



# Conciliation and Arbitration Services Status Report

December 2020

Data used in this biannual report was extracted from the WorkCover WA DCMS database on 1 February 2021 and reflects dispute activities that occurred up to December 2020.

# Table of Contents

	Page		
<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2.3</b>	Ratio of accepted to completed arbitrations ..... 12
i Citation .....	3	<b>2.4</b>	Median days to complete arbitrations ..... 12
ii Background .....	3	<b>2.5</b>	Arbitrations by nature of injury/disease ..... 13
iii Overview .....	4	<b>2.6</b>	Comparison of arbitrations and claims by nature of injury/disease ..... 13
<b>Conciliations</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3.1</b>	Arbitration hearings held ..... 14
1.1 Disputation rate .....	5	<b>3.2</b>	Proportion of arbitration hearings by type ..... 14
1.2 Accepted conciliations .....	5	<b>3.3.1</b>	Hearings held by hearing type - Formal arbitration ..... 15
1.3 Completed conciliations .....	6	<b>3.3.2</b>	Hearings held by hearing type - Costs ..... 15
1.4 Ratio of accepted to completed conciliations .....	6	<b>3.3.3</b>	Hearings held by hearing type - Directions ..... 16
1.5 Median days to complete conciliations .....	7	<b>3.3.4</b>	Hearings held by hearing type - Interlocutory ..... 16
1.6 Conciliations with subsequent arbitrations .....	8	<b>3.3.5</b>	Pre-arbitration Conferences held..... 17
1.7 Proportion of conciliations with subsequent arbitrations .....	8	<b>3.4</b>	Average duration between acceptance and first hearing ..... 18
1.8 Average duration between acceptance and first conciliation conference .....	9	<b>3.5</b>	Arbitrations by duration from acceptance to first hearing ..... 18
1.9 Conciliations by duration from acceptance to first conference .....	9	<b>3.6</b>	Average duration from acceptance to first formal arbitration hearing ..... 19
1.10 Conciliations by nature of injury/disease .....	10	<b>3.7</b>	Arbitrations by duration from acceptance to first formal arbitration hearing ..... 19
1.11 Comparison of conciliations and claims by nature of injury/disease .....	10	<b>3.8</b>	Average duration from last formal arbitration hearing to completion ..... 20
 		<b>3.9</b>	Arbitrations by duration from last formal arbitration hearing to completion ..... 20
<b>Arbitrations</b>	<b>11</b>		
2.1 Accepted arbitrations .....	11	<b>Disclaimer</b>	<b>21</b>
2.2 Completed arbitrations .....	11		

# Introduction

## Citation



Conciliation and Arbitration Services Status Report: December 2020  
Perth, Western Australia: Western Australian Government.

Any queries or comments on this publication should be directed to:

Business Intelligence Services Branch  
Corporate Services Division  
WorkCover WA  
Email: [communications@workcover.wa.gov.au](mailto:communications@workcover.wa.gov.au)  
Phone: 9388 5555  
Fax: 9388 5550

© WorkCover WA, Government of Western Australia

Published by the Western Australian Government

**Publication date: February 2021**

## Background

### Conciliation and Arbitration services provided by WorkCover WA

One of WorkCover WA's major functions is to resolve disputes between parties in the workers' compensation system, either through conciliation or arbitration.

### Report content

This report presents the status of key elements of the Conciliation and Arbitration services and encompasses activity within the system up to December (Q2) 2020/21.

The report is presented in three sections:

- 1. Conciliation Service:** detailed information presented in charts and graphs about activity within the Conciliation Service by financial quarter/year.
- 2. Arbitration Service:** detailed information presented in charts and graphs about activity within the Arbitration Service by financial quarter/year.
- 3. Hearings held:** detailed information presented in charts and graphs regarding hearings held or completed by financial quarter/year.

### Data source for this report

The data used in this report is obtained from WorkCover WA's Dispute Case Management System (DCMS).

# Quarter in Review (2020/21 Q2)

#	Indicators	Compared with same quarter last year	Reference
1.1	Disputation rate	2019/20 Q2	p.5
		2020/21 Q2	
1.2	Number of accepted conciliations	2019/20 Q2	p.5
		2020/21 Q2	
1.3	Number of completed conciliations	2019/20 Q2	p.6
		2020/21 Q2	
1.5	Median days to complete conciliations	2019/20 Q2	p.7
		2020/21 Q2	
1.6	Conciliations with subsequent arbitrations	2019/20 Q2	p.8
		2020/21 Q2*	
2.1	Number of accepted arbitrations	2019/20 Q2	p.11
		2020/21 Q2	

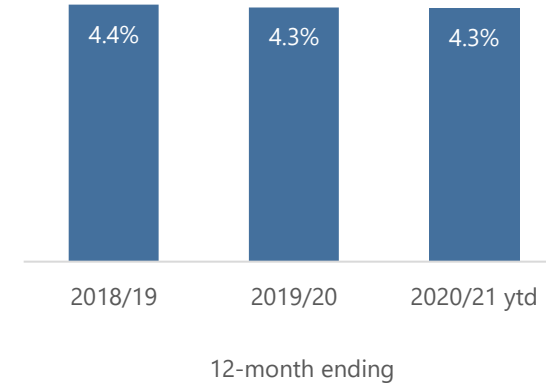
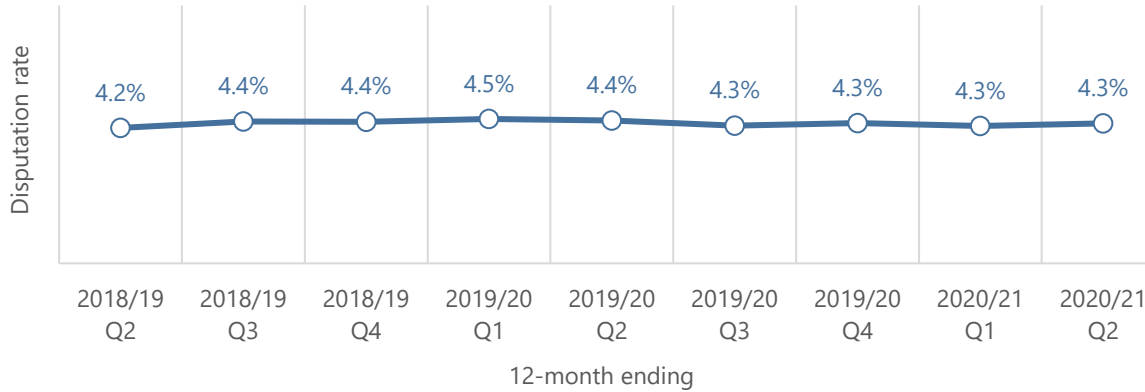
#	Indicators	Compared with same quarter last year	Reference
2.2	Number of completed arbitrations	2019/20 Q2	p.11
		2020/21 Q2	
2.4	Median days to complete arbitrations	2019/20 Q2	p.12
		2020/21 Q2	
3.1	Number of hearings held	2019/20 Q2	p.14
		2020/21 Q2	
3.4	Days between arbitration acceptance and first hearing	2019/20 Q2	p.17
		2020/21 Q2	
3.6	Days between acceptance and first formal arbitration hearing	2019/20 Q2	p.18
		2020/21 Q2	
3.8	Days between last formal arbitration hearing and completion	2019/20 Q2	p.19
		2020/21 Q2	

\*May be subject to change over time as the data matures.

# Conciliations

## 1.1 Disputation rate\*

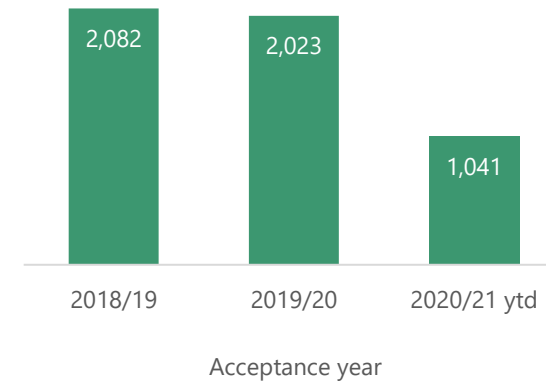
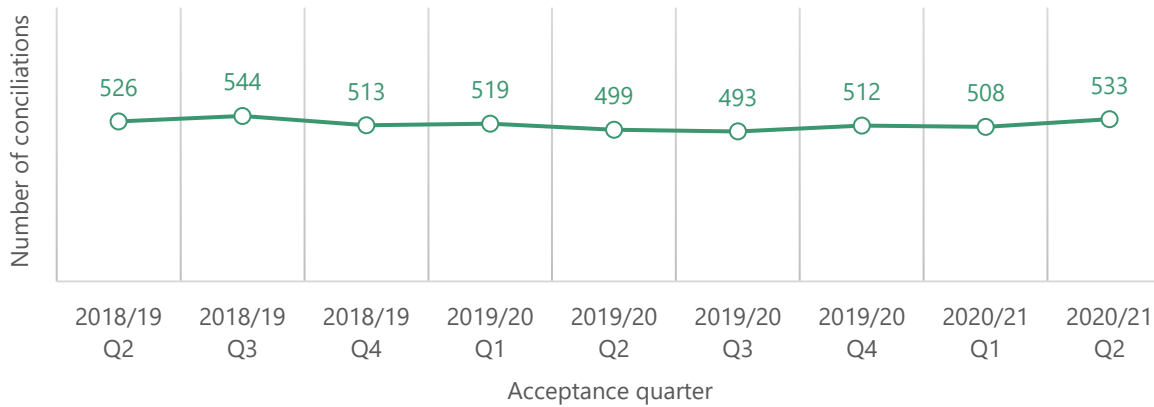
The number of dispute applications as a proportion of active claims (claims with at least one transaction payment within the financial year)



\* Disputation rate is based on a rolling four-quarter period.

## 1.2 Accepted conciliations

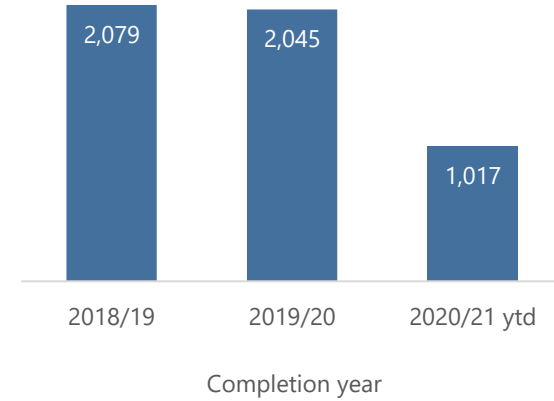
The number of conciliations accepted



# Conciliations

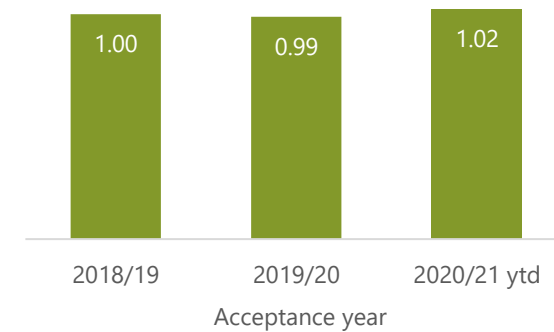
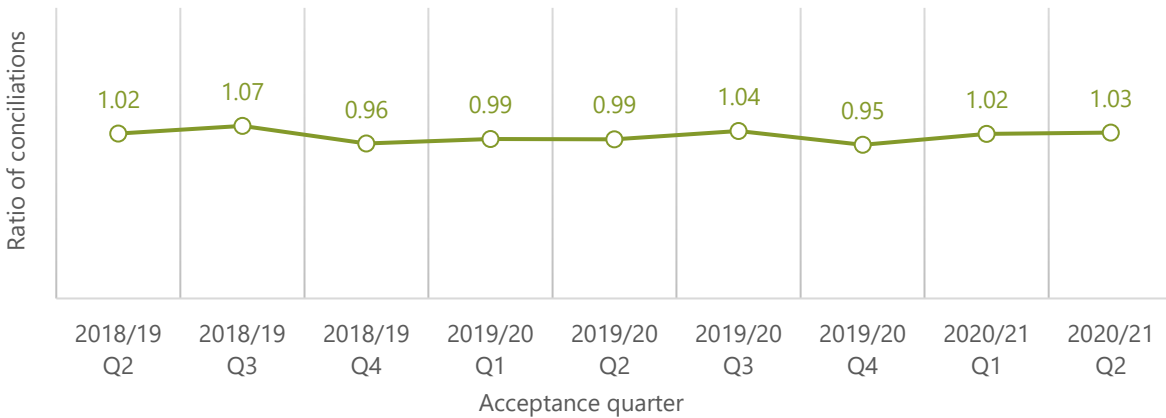
## 1.3 Completed conciliations

The number of closed conciliations



## 1.4 Ratio of accepted to completed conciliations

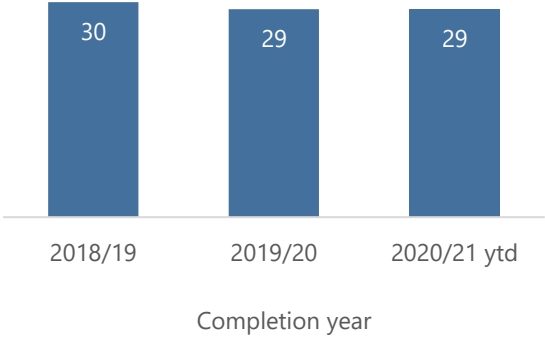
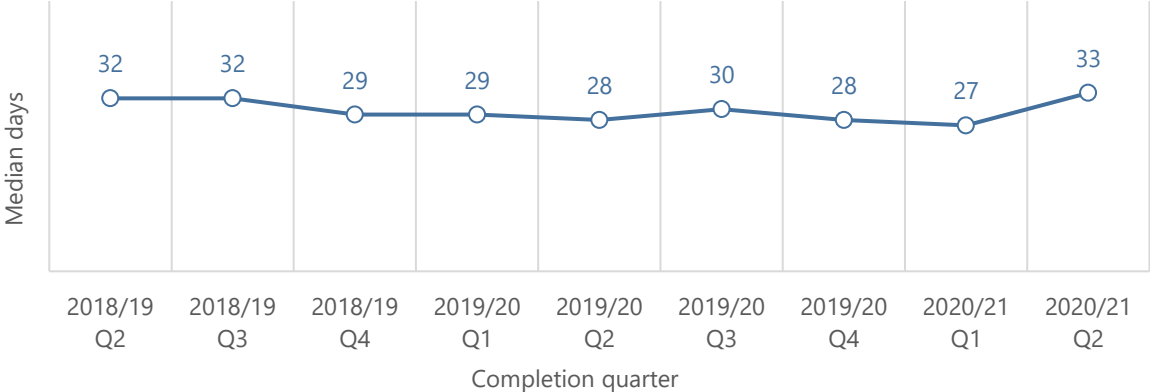
The ratio between the number of accepted to closed conciliations



# Conciliations

## 1.5 Median days to complete conciliations

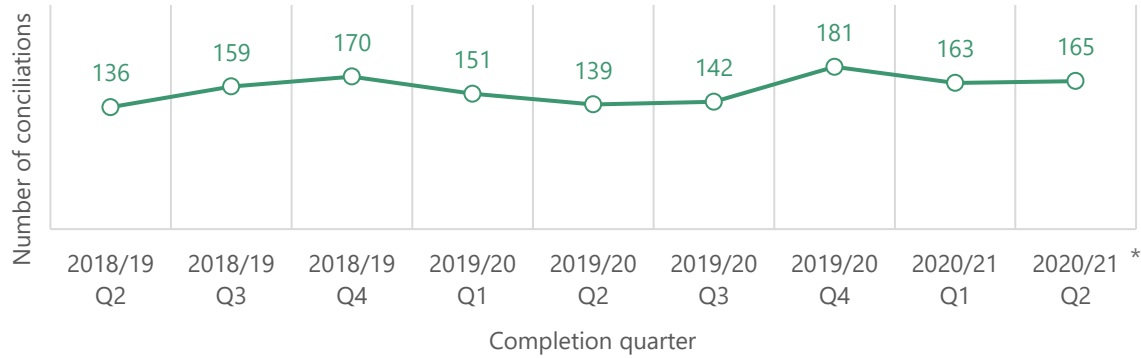
The median number of days from acceptance to completion for conciliations



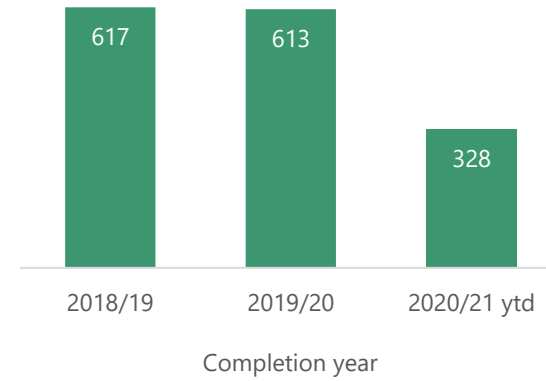
# Conciliations

## 1.6 Conciliations with subsequent arbitrations

The number of conciliations with subsequent arbitration applications

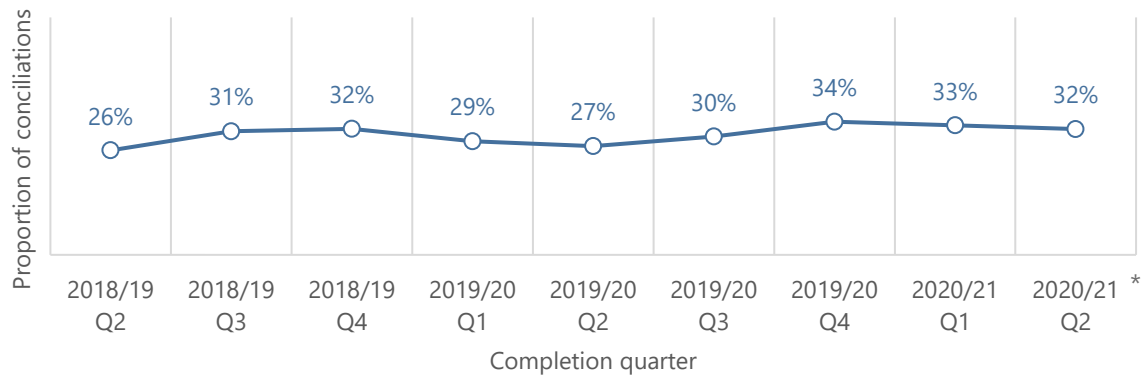


\* The data is based on conciliation completed date and the most recent quarter may be subject to change over time, as the data matures.

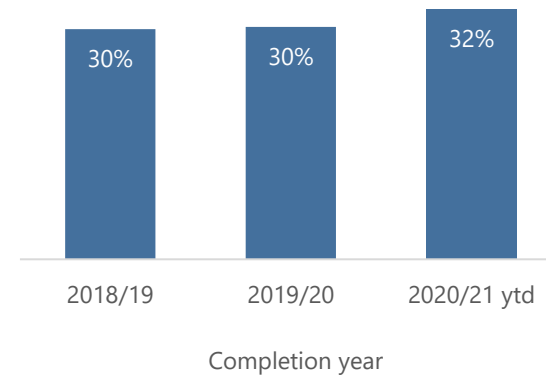


## 1.7 Proportion of conciliations with subsequent arbitrations

The proportion of conciliations with subsequent arbitration applications



\* The data is based on conciliation completed date and the most recent quarter may be subject to change over time, as the data matures.

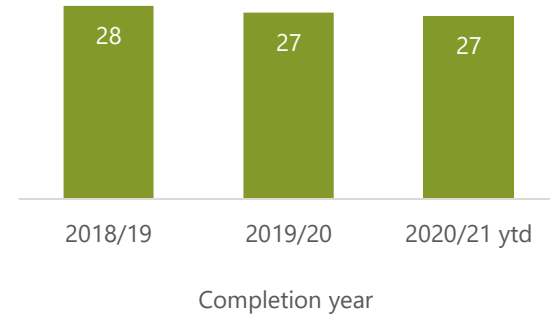
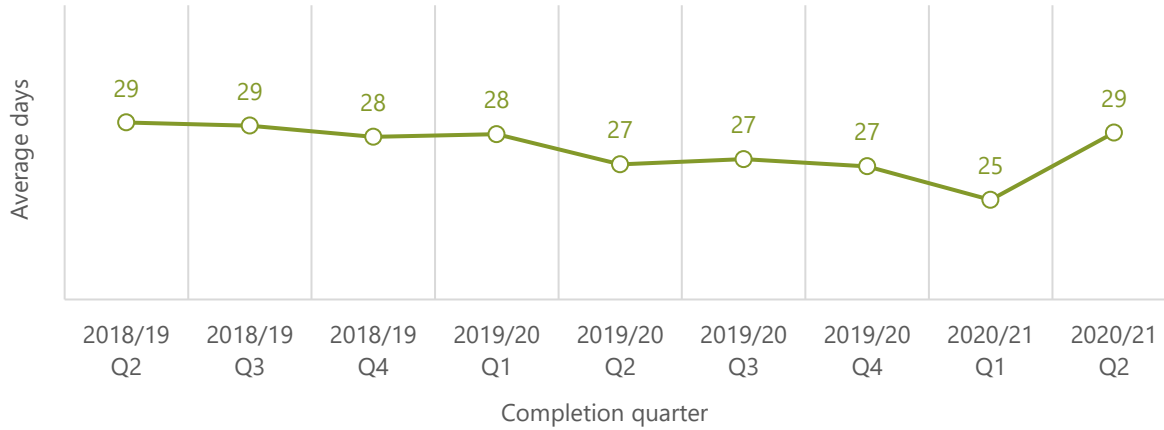




# Conciliations

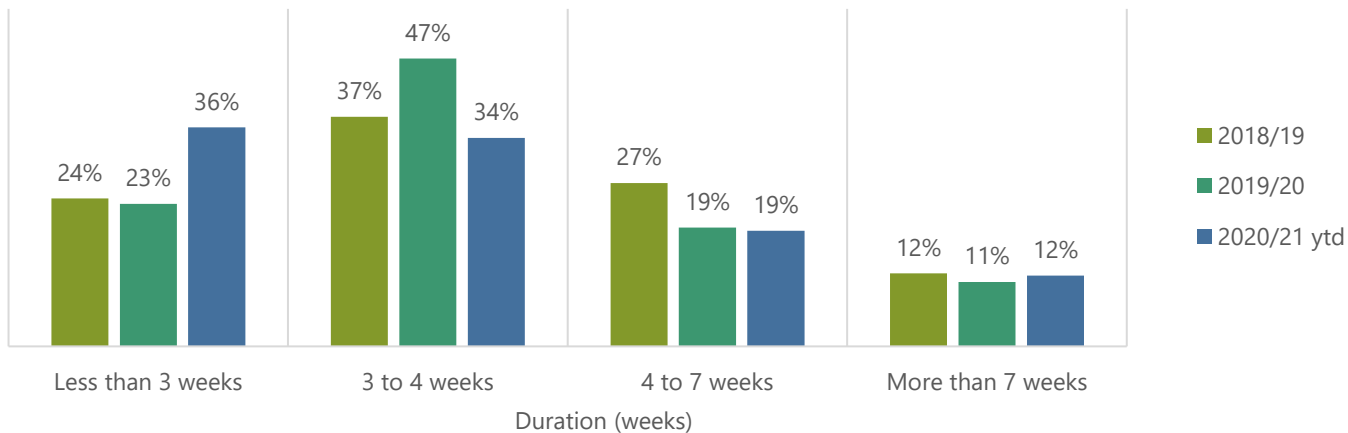
## 1.8 Average duration between acceptance and first conciliation conference

The average days from the acceptance of conciliation applications to the first conciliation conference



## 1.9 Conciliations by duration from acceptance to first conference

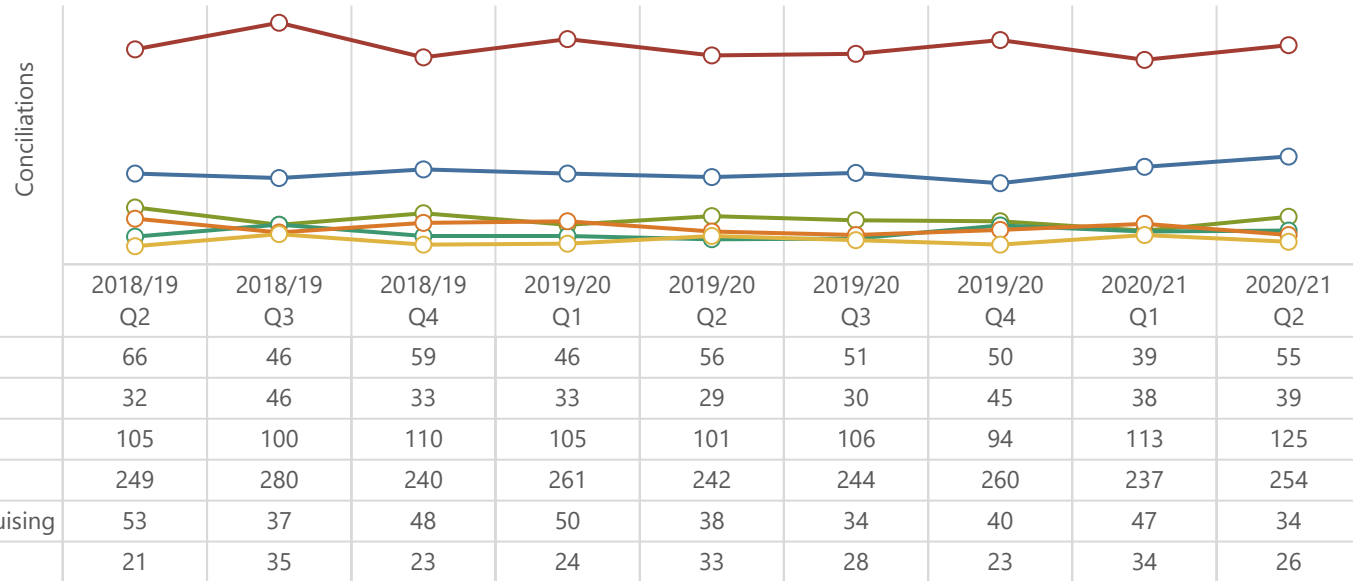
The proportion of conciliation by duration from acceptance to first conciliation conference



# Conciliations

## 1.10 Conciliations by nature of injury/disease

The number of accepted conciliations by nature of injury or disease



## 1.11 Comparison of conciliations and claims by nature of injury/disease - 2019/20 Q1 to 2019/20 Q4\*

The proportion of accepted conciliations by nature of injury or disease compared with claims lodged

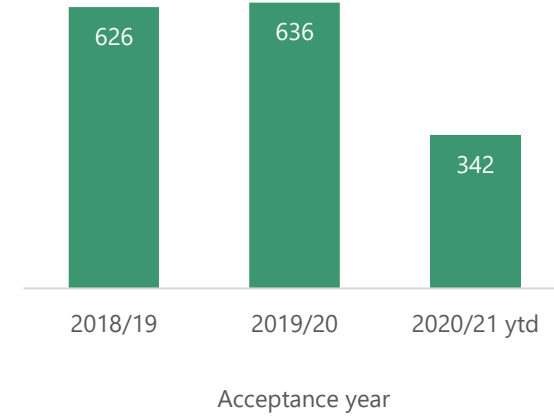
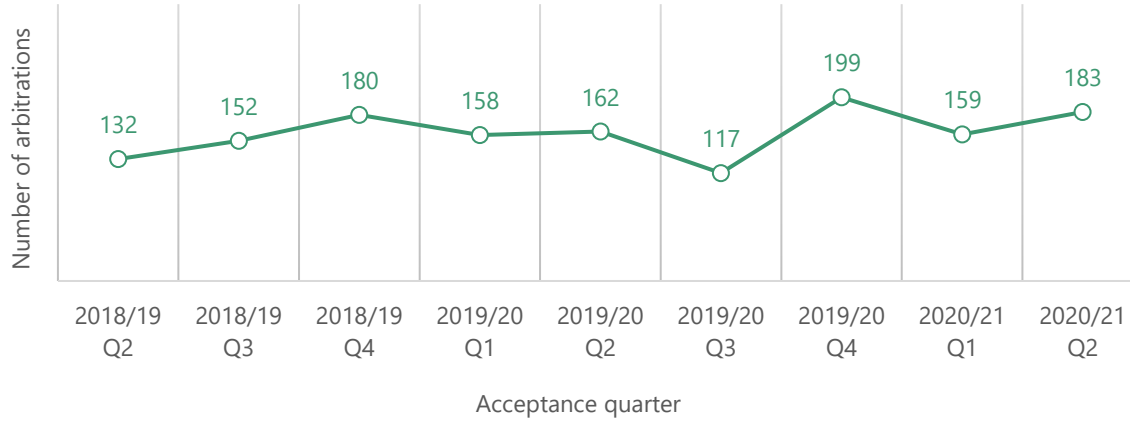
Nature of injury/disease	Conciliations	Claims
Diseases (includes cancer and other diseases)	10%	8%
Fractures	7%	10%
Mental conditions	20%	5%
Sprains and strains	50%	46%
Wounds, contusions, bruising	8%	23%
Other injuries	5%	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Two quarter lag applies to allow for claims information to be processed

# Arbitrations

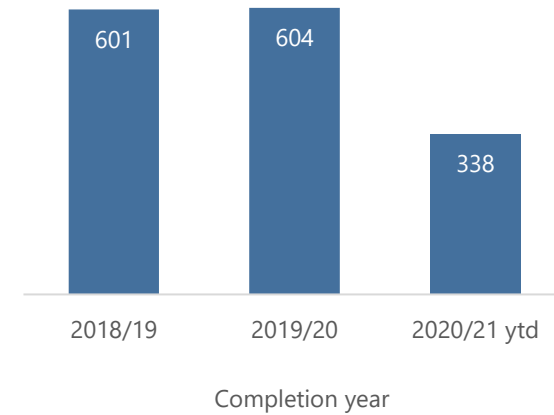
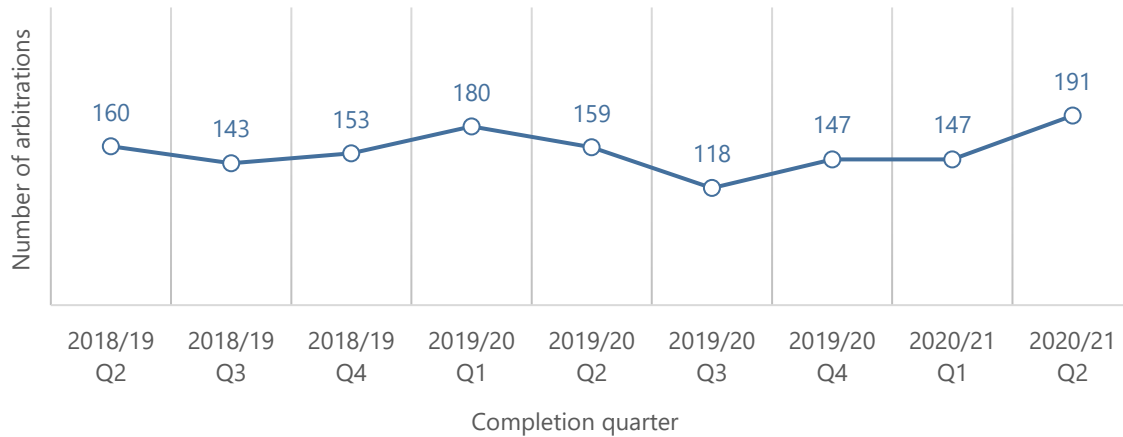
## 2.1 Accepted arbitrations

The number of accepted arbitrations



## 2.2 Completed arbitrations

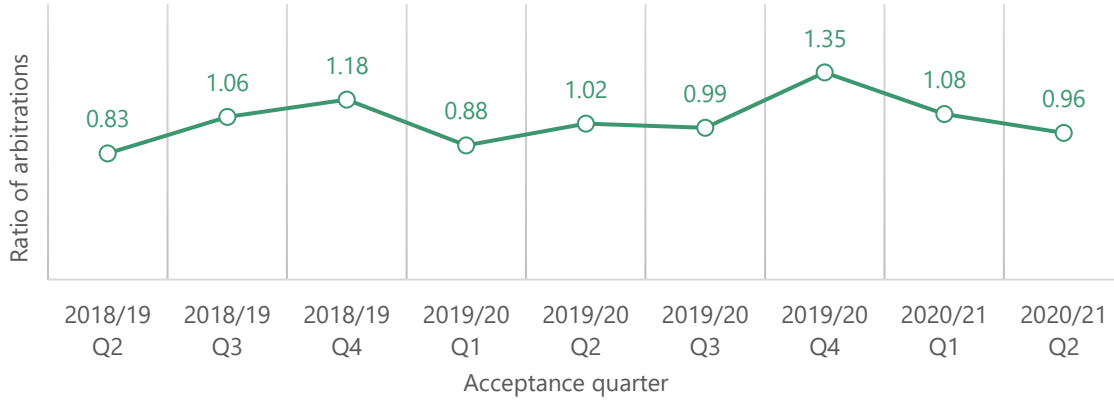
The number of closed arbitrations



# Arbitrations

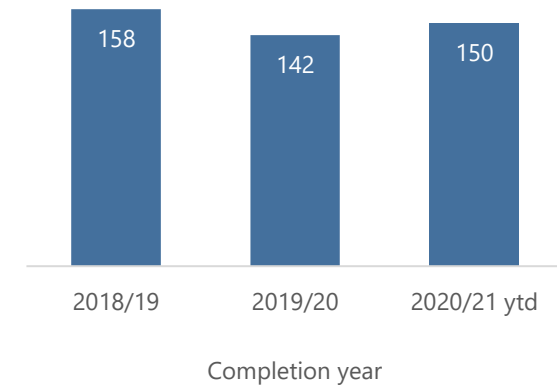
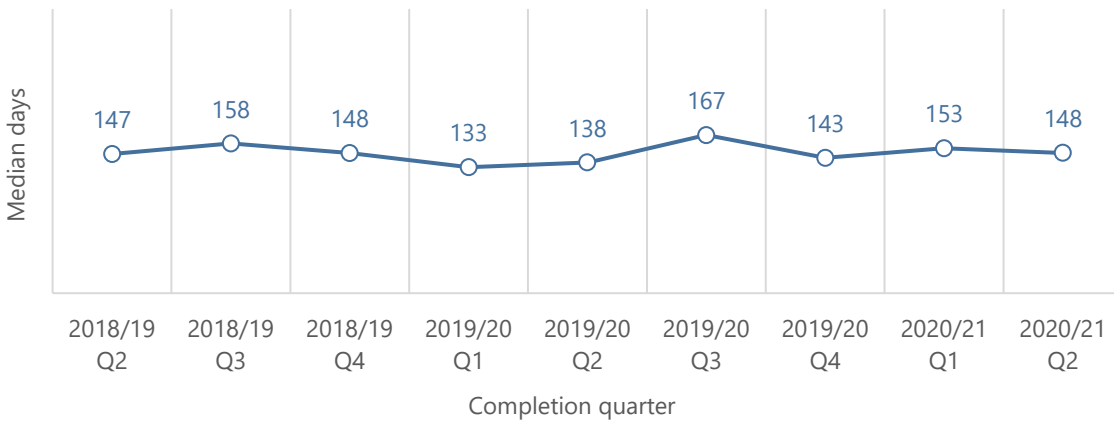
## 2.3 Ratio of accepted to completed arbitrations

The ratio between the number of accepted to closed arbitrations



## 2.4 Median days to complete arbitrations

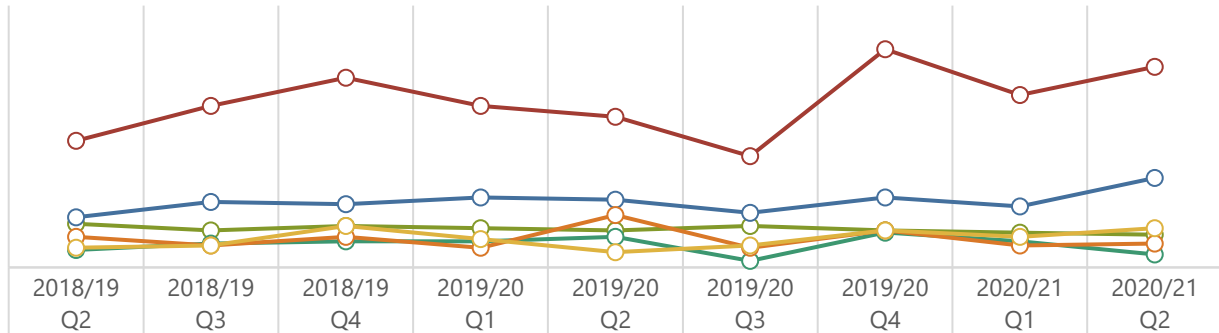
The median number of days from acceptance to completion for arbitrations (excludes conciliation time)



# Arbitrations

## 2.5 Arbitrations by nature of injury/disease

The number of arbitrations by nature of injury or disease



	2018/19 Q2	2018/19 Q3	2018/19 Q4	2019/20 Q1	2019/20 Q2	2019/20 Q3	2019/20 Q4	2020/21 Q1	2020/21 Q2
Diseases	20	17	19	18	17	19	17	16	15
Fractures	8	11	12	12	14	3	16	12	6
Mental conditions	23	30	29	32	31	25	32	28	41
Sprains and strains	58	74	87	74	69	51	100	79	92
Wounds, contusions, bruising	14	10	14	9	24	9	17	10	11
Other injuries	9	10	19	13	7	10	17	14	18

## 2.6 Comparison of arbitrations and claims by nature of injury/disease - 2019/20 Q1 to 2019/20 Q4\*

The proportion of arbitrations by nature of injury or disease compared with claims lodged

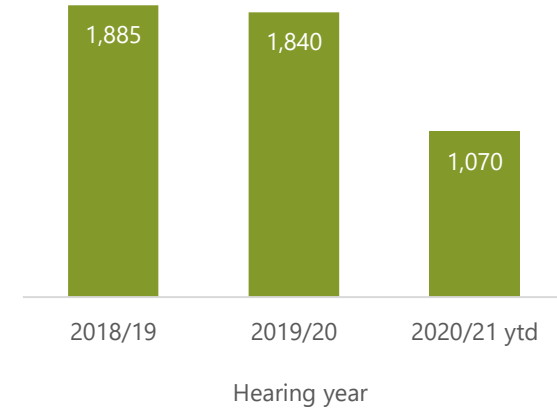
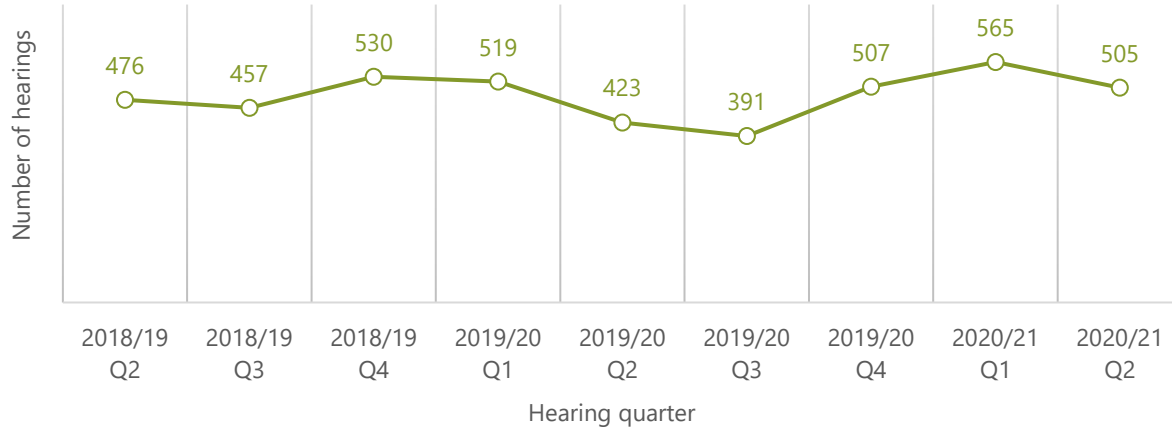
Nature of injury/disease	Arbitrations	Claims
Diseases (includes cancer and other diseases)	11%	8%
Fractures	7%	10%
Mental conditions	19%	5%
Sprains and strains	46%	46%
Wounds, contusions, bruising	9%	23%
Other injuries	7%	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

\* Two quarter lag applies to allow for claims information to be processed

# Hearings

## 3.1 Arbitration hearings held

The number of all arbitration hearings (directions, interlocutory, formal arbitration, costs) held/completed (excludes pre-arbitration conferences)



## 3.2 Proportion of arbitration hearings by type

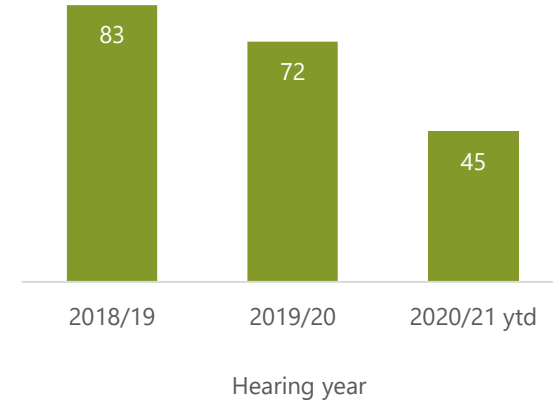
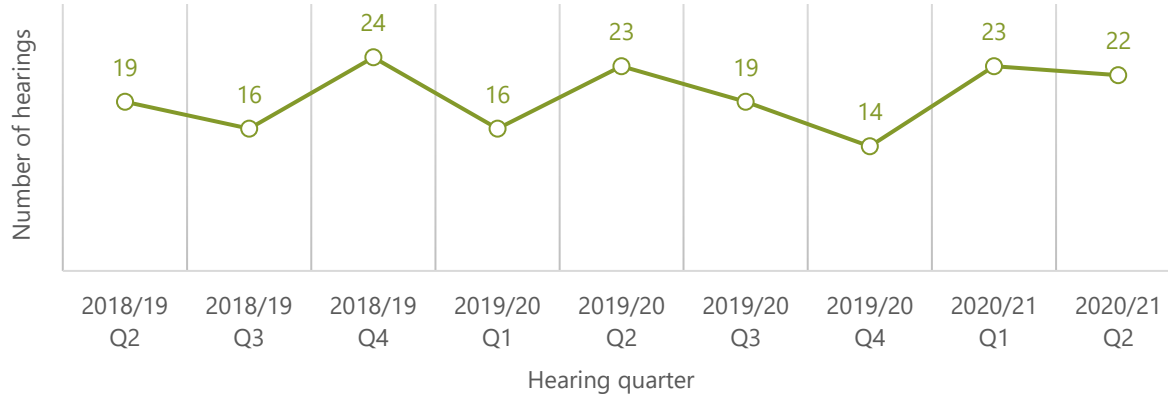
The proportion of arbitration hearings held/completed by type of hearing

Hearing type	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21 ytd
Formal arbitration	4%	4%	4%
Costs	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%
Directions	83%	85%	87%
Interlocutory	13%	11%	9%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

# Hearings

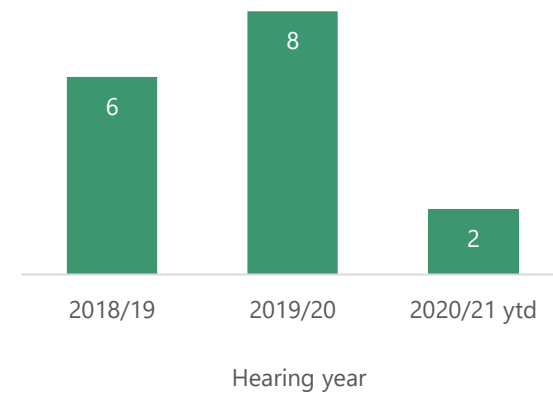
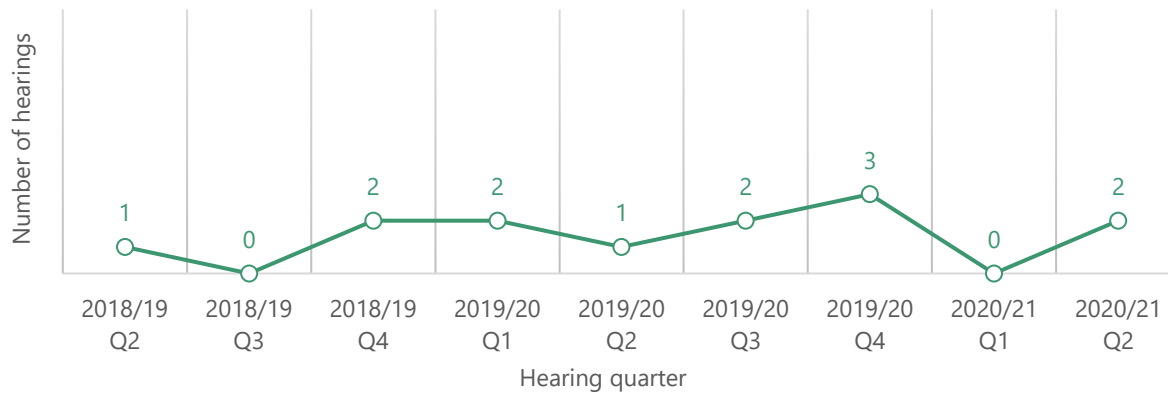
## 3.3.1 Hearings held by hearing type - Formal arbitration

The number of formal arbitration hearings held/completed



## 3.3.2 Hearings held by hearing type - Costs

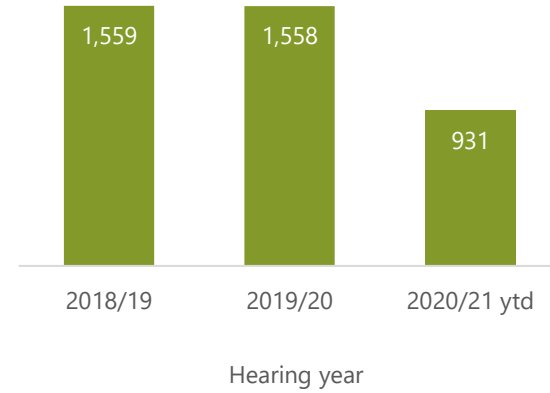
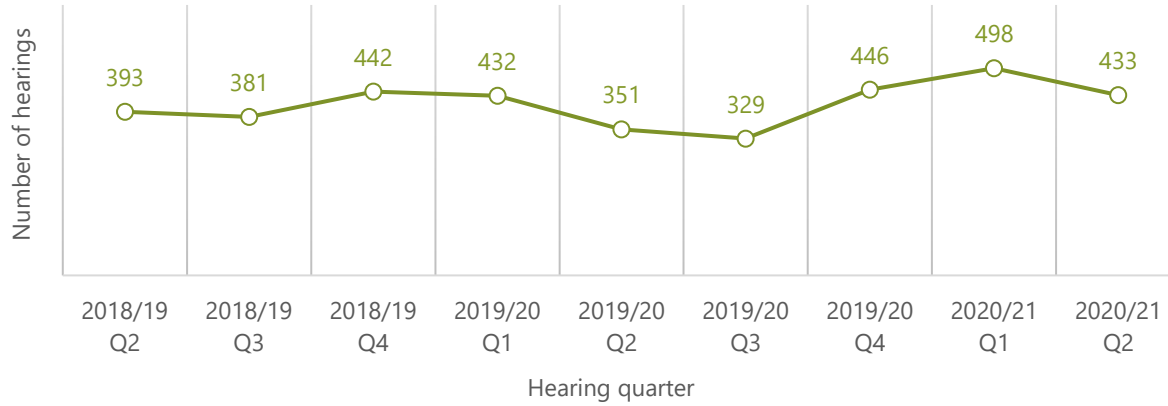
The number of costs hearings held/completed



# Hearings

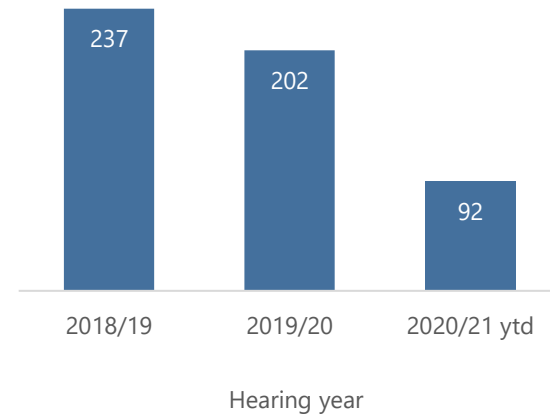
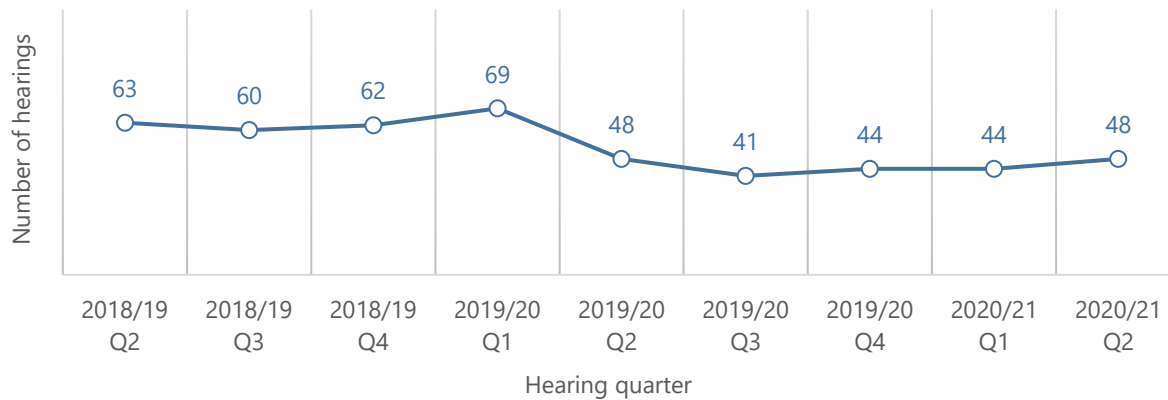
## 3.3.3 Hearings held by hearing type - Directions (includes directions by telephone)

The number of direction hearings held/completed



## 3.3.4 Hearings held by hearing type - Interlocutory

The number of interlocutory hearings held/completed

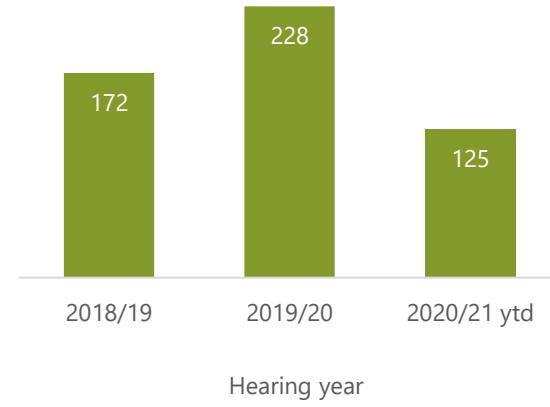
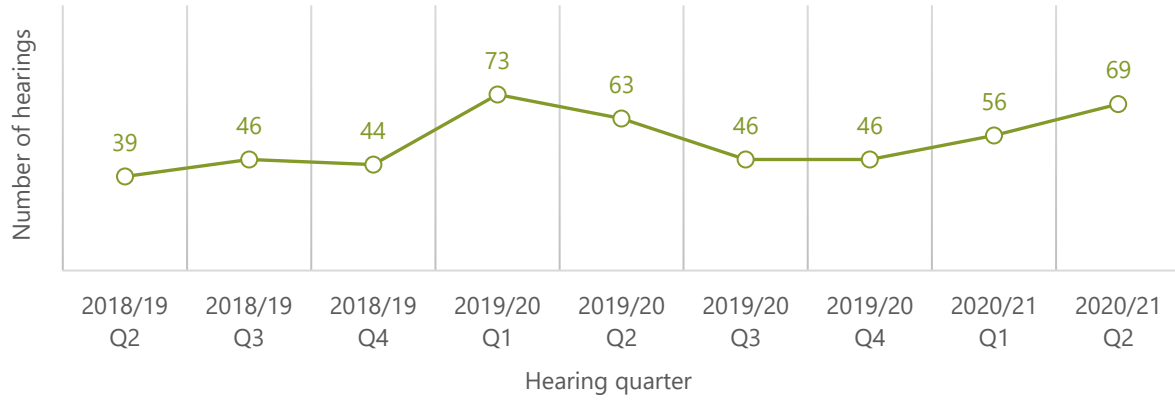




# Hearings

## 3.3.5 Pre-arbitration Conferences held

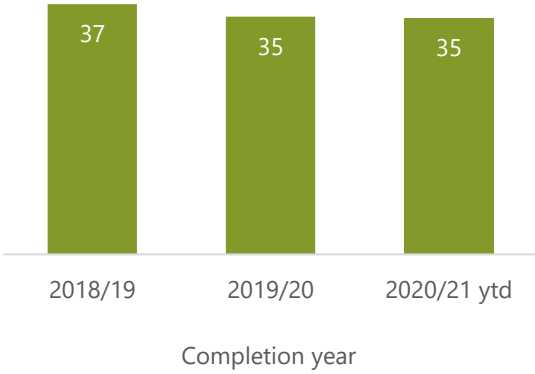
The number of pre-arbitration conferences held/completed



# Hearings

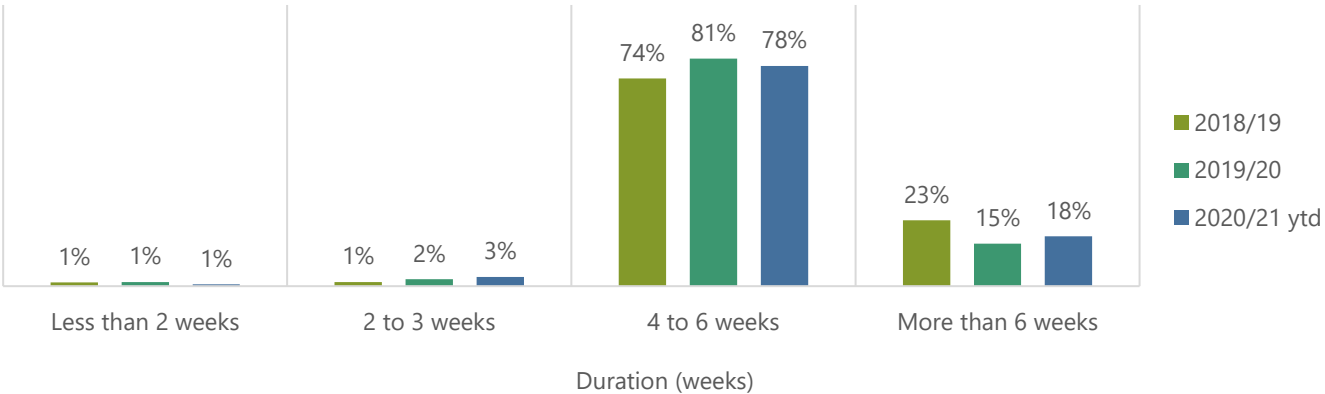
## 3.4 Average duration between acceptance and first hearing

The average days from the acceptance of arbitration application to the first hearing of any type (directions, interlocutory, formal arbitration and costs)



## 3.5 Arbitrations by duration from acceptance to first hearing

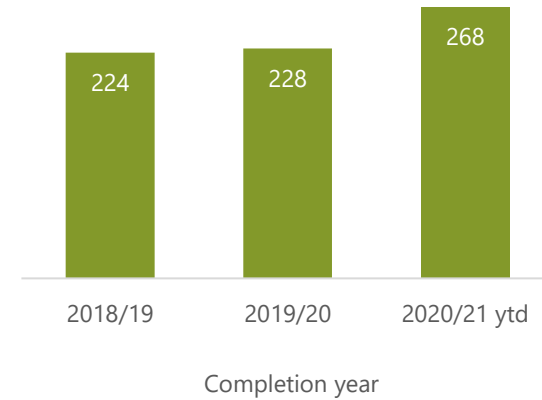
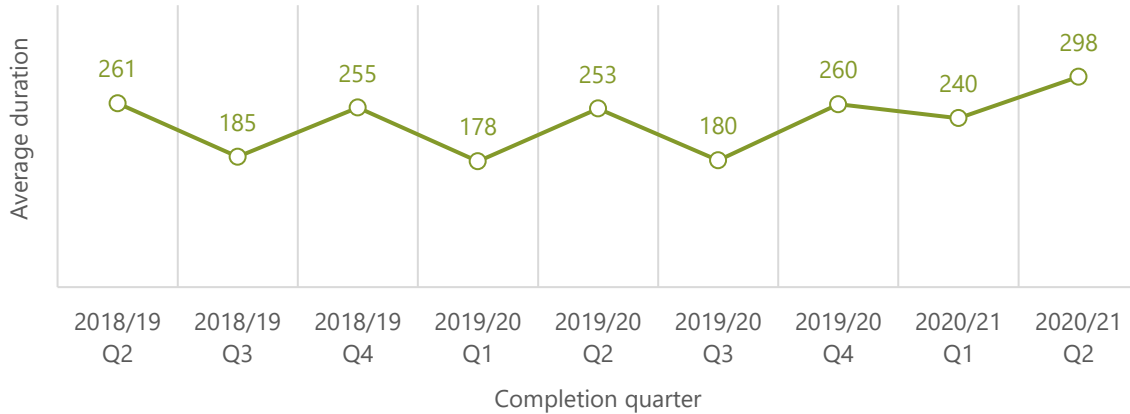
The proportion of arbitration applications by duration from acceptance to first hearing of any type



# Hearings

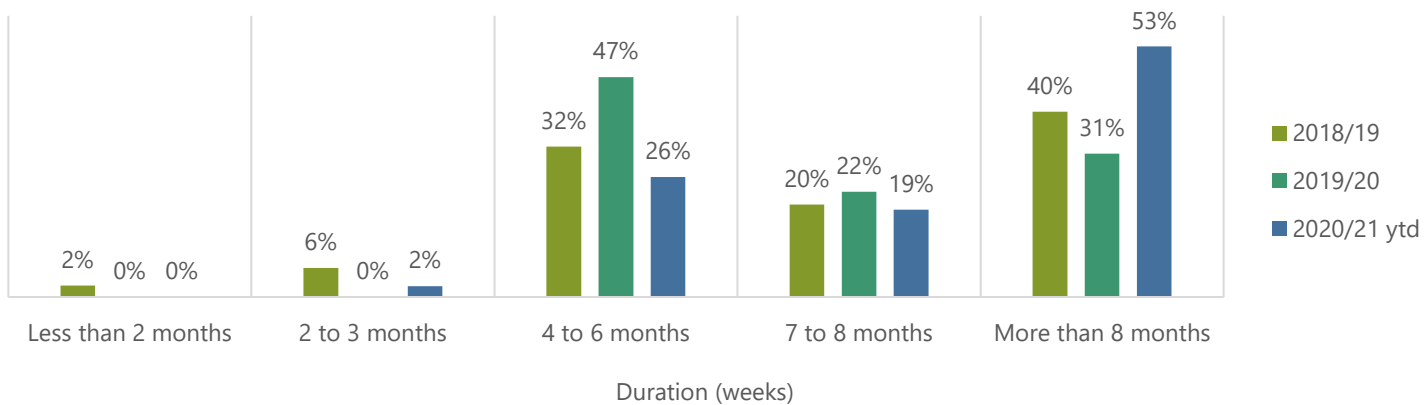
## 3.6 Average duration from acceptance to first formal arbitration hearing

The average number of days from the acceptance of arbitration application to the first formal arbitration hearing



## 3.7 Arbitrations by duration from acceptance to first formal arbitration hearing

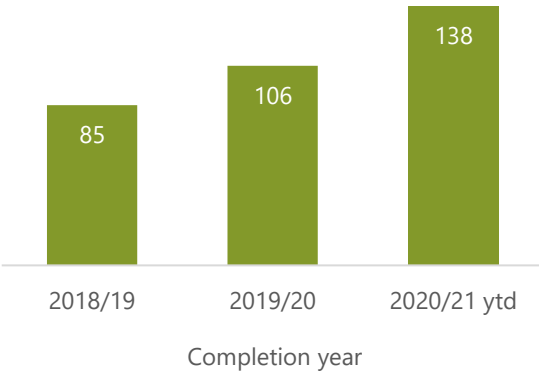
The proportion of arbitration applications by duration from acceptance to first formal arbitration hearing



# Hearings

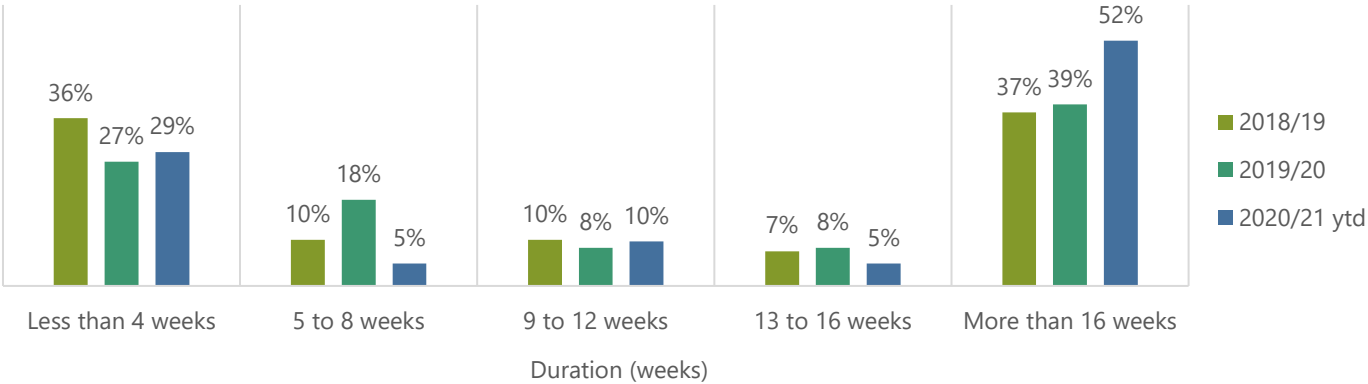
## 3.8 Average duration from last formal arbitration hearing to completion

The average number of days from the last formal arbitration hearing to completion



## 3.9 Arbitrations by duration from last formal arbitration hearing to completion

The proportion of arbitrations by duration from the last formal arbitration hearing to completion



## 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 and self-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.