

14 March 2022



Tēnā koe



## Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-016798

Thank you for your email of 15 February 2022, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Can you please send me the data for all noise induced hearing loss claims from 2010 to 2021.

- 1. By total number new and active claims year on year
- 2. By ethnicity
- 3. By industry
- 4. By age
- 5. BY gender

### And

I am seeking data on covered claims – ie those ACC has accepted for cover. I may not have made that clear. I also want to know the number of claims declined due to falling below the 6% threshold. In the period 2010-2021

- 1. Can you provide the data on the number of claims declined on the basis that they are below 6%.
- 2. Can you please provide data on the number of claims that fall between 5-6%.
- 3. Can you provide data on the cost saving estimated by ACC for claims that fall below the 6% threshold.

## Our response

Please find the requested data in the attached appendix. Tables one to five contain the breakdown of the number of all accepted noise-induced hearing loss claims from 2010 to 2021 by new and active claims, ethnicity, industry, age and gender. Table six contains data on the number of claims declined where the hearing loss was below 6% and the number of accepted and declined claims that fall between a hearing loss of 5-6%.

### **ACC** takes privacy seriously

ACC does not routinely disclose low value numbers related to claims. Accordingly, some of the values in the tables only indicate that the number is fewer than 4 (denoted as <4). In other instances, values are suppressed and notated as (..). This limits the potential for particular individuals, or matters specific to certain individuals, from being identified.

Withholding in this way is necessary to protect the privacy of these individuals. This decision has been made under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. In doing so, we have considered the public interest in making the information available and have determined that it does not outweigh the need to protect the privacy of these persons.

### **Estimated cost saving for hearing loss claims**

ACC has not undertaken any cost saving estimates for hearing loss claims that fall below the 6% threshold between 2010 and 2021. Work has been completed on the estimated future cost impacts of proposed

policy changes but not the estimated amount that would be saved. Therefore, we are refusing to answer this question as the information does not exist. This decision has been made under section 18(e) of the Act.

# How to get in contact

If you have any questions, you can email me at <a href="mailto:GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz">GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz</a>.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at <a href="https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz">www.ombudsman.parliament.nz</a> or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti noa, nā

Sara Freitag

**Acting Manager Official Information Act Services** 

Government Engagement & Support

### Notes about the data

- The data is in calendar years. A calendar year is 1 January to 31 December.

  Accordined Employer claims have been excluded.

  Noise induced hearing loss is defined by diagnosis industrial Deafiness' or read code. Noise-induced hearing loss?.

  A claim can cover multiple calendar years. A claim which lasts longer than one year is counted as active' once for each calendar year covered. For example, a claim which lasted from 2017 to 2020 would be counted a total of four times once for each calendar year.

  Only, dains with an accepted cover decision have been included in Tables 1 to 5.

  Only, work-related claims have been included in Tables 1 to 5.

  Only work-related claims have been included in Tables 1 to 5.

- work-related Noise induced Hearing Loss injuries and total costs registered between 2010 2021.

  New claims are claims that were looked in that year. In these tables they have been counted by the date the claim was registered with ACC. This can be immediately after the injury occurred or at any later stage.

  Active claims are claims that have generated a payment in the relevant financial years. These claims were not necessar ly registered or had the accident occur in the same financial year.

  Costs provided are exclusive of GST.

  Costs are based on payment date. Payment date may be different to the date of service.

  Costs do not include Pub ic Health Acute Services (PHAS) payments. Treatment for covered claims in public hospitals is provided by an annual service agreement between ACC and the Ministry of Health and is funded by bulk payments from ACC to the Crown.

Calendar Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	20 6	2017	20 8	2019	2020	2021
New Claims	5 903	2 270	2 322	2 159	3 020	3 815	4 515	4 544	4 128	3 785	3 288	2 536
Active Claims	45 364	39 127	8 522	38 519	40 328	43 765	46 173	48 207	48 689	48 280	46 314	45 856
Claim Costs (\$)	60 381 831	27 765 253	20 714 408	20 951 267	30 241 385	43 129 357	39 034 884	39 984 980	40 814 63	35 899 186	6 836 109	39 390 078

Table 2: Number of new claims for work-related Noise Induced Hearing Loss injuries registered between 2010 and 2021, broken down by ethnicity.

Up to six ethnicities can be chosen by a client when they complete the ACC Injury claim form which is completed when a person seeks medical treatment for their injuries. ACC's system prioritises ethnicity data as below:

Mont — regardless of other ethnicities: listed are classified as Mont.
Pacific Peoples — people with any other response other than Misori are class fled as Pacific
Asian — people with any recopons other than Misori are flex flex et scissified as Asian
Other Ethnicity — regardless of any responses other than Misori Pacific or Asian are class fled as Other
European — people with on on its Indian i Pacific Asian or Other are classified as European
Residual Categories — includes those unknown or not stated.

Ethnicity		Registration Calendar Year												
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	20 5	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021		
Mãori	313	175	219	193	267	297	413	457	401	358	313	243		
Pacific Peoples	70	40	39	38	66	76	71	94	78	64	89	55		
Asian	27	9	17	13	22	24	32	45	26	28	26	12		
Other Ethnicity	137	59	45	54	51	82	77	97	03	125	74	62		
European	5 260	1 936	1 967	1 839	2 567	3 264	3 842	3 791	3 439	3 058	2 667	2 069		
Residual Categories	96	51	35	22	47	72	80	60	81	152	119	95		

### Table 3: Number of new claims for work-related Noise Induced Hearing Loss injuries registered between 2010 and 2021, broken down by industry,

Industry						Registration (						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	20 5	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Agriculture Forestry and Fishing	1 401	498	514	477	667	835	1 061	1 084	867	790	701	530
Mining	49	23	25	17	22	0	47	35	35	31	27	19
Manufacturing	1 651	575	638	612	800	1 029	1 319	1 203	978	861	700	405
Electricity Gas and Water Supply	56	17	22	19	40	37	43	53	32	37	42	21
Construction	1 189	489	466	446	575	699	966	923	871	784	680	560
Wholesale Trade	69	18	14	27	17	0	25	36	36	36	41	14
Retail Trade	424	164	136	127	180	266	256	08	257	264	184	142
Accommodation Cafes and Restaurants	23	10	11	9	0	21	18	20	19	9	7	8
Transport and Storage	328	126	146	121	159	222	265	281	209	165	161	107
Communication Services	55	15	17	19	23	37	37	38	30	34	16	10
Finance and Insurance	6	0	0	0	<4	<4	<4	6	<4	4	<4	0
Property and Business Services	115	44	51	34	51	67	71	77	78	72	84	30
Government Administration and Defence	130	45	42	43	55	52	94	83	85	54	53	39
Education	57	12	14	22	15	28	12	26	17	10	8	8
Health and Community Services	37	16	15	9	8	26	30	26	16	12	15	14
Cultural and Recreational Services	47	14	21	20	35	32	63	63	37	46	37	16
Personal and Other Services	106	43	59	57	65	97	08	112	96	96	59	43
Unknown	160	161	131	100				170		480		570

### able 4: Number of new claims for work-related Noise Induced Hearing Loss injuries registered between 2010 and 2021, broken down by age.

Age		Registration Calendar Year												
.p.	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	20 5	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021		
47239	12	<4	5	4	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4		<4	<4		
0-34	17		11	<4				8	11	<4	<4			
35-39	52	17	12	17	9	11	13	12	16	10	10	12		
40-44	124	38	30	34	41	46	63	36	33	24	31	15		
45-49	299	94	95	78	92	115	127	115	112	87	84	66		
50-54	605	217	232	198	222	243	315	288	283	237	185	155		
55-59	965	370	355		397	495	544	561	518	479	380	280		
60-64	1 263	478	462	410	580	677	746			656	592	491		
65 / Unknown	2 566	1 048	1 120	1 094	1 672	2 220	2 695	2 720	2 475	2 284	2 001	1 511		

### Table 5: Number of new claims for work-related Noise Induced Hearing Loss injuries registered between 2010 and 2021, broken down by sex.

Sav		Registration Calendar Year												
SCA .	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	20 5	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021		
Female	400	132	136	166	246	340	409	440	353	291	286	180		
Male	5 503	2 138	2 186	1 993	2 774	3 475	4 06	4 04	3 775	3 494	3 002	2 356		

# Table 6: Number of new claims for work-related Noise Induced Hearing Loss injuries with less than 6% hearing loss registered between 2010 and 2021, broken down by hearing loss percentage and cover decision. A claim with hearing loss below 6% may be accepted for cover if there are other types of linguies involved. A claim may include more than one hearing loss assessment in these cases the most recent assessment has been included.

Cover Decision	Hearing Loss Percentage		Registration Calendar Year											
COVER DECISION	riculing 2033 i ci centuge	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	20 5	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Accept	5%-6%	247	6	4	5	5	<4	5	<4	9	<4	<4	<4	
Accept	<5%	1710	81	87	104	93		159		137				
Decline	5%-6%	120	169	169	130	173	202	272	254	80	245	203	176	
Decline	<5%	681	1121	1155	1068	1451	1948	2326	2751	3324	878	861	3368	
Held	<5%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	309	