▲
Sound & pressure	4	6	7	2	▼

▲ Increasing ■ Stable ▼ Decreasing

Long duration claims proportions by mechanism of incident 2012/13 to 2015/16



Between 2012/13 and 2015/16, claims resulting from **body stressing** accounted for **almost half** of long duration claims.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 3 | INJURY/DISEASE ATTRIBUTES

Long duration claims average costs by mechanism of incident

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend
Being hit by moving objects	\$144,252	\$144,617	\$144,696	\$130,700	▼
Biological factors	\$80,239	\$170,360	\$144,533	\$95,006	▲
Body stressing	\$136,102	\$136,732	\$131,670	\$118,988	▼
Chemicals & other substances	\$143,728	\$155,274	\$251,837	\$111,123	▼
Falls, trips & slips of a person	\$127,627	\$131,162	\$137,512	\$122,633	■
Heat, electricity & other environmental factors	\$144,528	\$205,502	\$397,926	\$156,854	▲
Hitting objects with a part of the body	\$115,524	\$138,650	\$106,901	\$111,405	■
Mental stress	\$144,850	\$154,807	\$157,994	\$140,823	■
Other causes	\$119,223	\$152,816	\$263,606	\$150,665	▲
Sound & pressure	\$124,843	\$128,783	\$419,244	\$212,301	▲

▲ Increasing ■ Stable ▼ Decreasing

For long duration claims lodged in 2015/16, injuries resulting from **biological factors** had the lowest average claim cost at **\$95,006**.



Body stressing is the leading cause of long duration claims.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

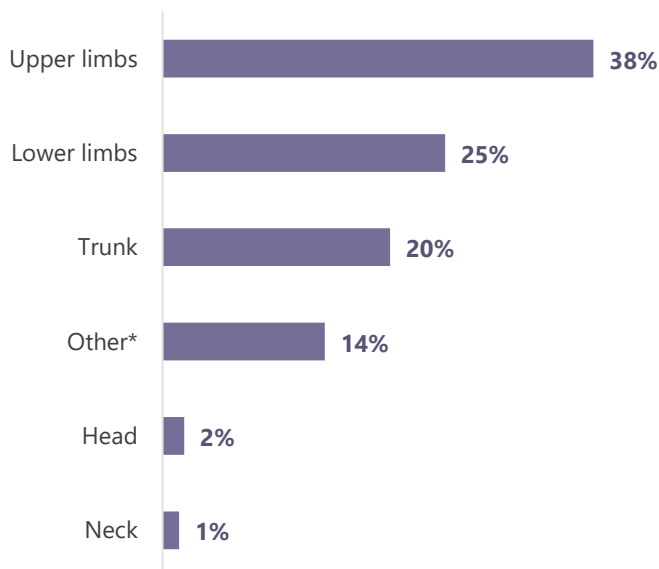
SECTION 3 | INJURY/DISEASE ATTRIBUTES

Long duration claims by bodily location of injury/disease

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend
Upper limbs	1,745	1,808	1,862	2,134	▲
Lower limbs	1,145	1,244	1,252	1,307	▲
Trunk	1,043	1,027	885	1,031	■
Other*	705	720	696	720	■
Head	89	81	95	113	▲
Neck	74	75	70	69	▼

▲ Increasing ■ Stable ▼ Decreasing

Long duration claims proportions by bodily location 2012/13 to 2015/16



From 2012/13 to 2015/16, injuries predominantly occurred to the **upper** and **lower limbs**.

***Other** bodily locations includes multiple locations, psychological system, systemic locations, and unspecified locations. These accounted **14%** of long duration claims from 2012/13 to 2015/16.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 3 | INJURY/DISEASE ATTRIBUTES

Long duration claims average costs by bodily location of injury/disease

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend
Neck	\$146,323	\$190,440	\$319,828	\$177,196	▲
Head	\$188,707	\$149,365	\$153,815	\$169,648	▼
Other*	\$163,864	\$162,755	\$180,677	\$148,887	▼
Trunk	\$153,814	\$149,575	\$161,201	\$137,930	▼
Lower limbs	\$113,931	\$122,130	\$126,054	\$112,307	■
Upper limbs	\$119,649	\$130,039	\$122,197	\$110,714	▼

▲ Increasing ■ Stable ▼ Decreasing

From 2012/13 to 2015/16, long duration claims with injuries sustained to the **neck** had the **highest average claim cost**.

However, **neck** injuries were the **least common** body part associated with long duration claims.



Work-related injuries sustained to the **limbs** accounted for **two-thirds** of long duration claims.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

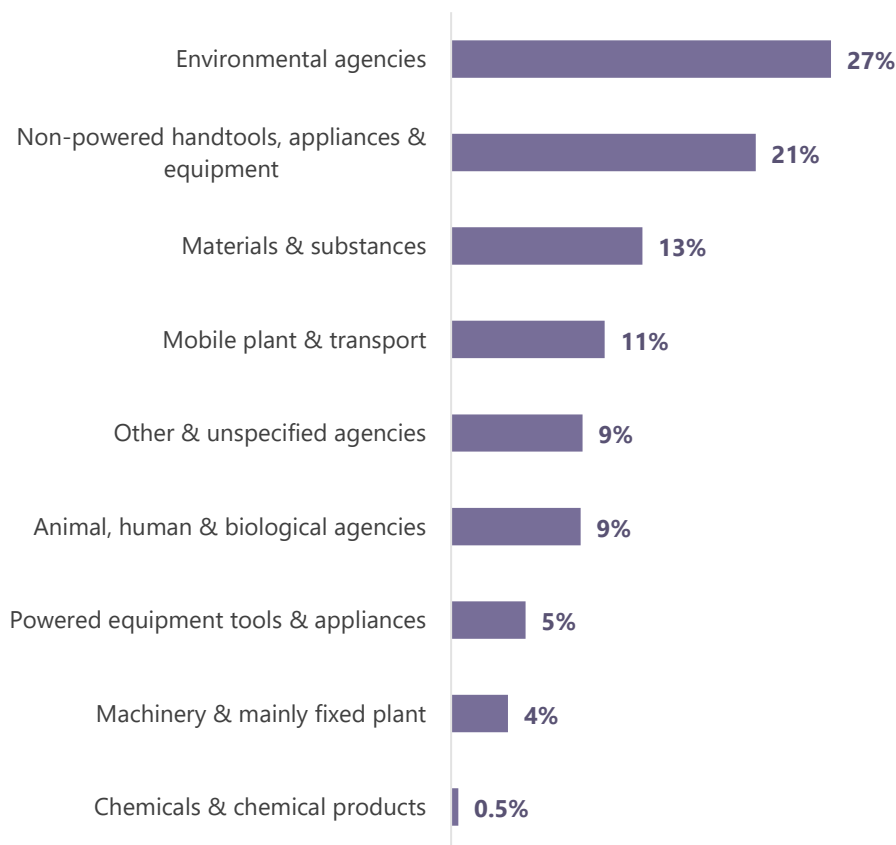
SECTION 3 | INJURY/DISEASE ATTRIBUTES

Long duration claims by agency of injury/disease

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend
Environmental agencies	1,239	1,311	1,320	1,448	▲
Non-powered handtools, appliances & equipment	1,027	1,042	1,026	1,167	▲
Materials & substances	629	681	629	737	▲
Mobile plant & transport	570	566	497	517	▼
Other & unspecified agencies	428	478	445	487	▲
Animal, human & biological agencies	436	422	467	486	▲
Powered equipment tools & appliances	256	254	246	285	▲
Machinery & mainly fixed plant	197	178	200	220	▲
Chemicals & chemical products	19	23	30	27	▲

▲ Increasing ■ Stable ▼ Decreasing

Long duration claims proportions by agency of injury/disease 2012/13 to 2015/16



Between 2012/13 and 2015/16, the most common factor associated with long duration claims was **environmental agencies** (27%), followed by **non-powered handtools, appliances and equipment** (21%).



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 3 | INJURY/DISEASE ATTRIBUTES

Long duration claims average costs by agency of injury/disease

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	Trend
Animal, human & biological agencies	\$122,406	\$126,359	\$118,332	\$109,266	▼
Chemicals & chemical products	\$198,432	\$160,128	\$229,639	\$137,871	▼
Environmental agencies	\$127,680	\$128,942	\$135,175	\$121,806	▼
Machinery & mainly fixed plant	\$145,866	\$178,344	\$146,428	\$131,706	▼
Materials & substances	\$145,176	\$144,002	\$151,523	\$122,316	▼
Mobile plant & transport	\$139,668	\$160,109	\$197,943	\$139,243	▼
Non-powered handtools, appliances & equipment	\$135,381	\$133,119	\$131,396	\$122,321	▼
Other & unspecified agencies	\$136,258	\$137,606	\$138,060	\$130,231	▼
Powered equipment tools & appliances	\$118,994	\$130,916	\$125,868	\$117,080	▼

▲ Increasing ■ Stable ▼ Decreasing

Over the four year period, the **highest** average long duration claim cost was attributed to injuries inflicted by **chemicals and chemical products**.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 4 | GLOSSARY

TERM

DEFINITION / EXPLANATION OF TERM

Act

The *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981*.

Age

Chronological age (in years) of the worker at the date of injury or disease.

Agency of injury or disease

The object, substance or circumstance that was principally involved in or most closely associated with the point at which things started to go wrong and which ultimately led to the most serious injury or disease. A comprehensive list of this classification is available from Safe Work Australia *Type of Occurrence Classification System 3rd edition* (safeworkaustralia.gov.au).

Bodily location

The part of the body affected by the most serious injury or disease. A comprehensive list of this classification is available from Safe Work Australia *Type of Occurrence Classification System 3rd edition* (safeworkaustralia.gov.au).

Claim count

The total number of claims (disallowed claims and journey claims between home and work are excluded) notified by insurers and exempt employers.

Claimant

A person who lodges a claim in the WA workers' compensation scheme.

Claim costs

An estimate of costs for unfinalised claims, and total cost of finalised claims attributed to the year in which a claim was lodged. Claim costs are subject to revision as claims experience matures; this is especially true for more recent years. Claim costs are not adjusted for inflation.

Claims data

Information pertaining to workers' compensation claims is reported to WorkCover WA by approved insurers and self-insurers. Information is collated based on the financial year in which a claim was lodged with the insurer. For the purposes of this report, certain types of claims were excluded:

- ▲ lost-time journey claims between home and work
- ▲ asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma and pneumoconiosis
- ▲ duplicated or disallowed (by an insurer).

Claim numbers are subject to revision as claims experience matures.



TERM	DEFINITION / EXPLANATION OF TERM
Claim payments	Categories are based on WorkCover WA's Guidelines for Completing Form WC 101. Claim payments are in contrast with claim costs as they do not reflect liabilities incurred but not yet paid. Claim payment information is collated based on the financial year during which payment was made, regardless of when the claim was lodged with the insurer. In this report, claim payments are reported both in adjusted and unadjusted formats. In relation to the former, payments are adjusted for inflation to allow for meaningful comparisons over time.
Direct compensation	Payments made directly to the worker either by income replacement (payments made for absences from work) or lump sums such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none">▲ redemption payments made under Schedule 1▲ specific injury payments made under Schedule 2▲ fatal payments including funeral expenses▲ common law and other Acts payments.
Frequency rate	The number of lost-time claims per million hours worked and indicates the prevalence of workers' compensation claims. The number of hours worked by employed persons in Western Australia is sourced from the Australian Bureau of Statistics (abs.gov.au).
Incidence rate	The number of lost time claims per hundred employees (part-time, full-time, casual, and seasonal) in Western Australia. Employee numbers are based on the Australian Bureau of Statistics Labour Force data (catalogue no. 6202.0).
Industry	Based on the <i>Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) 2006</i> published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The ANZSIC system groups together businesses that carry out similar economic activities and structured into a hierarchy of units reflecting different levels of description (abs.gov.au).
Lodgement year	The financial year in which the claim was lodged with the insurer.
Long duration claims	Workers' compensation claims for which the injury or disease results in an absence from work of at least 60 days or shifts.
Lost-time claims	Lost-time claims are claims for which the injury or disease results in an absence from work of at least one day or shift.



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 4 | GLOSSARY

TERM

DEFINITION / EXPLANATION OF TERM

Mechanism of injury or disease

The action, exposure or event that best describes the circumstances that resulted in the most serious injury or disease. The full list of this classification is available from Safe Work Australia's *Type of Occurrence Classification System 3rd edition* (safeworkaustralia.gov.au).

Nature of injury or disease

The most serious injury or disease suffered by the worker. The full list of this classification is available from Safe Work Australia's *Type of Occurrence Classification System 3rd edition* (safeworkaustralia.gov.au).

Occupation

Based on the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Classification of Occupations* (ANZSCO) published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. It is a skill-based classification which encompasses all occupations in the Australian workforce (abs.gov.au).

Service payments

Service payments include:

1. medical and hospital payments:

- medical practitioner and specialist payments (consultation and treatment expenses rendered by general practitioners and medical specialists)
- hospital expenses (hospital accommodation and hospital treatment)

2. allied health payments:

- other treatment and appliance payments (comprises payments made under clauses 17(1)(3), (4), (5) and (6) of Schedule 1 of the Act, other than medical and hospital expenses)

3. workplace rehabilitation payments:

- workplace rehabilitation payments (comprises payments made under clause 17 (1a) of Schedule 1 of the Act in respect of counselling, occupational training, work assessment, aids and appliances)

4. legal and miscellaneous:

- legal expenses (comprises the cost of legal advice and representation incurred by approved insurers or exempt employers, witness fees and the costs of these services incurred by the worker where the approved insurer or exempt employer is ordered to meet the costs)
- miscellaneous (includes general items that do not fit in any other category, for example travelling, meals and lodgings, under clause 19 of Schedule 1).



LONG DURATION CLAIMS

SECTION 5 | DISCLAIMER

- 1 Due to the dynamic nature of workers' compensation claims, the interpretation of data contained within this report (the data) must be undertaken with some caution. Data users are cautioned to consider carefully the provisional nature of the data before using it for decisions that concern personal or public safety or the conduct of business that involves substantial monetary or operational consequences.
- 2 The accuracy or reliability of the data is not guaranteed or warranted in any way. WorkCover WA has made a reasonable effort to ensure that the data is up-to-date, accurate, complete, and comprehensive at the time of disclosure. This data reflects data reported to this agency by insurers for the reporting periods indicated. Data users are responsible for ensuring by independent verification its accuracy, currency or completeness.
- 3 Neither WorkCover WA, or its agencies or representatives are responsible for data that is misinterpreted or altered in any way. Derived conclusions and analysis generated from this data are not to be considered attributable to WorkCover WA.
- 4 This data is provided as is and in no event shall WorkCover WA, its agencies or representatives be liable for any damages, including, without limitation, damages resulting from lost data or lost profits or revenue, the costs of recovering such data, the costs of substitute data, claims by third parties or for other similar costs, or any special, incidental, punitive or consequential damages, arising out of the use of the data.
- 5 Information concerning the accuracy and appropriate uses of the data or concerning other workers' compensation data may be obtained by contacting WorkCover WA.