



17 May 2022



Kia ora 

**Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-018048**

Thank you for your email of 2 May 2022, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*I am currently doing a paper on noise-induced hearing loss and was wondering if you could provide me with some up-to-date statistics and any information you may have regarding this topic.*

Your request is very broad, and we attempted to clarify with you on 5 May 2022. As no response was received, we have proceeded to make a decision based on our interpretation of your request, as outlined in the clarification email.

**There are a number of resources regarding Noise Induced Hearing Loss on our website**

These resources cover a number of noise-induced hearing loss topics and can be found at [www.acc.co.nz/resources/#/search/noise%20induced%20hearing%20loss](http://www.acc.co.nz/resources/#/search/noise%20induced%20hearing%20loss).

**Please find the requested data in the attached document**

Noise induced hearing loss is defined where the claim has a diagnosis of *Industrial Deafness* or injury description of *Noise-induced hearing loss*.

*ACC does not routinely disclose claim counts fewer than four*

Accordingly, some of the values in the tables only indicate that the claim count is fewer than 4 (denoted as <4). In other instances, values are suppressed and denoted as two dots (...). 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.

**As this information may be of interest to other members of the public**

ACC has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on ACC's website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available [www.acc.co.nz/resources/#/category/12](http://www.acc.co.nz/resources/#/category/12).

**If you're concerned about this response, please get in touch**

You can email me at [GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz](mailto:GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz). You can also complain to the Ombudsman via [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by phoning 0800 802 602. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz).

Ngā mihi

Sara Freitag

**Acting Manager Official Information Act Services**  
Government Engagement & Support

**NOTE:**

The data, by calendar years, was extracted on 10 May and may differ if re-run at a later date. Only work-related injury claims with an accepted cover decision have been included. All accredited employer claims have been excluded, as ACC hold limited details about these.

**Table 1: Number of NIHL injuries registered between 1 January 2017 and 30 April 2022, broken down by ethnicity**

Ethnicity	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (YTD)
Māori	450	387	346	303	267	12
Pacific Peoples	92	73	62	86	59	5
Asian	45	26	28	26	16	<4
Other Ethnicity	96	102	124	72	65	<4
European	3,724	3,370	3,005	2,621	2,245	196
Residual Categories	57	80	133	113	111	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,464</b>	<b>4,038</b>	<b>3,698</b>	<b>3,221</b>	<b>2,763</b>	<b>228</b>

**Table 2: Number of NIHL injuries registered between 1 January 2017 and 30 April 2022, broken down by age group**

Age Group	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (YTD)
0-14	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-19	-	-	-	<4	-	-
20-24	-	<4	<4	-	-	<4
25-29	<4	<4	<4	-	<4	-
30-34	-	-	<4	<4	4	<4
35-39	12	15	10	8	11	<4
40-44	32	32	-	28	-	<4
45-49	108	105	82	79	70	5
50-54	270	270	233	173	163	16
55-59	539	484	460	366	300	16
60-64	788	657	621	573	540	41
65+	2,706	2,464	2,265	1,991	1,658	143
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,464</b>	<b>4,038</b>	<b>3,698</b>	<b>3,221</b>	<b>2,763</b>	<b>228</b>

**Table 3: Number of NIHL injuries registered between 1 January 2017 and 30 April 2022, broken down by sex**

Sex	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 (YTD)
Female	433	354	288	281	205	10
Male	4,031	3,684	3,410	2,940	2,558	218
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,464</b>	<b>4,038</b>	<b>3,698</b>	<b>3,221</b>	<b>2,763</b>	<b>228</b>

**Table 4: Number of active claims and total costs for NIHL injuries that received payments, broken down ethnicity**

Active claims are claims that generated a payment in the relevant years. The claims may not have been registered in the same calendar year that payments are generated.

Claims that generate payments over multiple years are counted for every calendar year covered.

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

Costs provided exclusive of GST.

Costs do not include Public Health Acute Services (PHAS) payments. The costs covered in public hospitals are provided by an annual service agreement and is funded by bulk payments from ACC to the Crown.

Ethnicity	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022 (YTD)	
	Active Claims	Claim Costs (\$)	Active Claims	Claim Costs (\$)	Active Claims	Claim Costs (\$)	Active Claims	Claim Costs (\$)	Active Claims	Claim Costs (\$)	Active Claims	Claim Costs (\$)
Māori	2,526	2,573,295	2,647	2,678,756	2,693	2,392,948	2,568	2,403,705	2,548	2,555,704	1,182	671,883
Pacific Peoples	497	496,086	507	518,130	494	428,223	498	542,503	526	541,749	208	127,487
Asian	182	193,154	200	215,913	190	178,116	208	187,986	194	206,174	83	30,716
Other Ethnicity	1,271	1,012,103	1,300	1,081,842	1,282	917,038	1,277	1,050,490	1,195	1,008,539	563	264,807
European	43,156	35,047,219	43,470	35,666,237	42,952	31,235,799	41,081	31,767,906	40,838	34,299,214	19,405	9,878,556
Residual Categories	1,309	852,271	1,269	858,198	1,328	944,670	1,296	1,022,508	1,270	1,172,044	615	308,910
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,941</b>	<b>40,174,128</b>	<b>49,393</b>	<b>41,019,077</b>	<b>48,939</b>	<b>36,096,794</b>	<b>46,928</b>	<b>36,975,100</b>	<b>46,571</b>	<b>39,783,423</b>	<b>22,056</b>	<b>11,282,360</b>

**Ethnicity data**

Up to six ethnicities can be chosen by a client when they complete the ACC injury claim form. Our system will prioritise the ethnicity data, as below:

- Māori – regardless of other ethnicities listed, are classified as Māori.
- Pacific Peoples – people with any other response other than Māori are classified as Pacific.
- Asian – people with any response other than Māori and Pacific are classified as Asian.
- Other Ethnicity – regardless of any responses other than Māori, Pacific or Asian are classified as Other.
- European – people who do not list Māori, Pacific, Asian or Other are classified as European.
- Residual Categories – includes those unknown or not stated.

**Table 5: Number of active claims and total costs for NIHL injuries that received payments between 1 January 2017 and 30 April 2022, broken down by age group**

Active claims are claims that generated a payment in the relevant years. The claims may not have been registered in the same calendar year that payments are generated.

Claims that generate payments over multiple years are counted for every calendar year covered.

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

Costs provided exclusive of GST.

Costs do not include Public Health Acute Services (PHAS) payments. The costs covered in public hospitals are provided by an annual service agreement and is funded by bulk payments from ACC to the Crown.

Age Group	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022 (YTD)	
	Active Claims	Claim Costs (\$)	Active Claims	Claim Costs (\$)	Active Claims	Claim Costs (\$)	Active Claims	Claim Costs (\$)	Active Claims	Claim Costs (\$)	Active Claims	Claim Costs (\$)
0-14	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-19	9	18,786	7	4,063	11	12,956	11	4,941	8	9,904	4	8,457
20-24	45	57,575	45	47,424	52	40,352	50	37,609	57	87,981	22	5,903
25-29	166	182,118	185	208,856	183	201,127	175	162,673	185	224,634	112	59,917
30-34	474	460,757	539	497,259	516	436,249	501	431,526	517	473,924	256	136,920
35-39	1,066	942,793	1,085	834,905	1,099	866,463	1,076	908,304	1,101	911,928	520	277,245
40-44	2,283	1,958,957	2,272	1,905,676	2,285	1,679,313	2,182	1,658,203	2,201	1,881,040	1,096	572,098
45-49	3,621	2,838,338	3,685	3,003,758	3,633	2,487,341	3,498	2,684,827	3,482	2,859,935	1,714	802,127
50-54	5,664	4,557,226	5,728	4,535,468	5,653	4,182,789	5,486	4,147,190	5,509	4,642,505	2,610	1,303,677
55-59	7,768	6,329,403	7,759	6,511,395	7,809	5,851,847	7,448	5,920,813	7,375	6,387,762	3,465	1,769,134
60-64	8,824	7,098,144	8,882	7,408,486	8,762	6,428,273	8,537	6,811,452	8,577	7,459,484	4,126	2,132,107
65+	19,021	15,730,031	19,206	16,061,788	18,936	13,910,086	17,964	14,207,561	17,559	14,844,327	8,131	4,214,776
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,941</b>	<b>40,174,128</b>	<b>49,393</b>	<b>41,019,077</b>	<b>48,939</b>	<b>36,096,794</b>	<b>46,928</b>	<b>36,975,100</b>	<b>46,571</b>	<b>39,783,423</b>	<b>22,056</b>	<b>11,282,360</b>

**Table 6: Number of active claims and total costs for NIHL injuries that received payments between 1 January 2017 and 30 April 2022, broken down by sex**

Active claims are claims that generated a payment in the relevant years. The claims may not have been registered in the same calendar year that payments are generated.

Claims that generate payments over multiple years are counted for every calendar year covered.

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

Costs provided exclusive of GST.

Costs do not include Public Health Acute Services (PHAS) payments. The costs covered in public hospitals are provided by an annual service agreement and is funded by bulk payments from ACC to the Crown.

Sex	2017		2018		2019		2020		2021		2022 (YTD)	
	Active Claims	Claim Costs (\$)	Active Claims	Claim Costs (\$)	Active Claims	Claim Costs (\$)	Active Claims	Claim Costs (\$)	Active Claims	Claim Costs (\$)	Active Claims	Claim Costs (\$)
Female	2,899	2,328,860	3,014	2,448,353	2,942	1,930,503	2,812	2,139,753	2,767	2,195,303	1,221	623,126
Male	46,042	37,845,268	46,379	38,570,723	45,997	34,166,291	44,116	34,835,346	43,804	37,588,121	20,835	10,659,235
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,941</b>	<b>40,174,128</b>	<b>49,393</b>	<b>41,019,077</b>	<b>48,939</b>	<b>36,096,794</b>	<b>46,928</b>	<b>36,975,100</b>	<b>46,571</b>	<b>39,783,423</b>	<b>22,056</b>	<b>11,282,360</b>