

# Comparative Performance Monitoring Report

**Part 1 – Work Health and Safety Performance**

*22nd Edition - January 2021*

Comparison of work health and safety and workers' compensation schemes in Australia and New Zealand



**safe work australia**

#### **Disclaimer**

Safe Work Australia is an Australian Government statutory agency established in 2009. Safe Work Australia includes Members from the Commonwealth, and each state and territory, Members representing the interests of workers and Members representing the interests of employers.

Safe Work Australia works with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to improve work health and safety and workers' compensation arrangements. Safe Work Australia is a national policy body, not a regulator of work health and safety. The Commonwealth, states and territories have responsibility for regulating and enforcing work health and safety laws in their jurisdiction.

**ISSN 2209-9158**

#### **Creative Commons**

With the exception of the Safe Work Australia logo, this copyright work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence. To view a copy of this licence, visit [creativecommons.org/licenses](https://creativecommons.org/licenses). In essence, you are free to copy, communicate and adapt the work, even commercially, as long as you attribute the work to Safe Work Australia and abide by the other licence terms.

#### **Contact information**

Safe Work Australia | <mailto:info@swa.gov.au> | [www.swa.gov.au](http://www.swa.gov.au)

## Contents

Foreword .....	6
1. Serious claims .....	10
1.1 Incidence rate .....	10
1.2 Frequency rate .....	11
1.3 Long term incidence and frequency rates .....	12
1.4 Self-insured serious claims .....	13
2. Duration of absence .....	15
3. Work-related fatalities .....	16
3.1 Work-related traumatic injury fatalities .....	16
3.2 Work-related disease fatalities .....	17
4. Claims by size of business (in the private sector).....	19
5. Claims by mechanism of incident .....	20
5.1 Claims by mechanism of incident and jurisdiction .....	21
6. Claims by industry .....	26
6.1 Claims by industry and jurisdiction .....	28
Appendix 1 – Explanatory notes .....	41
Appendix 2 – Jurisdictional contact information.....	45

## Indicators

Indicator 1 – Incidence rates of serious injury and disease claims by jurisdiction.....	11
Indicator 2 – Frequency rates of serious injury claims by jurisdiction.....	11
Indicator 3 – Incidence rates of long term (12 weeks or more compensation) injury and disease claims by jurisdiction .....	12
Indicator 4 – Frequency rates of long term (12 weeks or more compensation) injury and disease claims by jurisdiction .....	13
Indicator 5a – Self-insured claims: number of serious claims by jurisdiction.....	13
Indicator 5b – Self-insured claims: proportion of serious claims by jurisdiction.....	14
Indicator 6 – Serious claims: Percentage involving selected periods of compensation, 2017–18 ...	15
Indicator 7a – Traumatic injury worker fatalities: number of incidents not on a public road, by state of death .....	16
Indicator 7b – Traumatic injury fatalities: incidence rate per 100,000 workers for incidents not on a public road, by state of death .....	17
Indicator 8 – Compensated fatalities involving occupational diseases by jurisdiction .....	18
Indicator 9 – Size of business: incidence rates (claims per 1,000 employees) of serious claims by jurisdiction (private sector only) .....	19
Indicator 10 – Proportion of serious claims by mechanism of incident.....	20
Indicator 10a – Body stressing by jurisdiction.....	21
Indicator 10b – Falls, trips and slips of a person by jurisdiction. ....	22
Indicator 10c – Being hit by moving objects by jurisdiction .....	22
Indicator 10d – Hitting objects with a part of the body by jurisdiction .....	23
Indicator 10e – Mental stress by jurisdiction .....	23
Indicator 10f – Other mechanisms by jurisdiction .....	24
Indicator 10g – Vehicle incidents by jurisdiction .....	25
Indicator 10h – Heat, electricity and other environmental factors by jurisdiction.....	25
Indicator 11 – Incidence rates of serious* claims by industry .....	27
Indicator 11a – Agriculture, forestry and fishing by jurisdiction .....	28
Indicator 11b – Mining by jurisdiction.....	29
Indicator 11c – Manufacturing by jurisdiction.....	29
Indicator 11d – Electricity, gas, water and waste services by jurisdiction .....	30
Indicator 11e – Construction by jurisdiction .....	31
Indicator 11f – Wholesale trade by jurisdiction .....	31
Indicator 11g – Retail trade by jurisdiction.....	32

Indicator 11h – Accommodation and food services by jurisdiction .....	33
Indicator 11i – Transport, postal and warehousing by jurisdiction.....	33
Indicator 11j – Information media and telecommunications by jurisdiction .....	34
Indicator 11k – Financial and insurance services by jurisdiction .....	35
Indicator 11l – Rental, hiring and real estate services by jurisdiction .....	35
Indicator 11m – Professional, scientific and technical services by jurisdiction .....	36
Indicator 11n – Administrative and support services by jurisdiction .....	37
Indicator 11o – Public administration and safety by jurisdiction .....	37
Indicator 11p – Education and training by jurisdiction .....	38
Indicator 11q – Healthcare and social assistance by jurisdiction .....	39
Indicator 11r – Arts and recreation services by jurisdiction .....	39
Indicator 11s – Other services by jurisdiction .....	40

## Foreword

The Comparative Performance Monitoring (CPM) reports provide trend analyses about work health and safety (WHS) and workers' compensation schemes operating in Australia and New Zealand. This is the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual report of the CPM project.

The CPM is complemented by the:

- *Australian Workers' Compensation Statistics* report, which provides more detailed analyses of national workers' compensation data using key variables such as occupation, industry, age and gender with supporting information on the circumstances surrounding work-related injury and disease occurrences.
- *Comparison of Workers' Compensation Arrangements in Australia and New Zealand*, which discusses the way that each scheme deals with key aspects such as coverage, benefits, self-insurance, common law and dispute resolution.

These publications can be found on the [Safe Work Australia](#) website.

## Statement of purpose

The role of the CPM report is to facilitate improvement of work health and safety, workers' compensation and related service outcomes in Australian and New Zealand schemes through an accessible report that:

- (a) monitors the comparative performance of jurisdictions over time, and
- (b) enables benchmarking across jurisdictions and the identification of best practice to support policy making.

## Data

For this report, jurisdictions supplied data for the 2018–19 financial year and provided updated data back to 2013–14. When comparisons over time have been made the latest financial year (in this report 2018–19) has been excluded. Data for 2018–19 are preliminary and likely to be revised up in future years as additional claims are made and finalised. Preliminary data should not be used to calculate changes over time.

Data in this publication may differ from jurisdictional annual reports due to the use of different definitions and the application of adjustment factors to aid in the comparability of data. Each chapter contains explanatory commentary on the data items with additional information included in Appendix 1 – Explanatory Notes.

The data in this report were collected from:

- workers' compensation and WHS authorities as follows:
  - New South Wales — State Insurance Regulatory Authority and SafeWork NSW
  - Victoria — WorkSafe Victoria
  - Queensland — Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, Office of Industrial Relations – Education Queensland, Queensland Workers' Compensation Regulator and WorkCover Queensland
  - Western Australia — Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, WorkSafe and WorkCover WA
  - South Australia — ReturnToWorkSA and SafeWork SA
  - Tasmania — WorkSafe Tasmania and WorkCover Board Tasmania
  - Northern Territory — NT WorkSafe, Department of the Attorney-General and Justice
  - Australian Capital Territory — WorkSafe ACT
  - Australian Government — Comcare
  - Seacare — Seacare Authority (Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority), and

- New Zealand — Accident Compensation Corporation and WorkSafe New Zealand
- the National Data Set for Compensation-based Statistics and the Work-related Traumatic Injury Fatalities data set compiled by Safe Work Australia. Further information on these data sets can be found on the [Safe Work Australia](#) website
- the Return to Work Survey that replaced the Return to Work Monitor previously published by the Heads of Workers' Compensation Authorities. The full results can be accessed at the [Safe Work Australia](#) website, and
- the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) which provides estimates of the number of employees and hours worked based on the Labour Force Survey, the Survey of Employment and Earnings, and employee data provided by Comcare. Further adjustments are made using data from the Census, the Forms of Employment Survey and the Survey of Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation.

The CPM report (Part 2) does not currently include any information on compliance and enforcement activities relating to the mining industry, including the offshore petroleum industry. This is to ensure jurisdictional data are comparable, as not all jurisdictions' WHS authorities conduct these activities. Rather they are in some cases conducted by separate specific agencies.

The CPM also does not currently include information or data from a range of other industry specific regulators that have responsibilities with respect to WHS and workers' compensation. These include national industry based regulators with compliance and enforcement roles such as the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, the National Rail Safety Regulator and the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority, and other agencies with responsibility for industry-specific compensation claims. Further information on these regulators can be found on their respective websites.

## Coordination

This report has been compiled and coordinated by Safe Work Australia with assistance from representatives of WHS and workers' compensation authorities in Australia and New Zealand. Through a partnership of governments, employers and employees, Safe Work Australia leads the development of national policy to improve WHS and workers' compensation arrangements across Australia.

In this report the name 'Australian Government' is used for indicators relating to the Australian Government jurisdiction in WHS and workers' compensation matters, while 'Comcare' is used for the indicators relating to premium rates and entitlements.

## Comparative Performance Monitoring Report

### Part 1 – Work Health and Safety Performance

#### Key findings

##### Australian claims performance



##### New Zealand claims performance



##### Australian long term claims (12 weeks or more compensation)

Incidence rate of long term claims has **remained stable** between 2013-14 and 2017-18



##### Claims with more than 52 weeks of compensation (2017-18)



##### Claims with less than 6 weeks of compensation (2017-18)



##### Note:

Data for 2018-19 is preliminary and subject to change when new data is available. Percentage change statistics exclude the latest financial year as it is still preliminary.



**safe work australia**



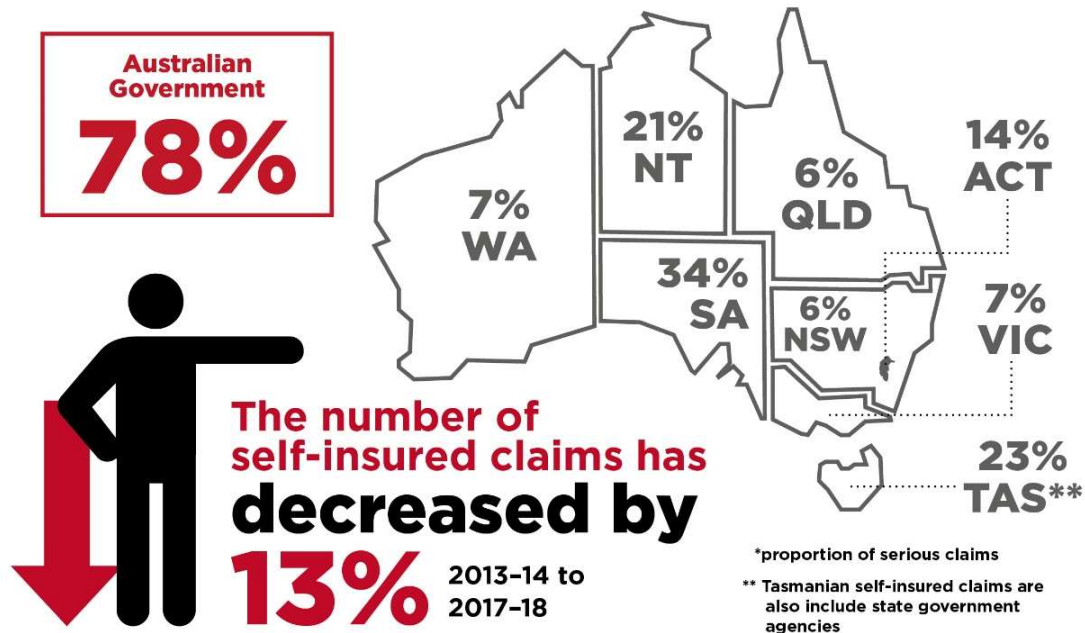
# Comparative Performance Monitoring Report

## Part 1 - Work Health and Safety Performance

### Key findings

#### Self-insured claims in Australia

Breakdown of self-insured claims (2018-19p\*)



#### Highest rate of serious claims in Australia (2018-19p)

**17.2**  
Agriculture, forestry and fishing

**15.7**  
Manufacturing

**15.2**  
Transport, postal & warehousing

**15.2**  
Construction

#### Causes of injury in Australia (2018-19p)

**36%**  
Body stressing

**23%**  
Falls, trips and slips



**Note:**  
Data for 2018-19 is preliminary and subject to change when new data is available.  
Percentage change statistics exclude the latest financial year as it is still preliminary.

# 1. Serious claims

Workers' compensation data provides an indicator for measuring work health and safety (WHS) performance. While there are some limitations, most notably that the data only covers those eligible for workers' compensation and under-reports the incidence of disease, the data still provide a good indication of WHS trends.

The data presented in this section relates to accepted serious workers' compensation claims lodged in each financial year. Common terms used in this section of the report include:

- **serious claims:** claims relating to work-related injury or disease that result in a total absence from work of one working week or more
- **incident rate:** number of serious claims per 1,000 employees
- **frequency rate:** number of claims per one million hours worked, and
- **“p”:** denotes the data is preliminary and subject to revision in future years as claims are finalised.

Data presented in this report are revised each year which may result in differences from previously published data. Calculations of percentage changes may differ to percentages outlined in the text as percentages shown in tables and figures have been rounded to the nearest decimal place.

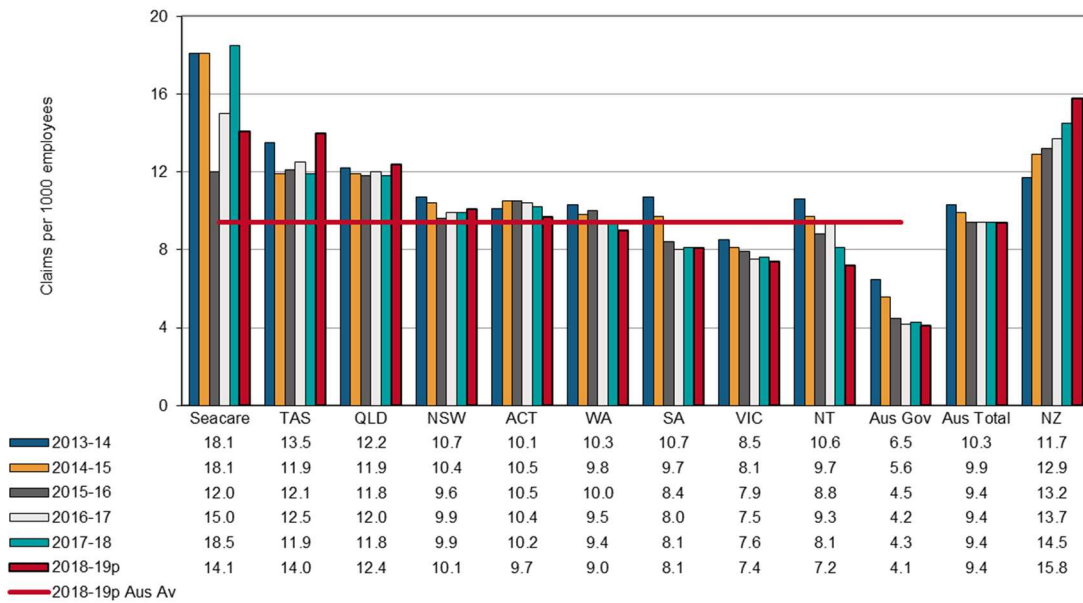
## 1.1 Incidence rate

The overall Australian incidence rate for serious claims (Indicator 1) has remained steady at 9.4 claims per 1,000 employees for the last three financial years (2015–16 to 2017–18). Preliminary data for 2018–19 show an incidence rate of 9.4 claims per 1,000 employees, however this is expected to be revised upwards when updated data becomes available.

Between 2013–14 and 2017–18 all Australian jurisdictions except Seacare (up 2%) and the Australian Capital Territory (up 1%) recorded falls in the incidence rate of serious claims. The Australian Government recorded the largest decrease (down 35%), followed by South Australia (down 24%), the Northern Territory (down 23%) and Tasmania (down 12%). Preliminary data shows Seacare recorded the highest incidence rate of serious claims in 2018–19p with 14.1 claims per 1,000 employees, while the Australian Government recorded the lowest rate with 4.1 claims per 1,000 employees.

Over the period from 2013–14 to 2017–18, New Zealand recorded a 25% increase in the incidence rate of serious claims, increasing from 11.7 to 14.5 claims per 1,000 employees. Preliminary data shows the New Zealand incidence rate has increased to 15.8 serious claims per 1,000 employees in 2018–19p.

## Indicator 1 – Incidence rates of serious injury and disease claims by jurisdiction

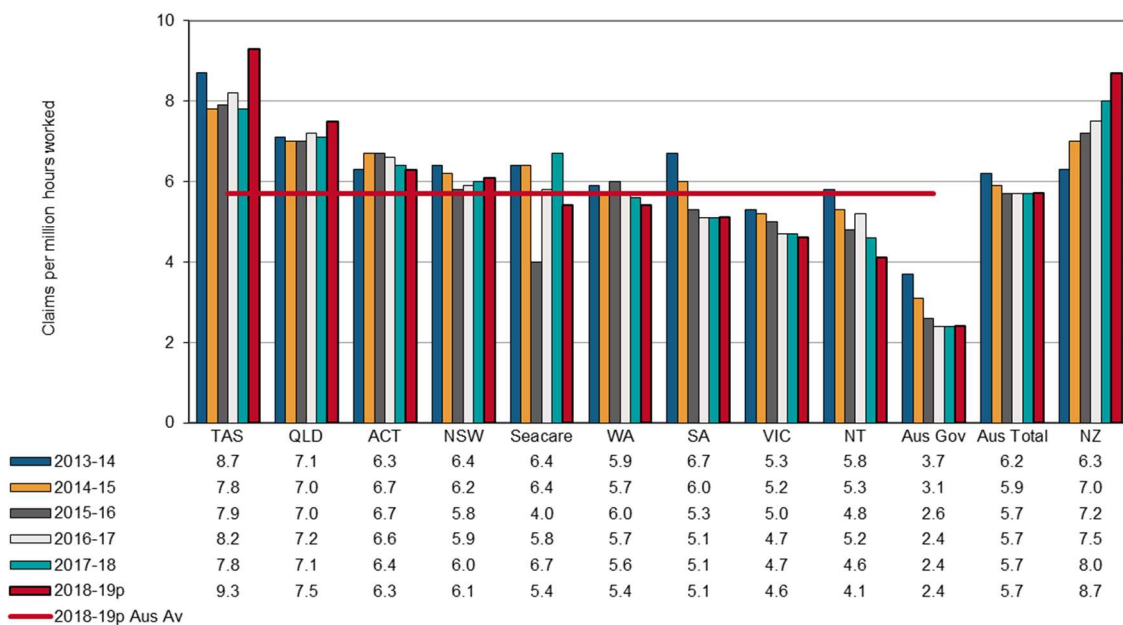


## 1.2 Frequency rate

The overall Australian frequency rate of serious claims (Indicator 2) decreased by 8% from 6.2 claims per million hours worked in 2013–14 to 5.7 in 2017–18. Preliminary data shows that the Australian frequency rate of serious claims has not changed in 2018–19.

The frequency rate data show a similar level of improvement to incidence rates across jurisdictions, although there are differences in the ranking of jurisdictions. Tasmania recorded the highest frequency rate at 9.3 claims per one million hours worked in 2018–19p. Despite having the highest incidence rate, Seacare had only the fifth highest frequency rate in 2018–19p due to the 24-hour basis that employees work which reduces its frequency rates. Refer to Appendix 1 – Explanatory notes: Time Series and adjustment of claims data for more information).

## Indicator 2 – Frequency rate of serious injury claims by jurisdiction

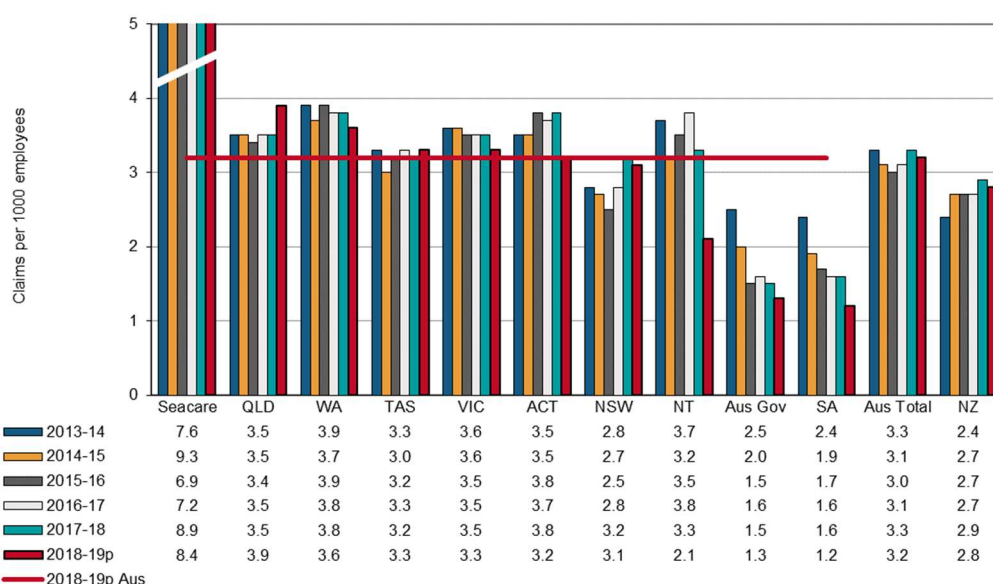


## 1.3 Long term incidence and frequency rates

The incidence rate of long term (12 weeks or more compensation) injury and disease claims (Indicator 3) in Australia between 2013–14 and 2017–18 remained steady. The preliminary 2018–19 results show a decrease in the incidence rate compared to the previous year. However, this data should be treated with caution as claimants with open claims may accrue more time lost or compensation payments in subsequent years. On average, a third of serious claims resulted in 12 or more weeks of compensation over the six-year period.

Most Australian jurisdictions, except for Seacare (up 18%), New South Wales (up 14%) and the Australian Capital Territory (up 10%), recorded a decrease in incidence rates of long term claims over the period from 2013–14 to 2017–18. The Australian Government recorded the largest decrease (down 39%) in the long term incidence rate over the period, followed by South Australia (down 32%) and the Northern Territory (down 12%). Victoria, Western Australia and Tasmania recorded 4, 3 and 2% decreases during the same period respectively. New Zealand recorded a 20% increase over this period, however, its rate remains lower than that of Australia.

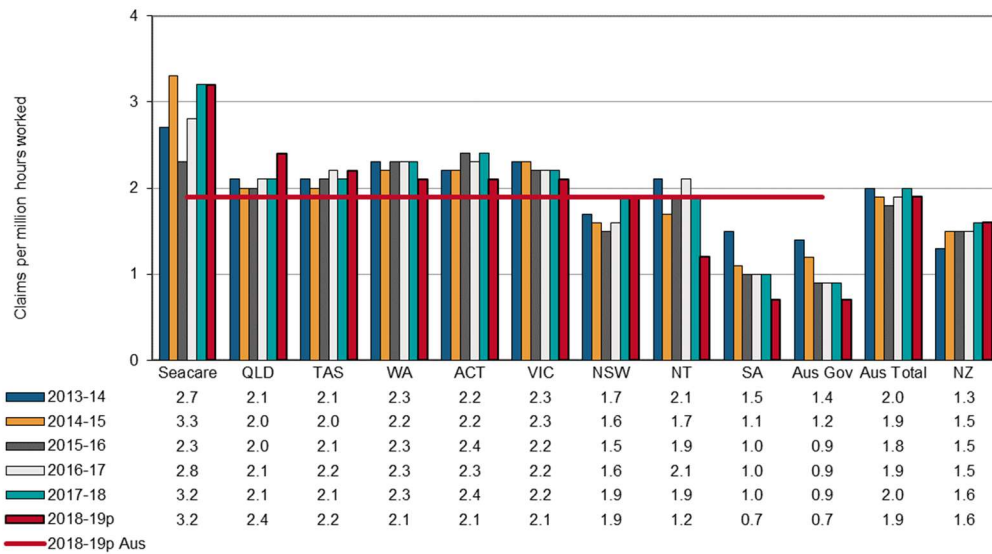
### Indicator 3 – Incidence rates of long term (12 weeks or more compensation) injury and disease claims by jurisdiction



The overall Australian frequency rate (Indicator 4) of long-term claims did not change between 2013–14 and 2017–18. Preliminary data for 2018–19 showed that the Australian frequency rate of long-term serious claims was 1.9 claims per million hours worked.

The frequency rates of long term claims increased in Seacare (up 21%), New South Wales (up 15%), the Australian Capital Territory (up 10%) and Queensland (up 3%). The Australian Government recorded the largest decrease (down 40%) in its frequency rate, followed by South Australia (down 32%) and the Northern Territory (down 10%) over the period from 2013–14 to 2017–18.

#### Indicator 4 – Frequency rate of long term (12 weeks or more compensation) injury and disease claims by jurisdiction



## 1.4 Self-insured serious claims

### Number of self-insured claims

The number of self-insured serious claims in Australia (Indicator 5a) decreased by 13% between 2013–14 and 2017–18. The preliminary data for Australia in 2018–19 shows a slight increase (up 2%) from 2017–18.

South Australia recorded the largest decrease in the number of self-insured serious claims (down 30%) over the period from 2013–14 to 2017–18, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (down 22%), the Northern Territory (down 21%), New South Wales (down 13%) and Western Australia (down 12%). A 7% increase in the number of self-insured serious claims was reported by Tasmania during this period. Tasmanian self-insured claims also include state government agencies.

The number of self-insured serious claims in New Zealand showed a 29% increase between 2013–14 and 2017–18. The preliminary data shows a further 9% increase in the number of self-insured claims in 2018–19.

### Indicator 5a – Self-insured claims: number of serious claims by jurisdiction

Year	SA	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	Aus Gov	Tas*	NT	ACT	Australian total	NZ
2013–14	2,867	2,593	1,517	1,838	981	1,285	561	245	352	12,239	5,180
2014–15	2,880	2,570	1,430	1,817	978	1,168	560	188	320	11,911	5,752
2015–16	1,997	2,233	1,389	1,755	972	1,004	594	172	311	10,427	5,807
2016–17	1,998	2,142	1,405	1,688	930	1,120	625	203	352	10,463	5,853
2017–18	2,015	2,258	1,441	1,818	863	1,206	603	193	275	10,672	6,679
2018–19p	2,184	2,144	1,563	1,683	781	1,347	716	209	224	10,851	7,256

\*Tasmanian self-insured claims also include state government agencies

### *Proportion of self-insured claims*

The overall proportion of self-insured claims in Australia (Indicator 5b) decreased (down 12%) between 2013–14 and 2017–18. With self-insured claims representing 70% of their serious claims, the Australian Government had the highest percentage of self-insured claims in 2017–18. It was followed by South Australia (32%), Tasmania (22%), the Northern Territory (17%), and the Australian Capital Territory (16%). By contrast, New South Wales and Victoria had the lowest proportion of self-insured claims (6% each) in 2017–18.

Preliminary data for 2018–19 shows a similar trend, with the highest and lowest percentages reported in the Australian Government (78%) and New South Wales and Queensland (6% each).

In New Zealand, 24% of serious claims in 2017–18 were recorded by self-insurers, which is approximately 2.5 times the Australian proportion for the same financial year.

For more information on self-insurers' arrangements in Australia and New Zealand refer to Chapter six of the Comparison of Workers' Compensation Arrangements publication on the [Safe Work Australia](#) website.

### **Indicator 5b – Self-insured claims as a proportion of serious claims by jurisdiction**

Year	SA	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	Aus Gov	Tas*	NT	ACT	Australian total	NZ
2013–14	37	7	7	7	8	51	20	18	23	11	22
2014–15	41	7	6	7	8	55	21	14	20	11	24
2015–16	32	7	6	7	8	57	22	14	19	10	24
2016–17	33	6	6	6	8	65	23	16	20	10	23
2017–18	32	6	6	7	7	70	22	17	16	10	24
2018–19p	34	6	7	6	7	78	23	21	14	9	23

\*Tasmanian self-insured claims also include state government agencies

## 2. Duration of absence

The duration of absence associated with serious claims provides an indication of the severity of injuries and diseases occurring in Australia. Indicator 6 shows the variation in the percentage of claims involving selected periods of compensation across the jurisdictions. Data are based on claims lodged in 2017–18, which is the most recent year that finalised data is available for this indicator.

Indicator 6 shows that 49% of claims in Australia resulted in less than six weeks of compensation. The jurisdictional rates ranged between 65% for South Australia to 34% for Seacare.

On average, 11% of all claims across Australia continued for 52 weeks or more. Victoria had the highest percentage of claims that continued past 52 weeks of compensation (19% of claims), followed by Seacare (15%), Western Australia (13%), and New South Wales (12%). South Australia had the lowest percentage (3%) of claims continuing past 52 weeks of compensation, followed by Tasmania (7%).

In 2017–18, 67% of New Zealand scheme claims resulted in less than six weeks of compensation.

### Indicator 6 – Serious claims: Percentage involving selected periods of compensation, 2017–18

Jurisdiction	less than 6 weeks	6 weeks or more	12 weeks or more	26 weeks or more	52 weeks or more
New South Wales	52	48	32	20	12
Victoria	38	62	46	30	19
Queensland	52	48	30	15	6
South Australia	65	35	20	8	3
Western Australia	43	57	40	24	13
Tasmania	56	44	27	13	7
Northern Territory	42	58	41	23	10
Australian Capital Territory	46	54	38	22	10
Australian Government	48	52	36	19	8
Seacare	34	66	48	23	15
Australian average	49	51	35	20	11
New Zealand	67	33	20	9	4



## 3. Work-related fatalities

### 3.1 Work-related traumatic injury fatalities

#### *About Traumatic Injury Fatalities*

Data presented in this section are sourced from the Work-related Traumatic Injury Fatality (TIF) data collection. This collection sources information from workers' compensation data, fatality notifications to the various work health and safety authorities and information in the National Coronial Information System (NCIS).

Typically, only around 55% of work-related fatalities recorded in the TIF collection are compensated. This is in part due to self-employed workers not being covered by workers' compensation schemes. Many self-employed workers work in high risk sectors such as agriculture, transport and construction.

Information presented in Indicator 7a and 7b does not include fatal work-related incidents occurring on a public road. The compensated injury fatalities in the TIF collection are based on date of death and not date of lodgement.

It should be noted that traumatic injury fatality data can be volatile year-on-year. In particular, a single incident resulting in multiple deaths can significantly impact the data in a given year, potentially masking the progress of jurisdictions in reducing or eliminating work-related traumatic injury fatalities in other areas. Further information about the TIF collection and a detailed analysis of the data can be found on the [Safe Work Australia](#) website.

#### *Worker fatalities and incidence rates*

There was a 3% decrease in the number of worker fatalities resulting from incidents not on a public road between 2014–15 and 2018–19. On average over the five years, New South Wales recorded the highest number of fatalities per year (37 fatalities), followed by Queensland (31 fatalities) and Victoria (27 fatalities). However, incidence rates over the five year period show that the Northern Territory (2.2 fatalities per 100,000 workers) recorded the highest rate and the Australian Capital Territory (0.7 fatalities per 100,000 workers) recorded the lowest rate (Indicator 7b).

#### **Indicator 7a – Traumatic injury worker fatalities: number of incidents not on a public road, by state of death**

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	5 yr Average
<b>New South Wales</b>	37	36	41	39	31	37
<b>Queensland</b>	25	34	28	29	38	31
<b>Victoria</b>	25	38	23	24	25	27
<b>Western Australia</b>	19	24	11	14	13	16
<b>South Australia</b>	10	9	13	8	6	9
<b>Tasmania</b>	7	5	2	3	2	4
<b>Northern Territory</b>	1	2	2	6	4	3
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>	0	0	2	0	1	<1
<b>Australian total</b>	124	148	122	123	120	127



**Indicator 7b – Traumatic injury fatalities: incidence rate per 100,000 workers for incidents not on a public road, by state of death**

	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	5 yr Average
<b>New South Wales</b>	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.0</b>
<b>Queensland</b>	1.1	1.4	1.2	1.2	<b>1.5</b>	<b>1.3</b>
<b>Victoria</b>	0.9	1.3	0.7	0.7	<b>0.7</b>	<b>0.9</b>
<b>Western Australia</b>	1.4	1.8	0.8	1.1	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.2</b>
<b>South Australia</b>	1.2	1.1	1.6	1.0	<b>0.7</b>	<b>1.1</b>
<b>Tasmania</b>	2.9	2.1	0.8	1.2	<b>0.8</b>	<b>1.6</b>
<b>Northern Territory</b>	0.8	1.5	1.5	4.4	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.2</b>
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>	0.0	0.0	0.9	0.0	<b>0.4</b>	<b>0.5</b>
<b>Australian total</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>0.9</b>	<b>1.0</b>

## 3.2 Work-related disease fatalities

Workers' compensation data contains some information on disease-related fatalities, but this data is known to understate the number of fatalities from work-related diseases. It can be difficult to associate a disease that becomes evident later in life after exposure to a chemical or substance that occurred many years earlier while at work. Some occupational diseases such as asbestosis and mesothelioma are also compensated through separate mechanisms, while many other diseases go unreported and/or uncompensated.

Indicator 8 shows that in 2018–19p there were 51 accepted workers' compensation claims for work-related fatalities involving an occupational disease in Australia. The above number is expected to rise as more claims lodged in 2018–19 are accepted. There was a substantial decrease (down 17%) in the number of compensated fatalities related to occupational diseases in Australia from 2013–14 to 2017–18.

Fatalities recorded in the National Dataset for Compensation-based Statistics are against the date of lodgement of the claim, not the date of death. Data revisions from previous years may occur due to time lags between lodgement of the claim, acceptance and/or the date of death (e.g. when there is time between diagnosis leading to a claim being lodged and the date of death).

The Australian Mesothelioma Registry reports annually on mesothelioma incidence which is available on its [reports and publications webpage](#).

## Indicator 8 – Compensated fatalities involving occupational diseases by jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19p	6yr Average*
<b>New South Wales</b>	9	12	13	8	9	8	10
<b>Victoria</b>	13	19	25	10	9	6	15
<b>Queensland**</b>	18	23	14	14	16	20	17
<b>Western Australia</b>	7	2	5	3	4	4	4
<b>South Australia</b>	7	6	7	2	2	1	5
<b>Tasmania</b>	0	1	1	0	1	0	1
<b>Northern Territory</b>	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>	0	1	1	1	0	0	1
<b>Australian Government</b>	21	14	14	22	19	11	18
<b>Seacare</b>	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
<b>Australian total</b>	75	78	81	60	62	51	71
<b>New Zealand</b>	35	45	31	42	35	28	38

\* The six year average includes compensated fatalities between 2013–14 to 2018-19p.

\*\* The majority of compensated fatalities for occupational diseases in Queensland and the Australian Government are due to mesothelioma or asbestosis. Queensland compensates more of these fatalities through its scheme than is the case in other jurisdictions where compensation is more often sought through separate mechanisms including common law.

## 4. Claims by size of business (in the private sector)

Indicator 9 compares the incidence of serious workers' compensation claims by size of business in 2013–14 and 2018–19p. Six Australian jurisdictions collect compensation data by size of business. Queensland, South Australia and Seacare have been excluded as 2018–19p data breakdown by size of business is unavailable.

There are differences in the methodologies used by schemes to collect this information and therefore caution should be exercised when making jurisdictional comparisons. This indicator reports on the private sector only and excludes those industry sectors that are wholly or substantially public sector industries (i.e. Public administration and safety, Health care and social assistance, Education and training and Financial and insurance services).

In 2018–19p, Australian businesses with 200 or more employees recorded the lowest incidence rate of serious claims (6.4 claims per 1,000 employees). With the exception of the Northern Territory, all jurisdictions recorded the highest incidence rate in businesses with 20–199 employees in 2018–19p. Overall, the incidence rate of serious claims in all three business size groups decreased by 31, 19 and 17% respectively between 2013–14 and 2018–19p.

### Indicator 9 – Size of business: incidence rates (claims per 1,000 employees) of serious claims by jurisdiction (private sector only)\*

	1–19 employees	20–199 employees	200 or more employees	All employees
<b>2013–14</b>				
<b>New South Wales</b>	13.4	12.1	6.4	10.5
<b>Victoria</b>	6.7	12.5	8.1	8.9
<b>Western Australia</b>	9.9	12.5	10.0	10.6
<b>Tasmania</b>	10.9	16.5	10.6	12.3
<b>Northern Territory</b>	23.2	15.6	1.9	13.2
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>	9.2	15.9	4.9	9.6
<b>Australia**</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>12.6</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>10.0</b>
<b>2018–19p</b>				
<b>New South Wales</b>	9.4	9.8	5.8	8.4
<b>Victoria</b>	4.6	10.3	6.3	6.7
<b>Western Australia</b>	6.8	9.3	8.5	8.0
<b>Tasmania</b>	8.1	18.3	10.9	11.7
<b>Northern Territory</b>	11.6	8.3	0.7	7.3
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>	5.7	12.5	4.8	7.4
<b>Australia**</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>10.2</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>7.8</b>

\* This indicator shows patterns at two points in time. Selecting different points may show a different pattern.

\*\* Excluding Queensland, Commonwealth, ACT Gov, South Australia and Seacare

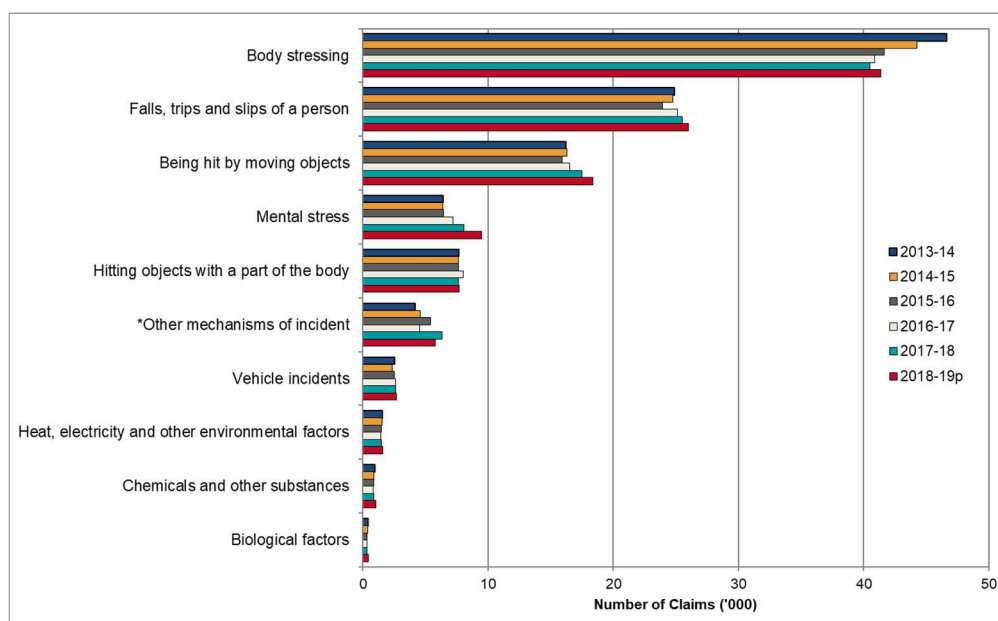
## 5. Claims by mechanism of incident

Claim patterns can be analysed using the Type of Occurrence Classification System (TOOCS), which contains a series of codes providing information on the cause of the incident and the type of injury or disease. Coding for the mechanism of incident is intended to identify the overall action, exposure or event that best describes the circumstances that resulted in the most serious injury or disease. More information on TOOCS can be found on the [Safe Work Australia](#) website.

Indicator 10 shows the proportion of serious claims by the mechanism of incident over the past six years. Body stressing accounted for 36.2% of the 114,435 serious claims in 2018–19p (41,395 claims). Claims due to Mental stress accounted for 8.3% of claims (9,510 claims), while claims due to Falls, slips and trips of a person accounted for 22.7% of claims (26,000 claims).

Claims due to Body stressing (down 13%) showed the highest reduction in claims between the period 2013–14 and 2017–18. However, Mental stress claims increased by 26% during the same reference period.

### Indicator 10 – Proportion of serious claims by mechanism of incident



\* Other mechanisms of incident include Chemicals and other substances, Biological factors, Sound and pressure, Other multiple mechanisms of incident, Roll over, Slide or cave-in and Unspecified mechanisms of incident.

## 5.1 Claims by mechanism of incident and jurisdiction

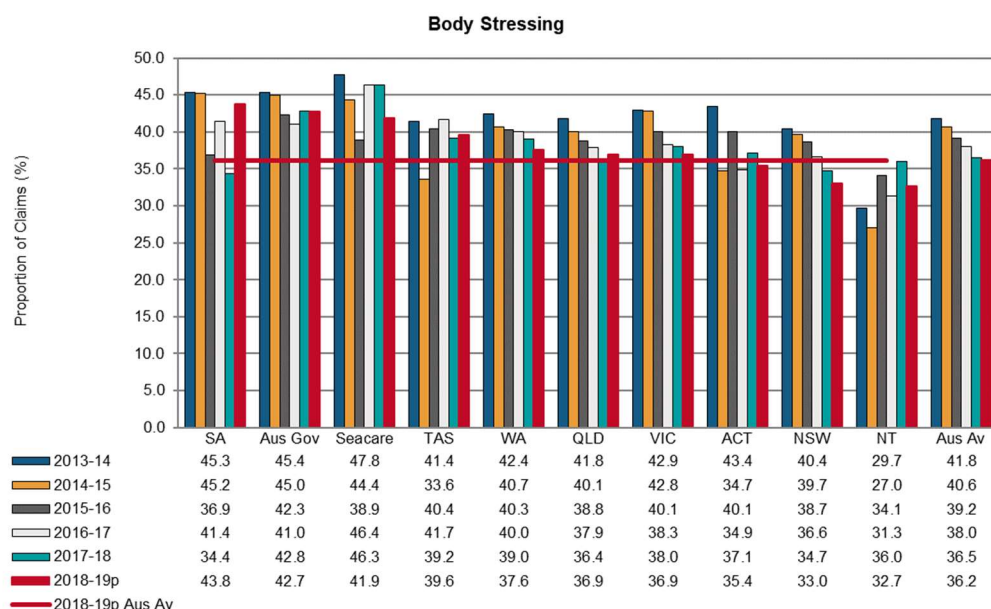
Presented below is a comparison of the proportion of serious claims across the Australian jurisdictions for the eight different mechanism of incident groups. Due to the differences in the total number of serious claims across jurisdictions, proportions are a better measure for direct comparison between jurisdictions. Hence, the data reported here are comparisons of the proportion of claims for each mechanism of incident across different jurisdictions. The industry and occupation composition of each jurisdiction can influence the proportion of claims due to different mechanisms. This may explain some of the differences between jurisdictions.

### Body stressing

Body stressing was the leading mechanism of incident for serious claims between 2013–14 and 2018–19p, accounting for 36.2% of the 114,435 serious claims in 2018–19 (Indicator 10a).

In 2018–19, South Australia had the highest proportion of claims (43.8%) involving Body stressing, followed by the Australian Government (42.7%), Seacare (41.9%), and Tasmania (39.6%). The Northern Territory had the lowest proportion of claims (32.7%) involving Body stressing in 2018–19.

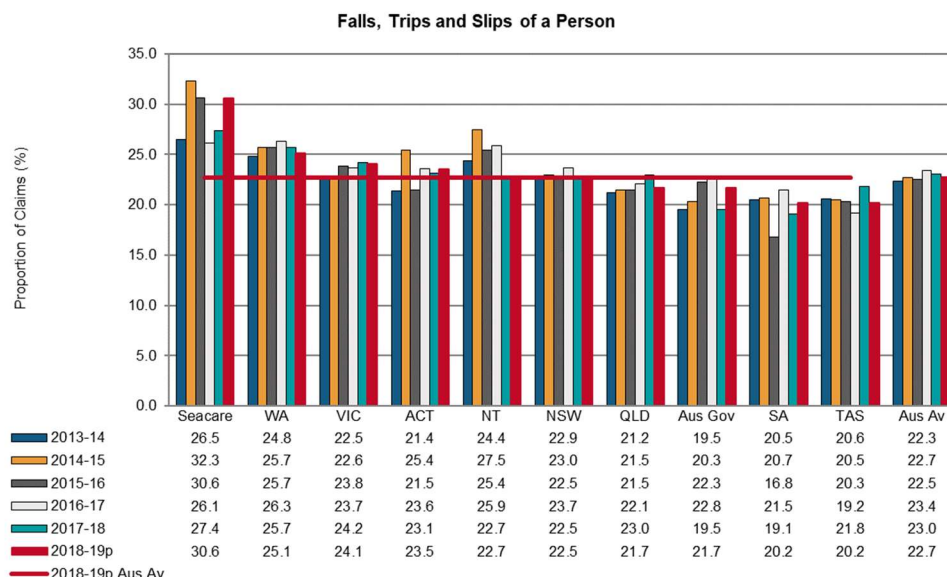
#### Indicator 10a – Proportion of serious claims involving Body stressing by jurisdiction



## Falls, trips and slips of a person

Falls, trips and slips of a person accounted for 22.7% of serious claims in Australia in 2018–19p. This mechanism of incident was the second leading cause of serious claims across jurisdictions. Seacare recorded the highest proportion of claims (30.6%) in 2018–19p for this mechanism, followed by Western Australia (25.1%). South Australia and Tasmania recorded the lowest proportion of claims (20.2% each) for this mechanism.

### Indicator 10b – Proportion of serious claims involving Falls, trips and slips of a person by jurisdiction

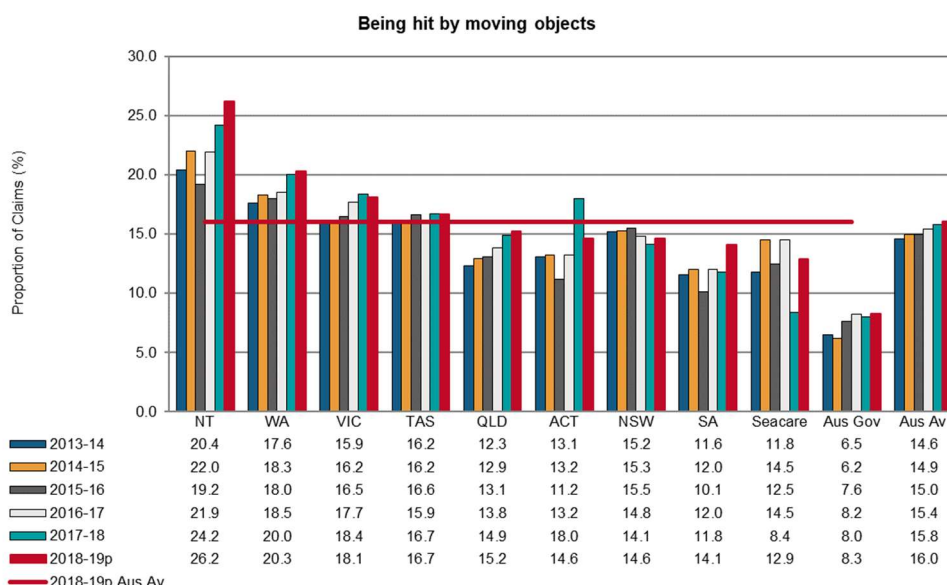


## Being hit by moving objects

In 2018–19p Being hit by moving objects accounted for 16.0% of serious claims (Indicator 10c).

The Northern Territory had the highest proportion of serious claims (26.2%) in 2018–19 arising from Being hit by moving objects, followed by Western Australia (20.3%), and Victoria (18.1%). The Australian Government had the lowest proportion (8.3%) of serious claims involving this mechanism of incident in 2018–19p, followed by Seacare (12.9%).

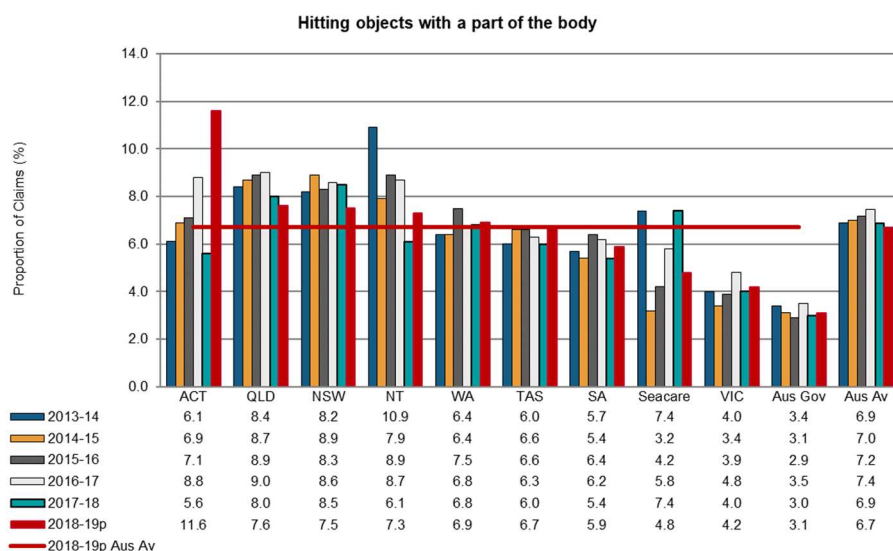
### Indicator 10c – Proportion of serious claims involving Being hit by moving objects by jurisdiction



## Hitting objects with a part of the body

The mechanism of Hitting objects with a part of the body includes incidents where the motion of a person results in hitting (including bumping, cutting, striking, grasping etc.) stationary and/or moving objects (including machines, vehicles, equipment, tools etc.). Indicator 10d shows the Australian Capital Territory recorded the highest proportion of serious claims (11.6%) in 2018–19p due to this mechanism, followed by Queensland (7.6%). The Australian Government recorded the lowest proportion of claims (3.1%) for this mechanism, followed by Victoria (4.2%). Nationally, 6.7% of claims were due to this mechanism across Australia in 2018–19p.

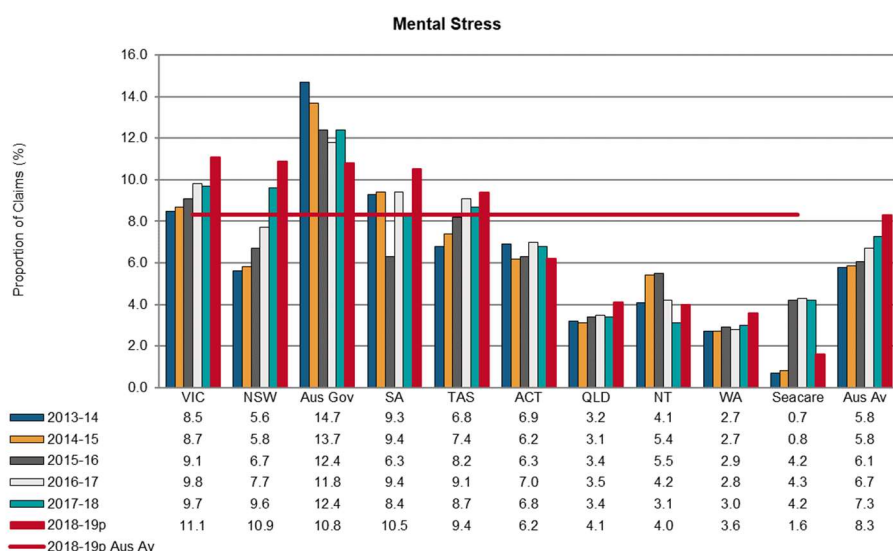
### Indicator 10d – Proportion of serious claims involving Hitting objects with a part of the body by jurisdiction



## Mental stress

Indicator 10e shows the proportion of serious claims due to Mental stress in Australia increased from 5.8% in 2013–14 to 8.3% in 2018–19p. Victoria had the highest proportion of Mental stress claims (11.1%) in 2018–19p, followed by New South Wales (10.9%) and the Australian Government (10.8%). Seacare recorded the lowest proportion of Mental stress claims in the same year (1.6%), followed by Western Australia (3.6%). There have been notable increases in the proportion of Mental stress claims in New South Wales (up 78%), Tasmania (up 25%) and Victoria (up 17%) between 2013–14 and 2017–18.

### Indicator 10e – Proportion of serious claims involving Mental stress by jurisdiction



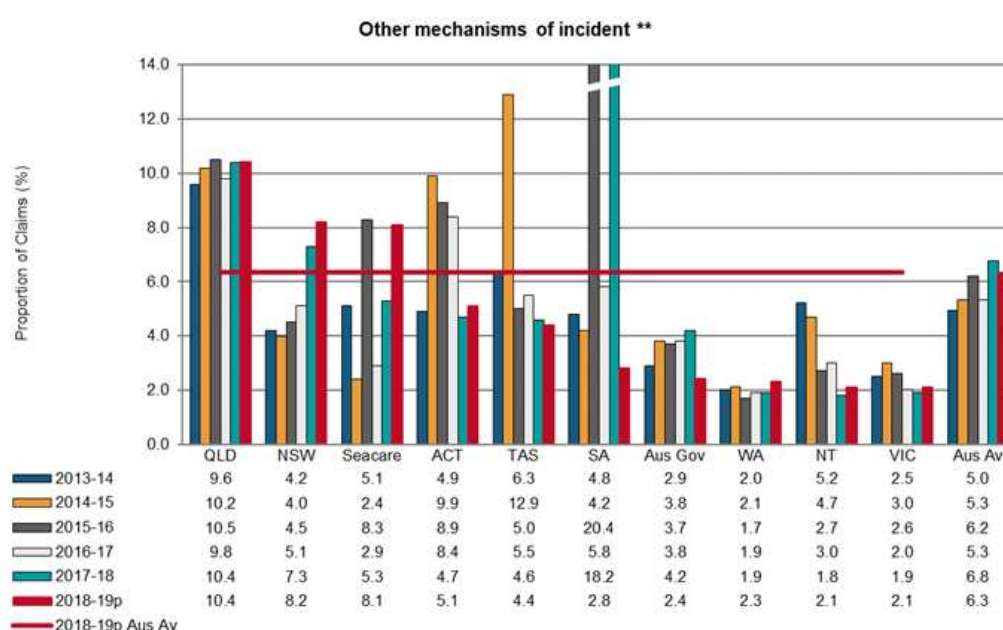
## Other mechanisms

This category includes Biological factors, Chemicals and other substances, Sound and pressure, Other multiple mechanisms of incidents, Rollover, slide or cave-in and Unspecified mechanisms.

Indicator 10f shows Queensland had the highest proportion of claims (10.4%) for these mechanisms in 2018–19p, followed by New South Wales (8.2%) and Seacare (8.1%). Victoria and the Northern Territory recorded the lowest proportion of serious claims (2.1% for each) due to these mechanisms. On average, 6.3% of serious claims across Australia in 2018–19p were due to these mechanisms.

South Australia recorded a substantial increase in the proportion of serious claims due to these mechanisms in 2015–16 and 2017–18. Tasmania recorded substantial decreases since 2014–15. These substantial changes in proportions can be related to the fluctuations in the number of serious claims coded to “Unspecified mechanisms of incident” in these years and may therefore reflect issues with coding rather than significant increases or decreases in serious claims related to the specific issues noted above.

### Indicator 10f – Proportion of serious claims involving Other mechanisms by jurisdiction



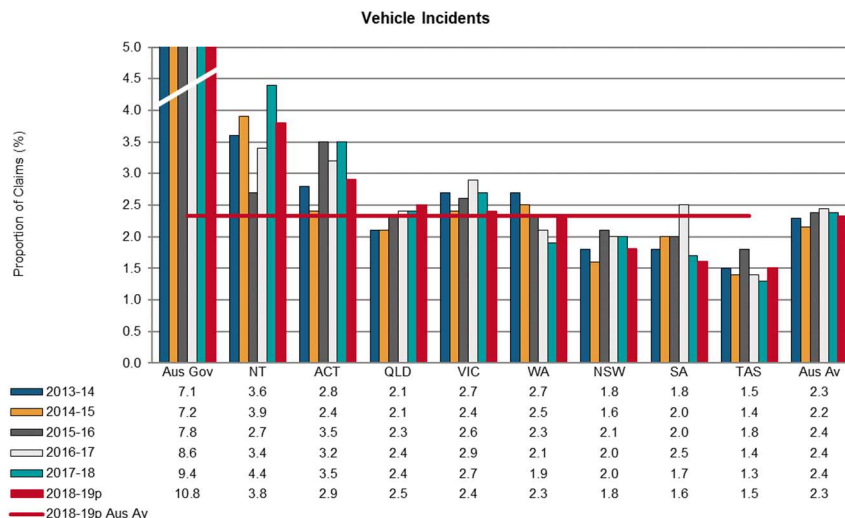


## Vehicle incidents

In 2018–19p, 2.3% of all serious claims across Australian jurisdictions were due to Vehicle incidents as shown in Indicator 10g. Serious claims due to vehicle incidents cover all claims lodged and accepted for compensation where a vehicle collision was involved in leading to the injuries.

The Australian Government recorded the highest proportion of serious claims (10.8%) due to this mechanism in 2018–19p, which was five times the Australian average. This may, in part, be explained by the composition of this jurisdiction leading to lower proportions of claims for other mechanisms. Tasmania had the lowest proportion of claims (1.5%), followed by South Australia (1.6%). Seacare did not report any Vehicle incident related claims in the period.

### Indicator 10g – Proportion of serious claims involving Vehicle incidents by jurisdiction

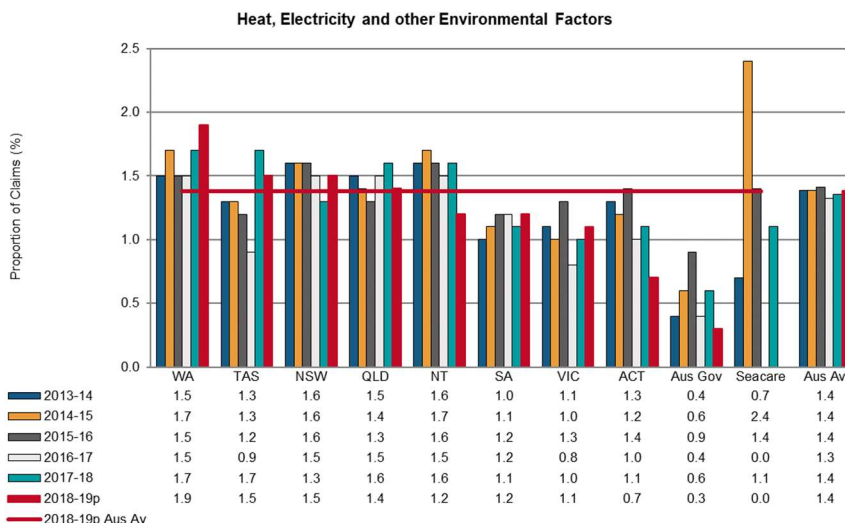


## Heat, electricity and other environmental factors

Of all the mechanisms of incident, claims associated with Heat, electricity and other environmental factors accounted for the lowest proportion (1.4%) of serious claims in 2018–19p (Indicator 10h). The proportion of claims has been stable since 2013–14 at around 1.4%.

Western Australia (1.9%) had the highest proportion of claims due to this mechanism, followed by Tasmania (1.5%) in 2018–19p. The lowest proportion was reported by the Australian Government (0.3%), followed by the Australian Capital Territory (0.7%) in 2018–19p. Seacare did not record any serious claims associated with this mechanism of incident during 2018–19p.

### Indicator 10h – Proportion of serious claims involving Heat, electricity and other environmental factors by jurisdiction



## 6. Claims by industry

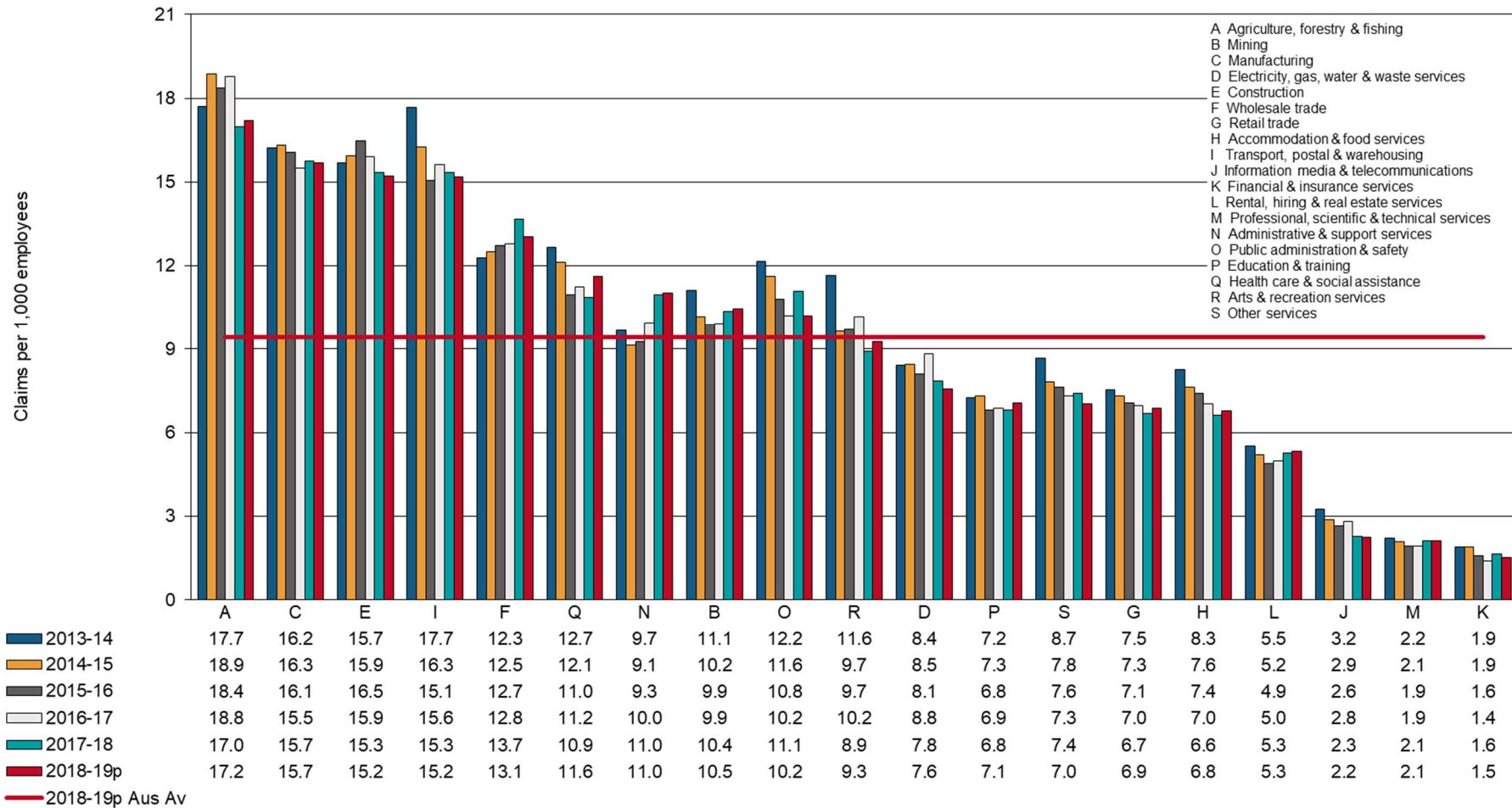
Preliminary data in Indicator 11 shows that in 2018–19, the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry recorded the highest incidence rate with 17.2 serious claims per 1,000 employees, followed by the Manufacturing (15.7), Construction, and Transport, postal and warehousing industries (15.2 respectively). Under the *Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012–2022* these industries together with Health care and social assistance, Accommodation and food services and Public administration and safety, have been identified as national priorities for prevention activities.

Decreases in the incidence rate of serious claims between 2013–14 and 2017–18 were recorded for all industries except Administrative and support services (up 13%) and Wholesale trade (up 11%).

The highest reductions in incidence rates were seen in Information media and telecommunications (down 30%), Arts and recreation services (down 23%), Accommodation and food services (down 20%), Health care and social assistance (down 14%), Financial and insurance services and Transport, postal and warehousing (down 13% each), Retail trade (down 11%), Public administration and safety (down 9%) and Electricity, gas, water and waste services and Mining (down 7% each).

More detailed information on claims by industry can be found in the Australian Workers' Compensation Statistics report, published on the [Safe Work Australia](#) website.

## Indicator 11 – Incidence rates of serious\* claims by industry



\* Includes all accepted workers' compensation claims for an incapacity that results in a total absence from work of one working week or more excluding fatalities and journey claims.

## 6.1 Claims by industry and jurisdiction

This section contains supplementary information to Indicator 11. Indicators 11a to 11s provide a comparison of the incidence rates of serious claims across the Australian jurisdictions for 19 industries.

Incidence rates in some industries at the jurisdictional level can be volatile and should be treated with caution. As the number of employees used in calculating incidence rates are estimated from survey samples, readers should be aware that the relative standard errors for estimating the number of employees will be higher with smaller sample sizes. Jurisdictions are not included in the respective charts and analysis where the relative standard error is greater than 50%.

The number of workers employed in each state and territory vary greatly and therefore are liable to show volatility in smaller jurisdictions such as the Northern Territory which employs fewer workers, even when the variations are small.

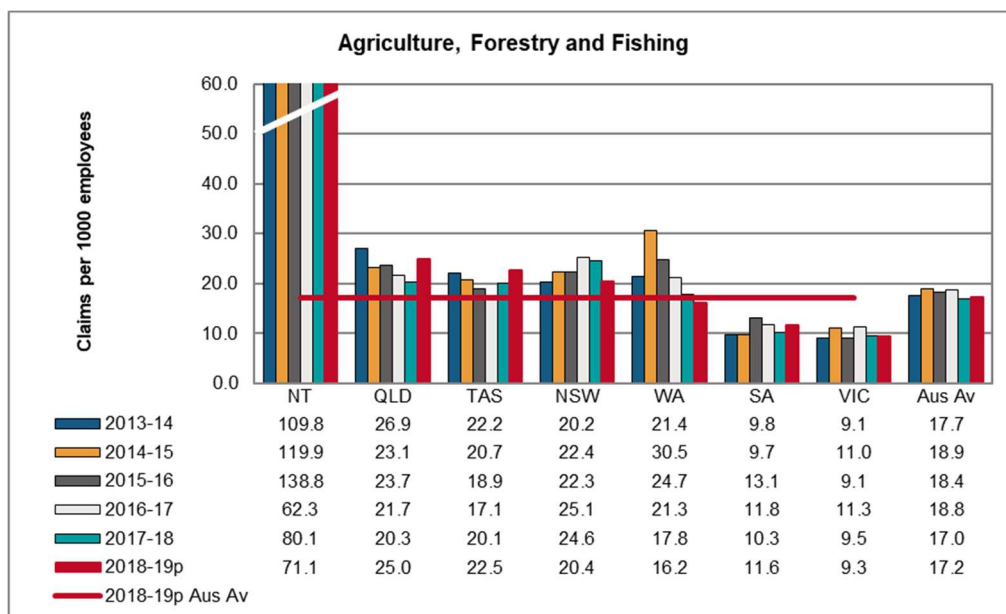
### Agriculture, forestry and fishing

The Northern Territory recorded the highest incidence rate of serious claims in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry (Indicator 11a). The incidence rates for the Northern Territory should be interpreted with caution due to the small number of employees used in calculating incidence rates.

Of the other jurisdictions, New South Wales recorded the second highest incidence rate of serious claims in the Agriculture, forestry and fishing industry (24.6 claims per 1,000 employees) in 2017–18, followed by Queensland (20.3), Tasmania (20.1) and Western Australia (17.8). The lowest incidence rate was recorded in Victoria (9.5 claims per 1,000 employees).

The incidence rates of the Australian Capital Territory were not reported here due to the high relative standard error (greater than 50%).

#### Indicator 11a – Incidence rates of serious claims for Agriculture, forestry and fishing by jurisdiction

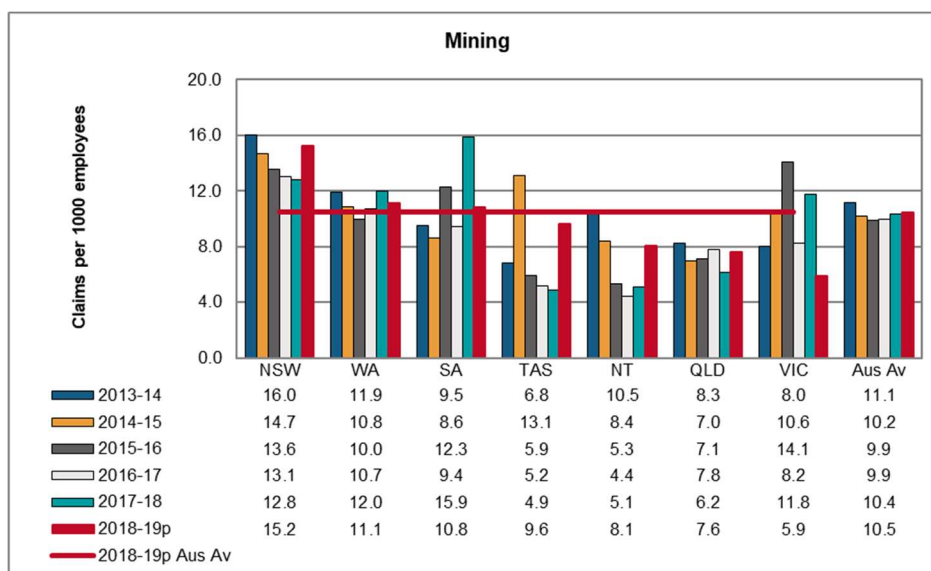


## Mining

Except for South Australia, Victoria and Western Australia, all jurisdictions recorded a decrease in their incidence rates between 2013–14 and 2017–18 (Indicator 11b). The Northern Territory recorded the largest decrease in incidence rate (down 51%), followed by Tasmania (down 29%), Queensland (down 25%) and New South Wales (down 20%).

The incidence rates of the Australian Capital Territory were not reported here due to the high relative standard error (greater than 50%).

### Indicator 11b – Incidence rates of serious claims for Mining by jurisdiction



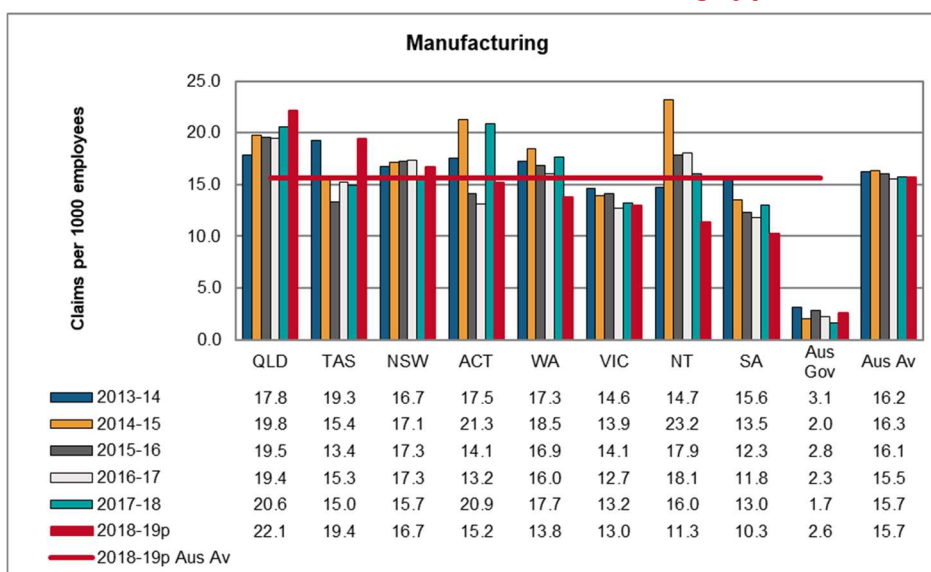
## Manufacturing

Between 2013–14 and 2017–18, most jurisdictions recorded a decrease in incidence rates in the Manufacturing industry (Indicator 11c). The Australian Government recorded the largest decrease (down 47%), followed by Tasmania (down 22%), and South Australia (down 17%).

Increases were recorded by the Australian Capital Territory (up 19%), followed by Queensland (up 15%), the Northern Territory (up 9%) and Western Australia (up 2%).

The incidence rates of the Australian Capital Territory should be interpreted with caution as the relative standard error of the number of employees was between 25% and 50%.

### Indicator 11c – Incidence rates of serious claims for Manufacturing by jurisdiction

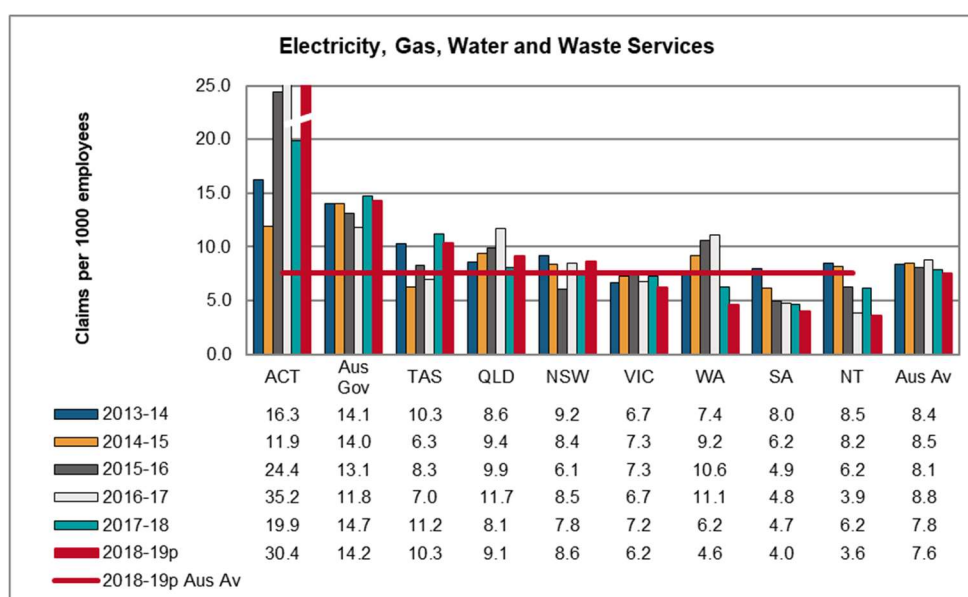


## Electricity, gas, water and waste services

The Australian average incidence rate in the Electricity, gas, water and waste services decreased by 7% between 2013–14 and 2017–18 (Indicator 11d). Five out of the nine jurisdictions recorded decreases in the incidence rate in the Electricity, gas, water and waste services industry over this period. South Australia recorded the largest decrease in the incidence rate for this industry (down 41%), followed by the Northern Territory (down 27%), Western Australia (down 16%), and New South Wales (down 15%). In contrast, the Australian Capital Territory recorded a 22% increase, followed by Tasmania and Victoria (both up 8%).

The incidence rates of the Australian Capital Territory should be interpreted with caution as the relative standard error of the number of employees was between 25% and 50%.

### Indicator 11d – Incidence rates of serious claims for Electricity, gas, water and waste services by jurisdiction

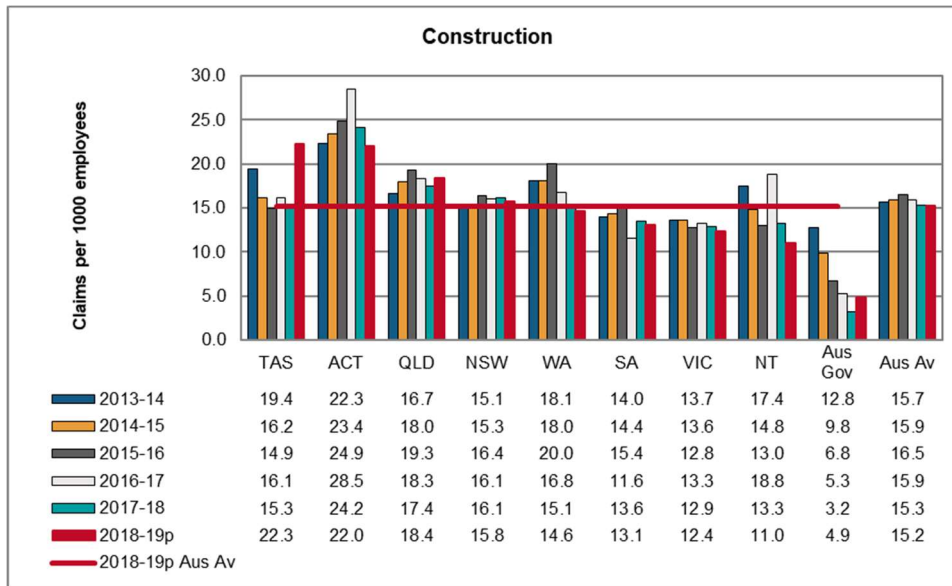


## Construction

The Australian average incidence rate for the Construction industry decreased by 2% between 2013–14 and 2017–18 (Indicator 11e). The Australian Government recorded the largest decrease (down 75%), followed by the Northern Territory (down 24%), Tasmania (down 21%) and Western Australia (down 17%). The Australian Capital Territory recorded a 9% increase in the incidence rate, followed by New South Wales (up 7%) and Queensland (up 5%) of this industry during the same period.

Incidence rates of the Australian Capital Territory and the Australian Government should be interpreted with caution as the relative standard error of the number of employees was between 25% and 50%.

### Indicator 11e – Incidence rates of serious claims for Construction by jurisdiction



## Wholesale trade

Between 2013–14 and 2017–18 the Australian average incidence rate for the Wholesale trade industry increased by 11%, from 12.3 claims per 1,000 employees to 13.7 (Indicator 11f).

All eight jurisdictions recorded increases in their incidence rates between 2013–14 and 2017–18. The Northern Territory recorded the largest increase in the incidence rate of this industry (up 35%) between 2013–14 and 2017–18, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (up 30%), New South Wales (up 21%), and South Australia and Tasmania (up 12% each).

Queensland had the highest incidence rate of claims in 2018–19p (16.7 claims per 1,000 employees) followed by Tasmania (16.0 claims per 1,000 employees). The lowest incidence rate was recorded by the Northern Territory (4.8 claims per 1,000 employees) in 2018–19p.

The incidence rates of the Australian Capital Territory should be interpreted with caution as the relative standard error of the number of employees was between 25% and 50%.

### Indicator 11f – Incidence rates of serious claims for Wholesale trade by jurisdiction



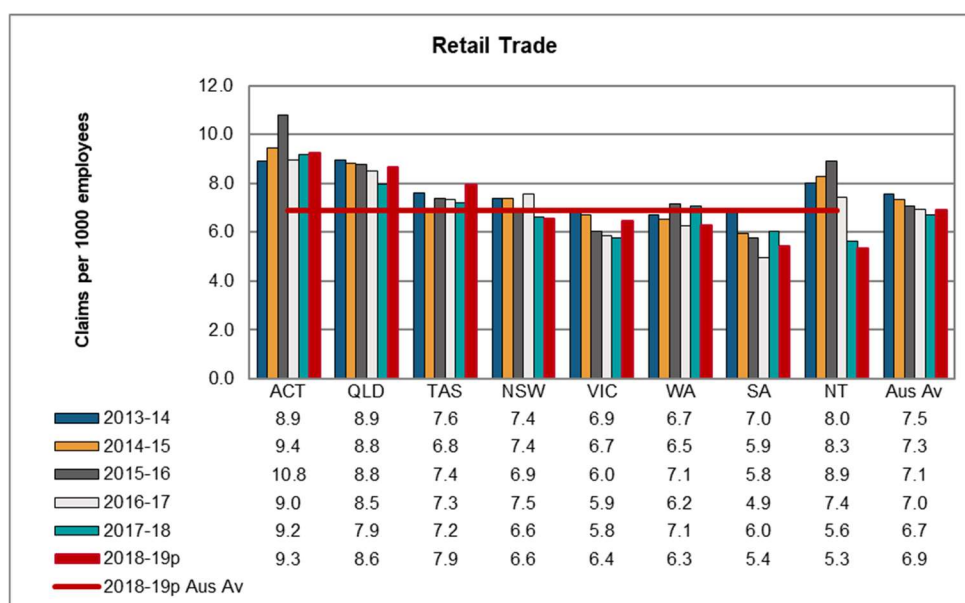


## Retail trade

The Australian average incidence rate of serious claims in the Retail trade industry decreased by 11% between 2013–14 and 2017–18 (Indicator 11g). The Northern Territory recorded a substantial decrease (down 30%) over the same period, followed by Victoria (down 17%), South Australia (down 14%), and Queensland (down 11%). Western Australia (up 5%) and the Australian Capital Territory (up 3%) were the only jurisdictions recording increases during the same period.

The incidence rates of the Australian Capital Territory should be interpreted with caution as the relative standard error of the number of employees was between 25% and 50%.

### Indicator 11g – Incidence rates of serious claims for Retail trade by jurisdiction



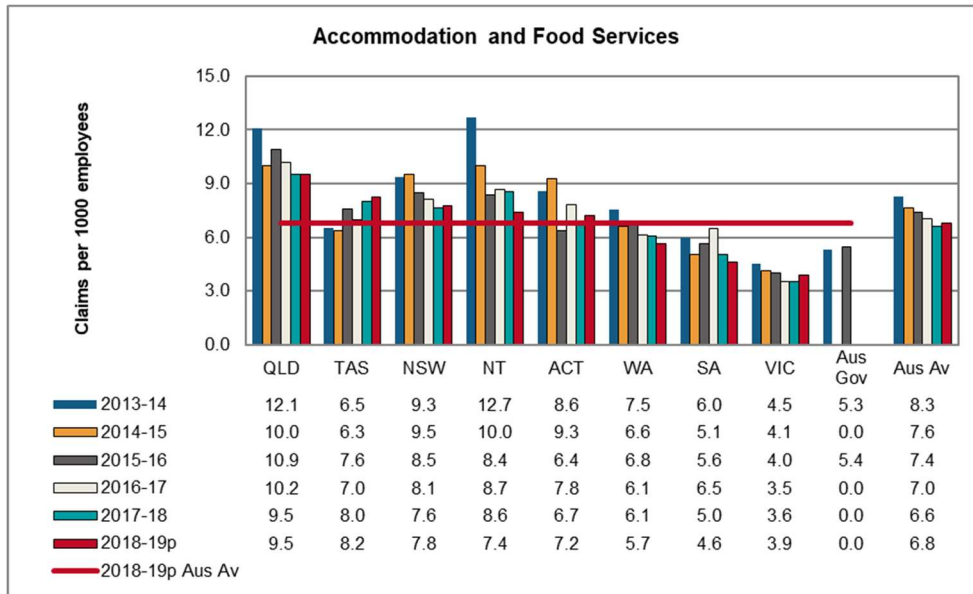
## Accommodation and food services

The Australian average incidence rate for the Accommodation and food services industry was 6.6 serious claims per 1,000 employees in 2017–18, down 20% since 2013–14 (Indicator 11h). All but one jurisdiction (Tasmania which recorded a 23% increase) recorded a decrease in their incidence rates for this industry over the period.

The Australian Government did not have any reportable claims in 2014–15, 2016–17, 2017–18 and in 2018–19p. Incidence rates of the Australian Capital Territory and the Australian Government should be interpreted with caution as the relative standard error of the number of employees was between 25% and 50%.



**Indicator 11h – Incidence rates of serious claims for Accommodation and food services by jurisdiction**

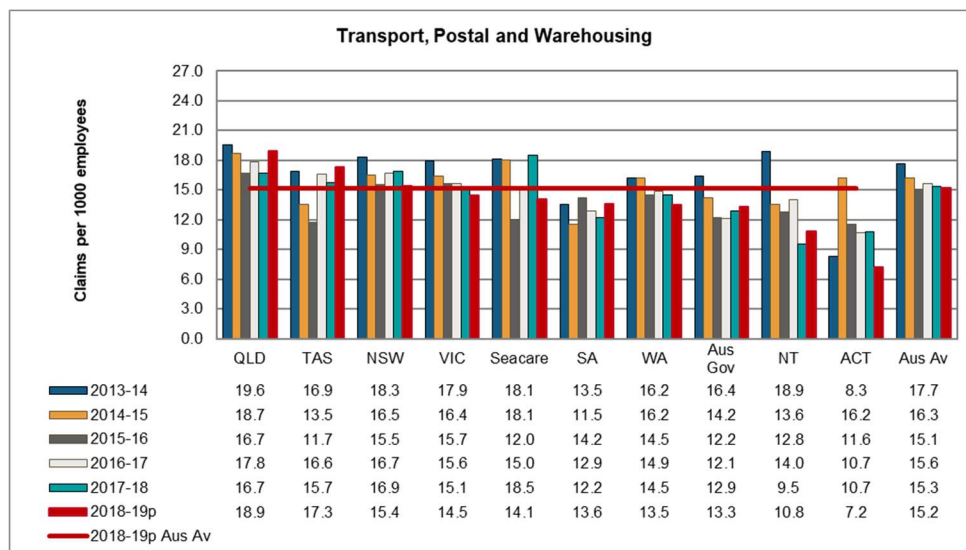


**Transport, postal and warehousing**

The Australian average incidence rate for this industry was 15.3 serious claims per 1,000 employees in 2017–18, down 13% since 2013–14 (Indicator 11i). All but one jurisdiction recorded a decrease in their incidence rates during this period, ranging between 7% in Tasmania and 50% in the Northern Territory.

The incidence rate of the Australian Capital Territory should be interpreted with caution as the relative standard error of the number of employees was between 25% and 50%. The incidence rates of Seacare were not reported here due to the high relative standard error (greater than 50%).

**Indicator 11i – Incidence rates of serious claims for Transport, postal and warehousing by jurisdiction**

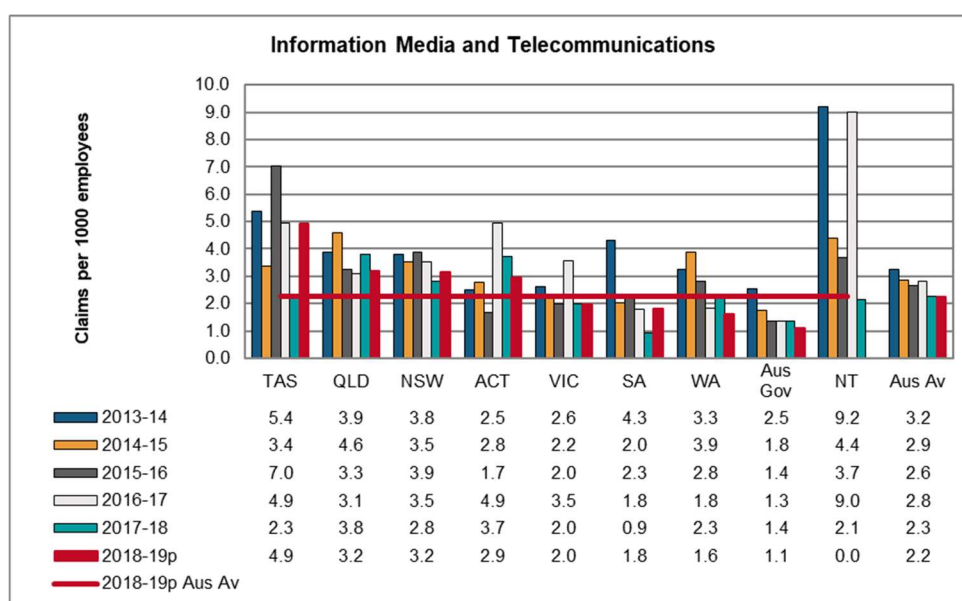


## Information media and telecommunications

The Australian average incidence rates of serious claims for the Information media and telecommunications industry in 2017–18 was 2.3 claims per 1,000 employees (Indicator 11j). South Australia recorded the largest decrease (down 79%) between 2013–14 and 2017–18, followed by the Northern Territory (down 77%), Tasmania (down 57%), and the Australian Government (down 46%).

The incidence rates of the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory should be interpreted with caution as the relative standard error of the number of employees was between 25% and 50% and therefore subject to high sampling error.

### Indicator 11j – Incidence rates of serious claims for Information media and telecommunications by jurisdiction

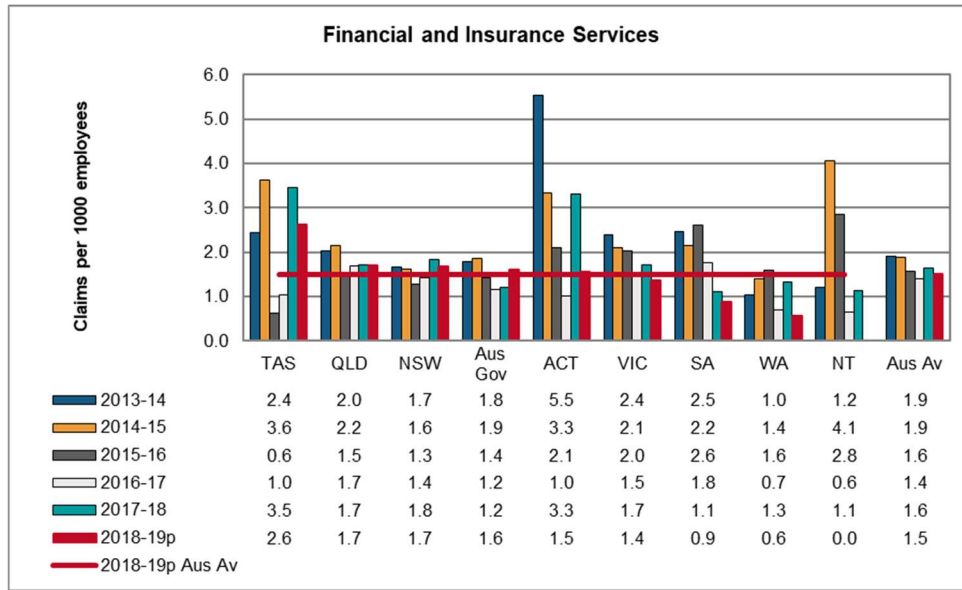


## Financial and insurance services

Indicator 11k shows the Australian average incidence rate for the Financial and insurance services industry in 2017–18 was 1.6 claims per 1,000 employees, the lowest average incidence rate of serious claims among all industries. South Australia recorded the largest decrease (down 55%) in the incidence rate for this industry between 2013–14 and 2017–18, followed by the Australian Capital Territory (down 40%), the Australian Government (down 32%) and Victoria (down 28%). Tasmania recorded 42% increase in incidence rate during the same period, followed by Western Australia (up 27%).

The incidence rates of the Australian Capital Territory should be interpreted with caution as the relative standard error of the number of employees was between 25% and 50%.

**Indicator 11k – Incidence rates of serious claims for Financial and insurance services by jurisdiction**

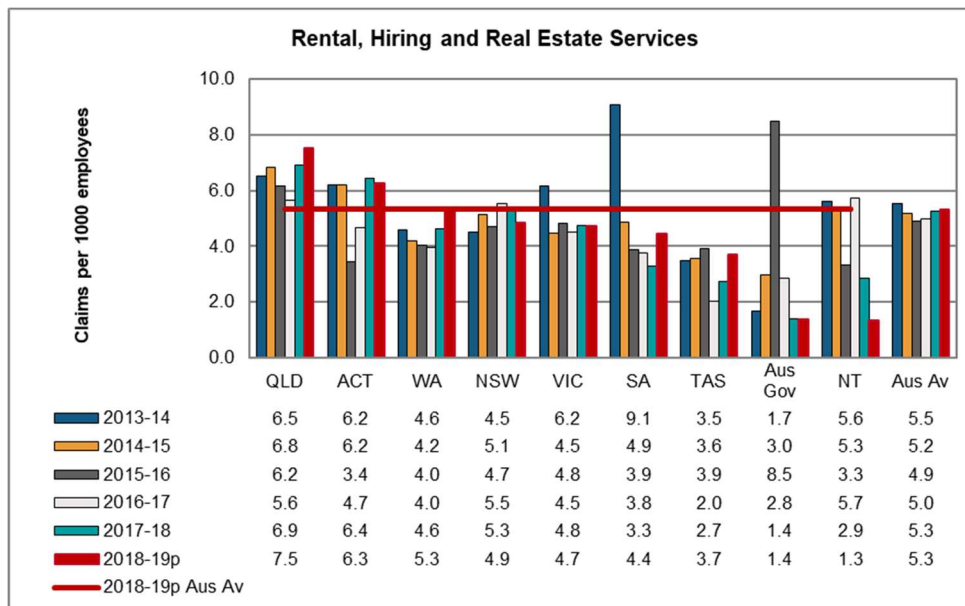


**Rental, hiring and real estate services**

The Australian average incidence rate for the Rental, hiring and real estate services industry was 5.3 claims per 1,000 employees in 2017–18 (Indicator 11l). South Australia recorded the largest decrease (down 64%) between 2013–14 and 2017–18, followed by the Northern Territory (down 49%) and Victoria (down 23%).

The incidence rates of the Australian Capital Territory should be interpreted with caution as the relative standard error of the number of employees was between 25% and 50%.

**Indicator 11l – Incidence rates of serious claims for Rental, hiring and real estate services by jurisdiction**



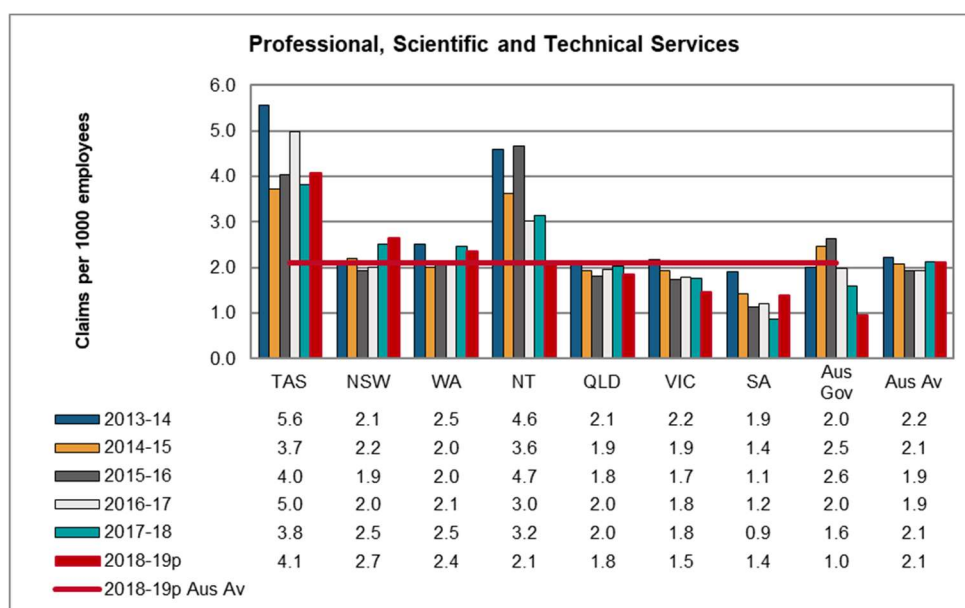
## Professional, scientific and technical services

The Professional, scientific and technical services industry had the second lowest incidence rate overall in 2017–18 (2.1 claims per 1,000 employees) when compared to all other industries (Indicator 11m). All but one jurisdiction recorded decreases in the incidence rate of serious claims for the Professional, scientific and technical services industry between 2013–14 and 2017–18.

The largest decrease was recorded by South Australia (down 55%), followed by the Northern Territory and Tasmania (down 31% each), and the Australian Government (down 20%).

The incidence rates of the Australian Capital Territory were not reported here due to the high relative standard error (greater than 50%).

### Indicator 11m – Incidence rates of serious claims for Professional, scientific and technical services by jurisdiction



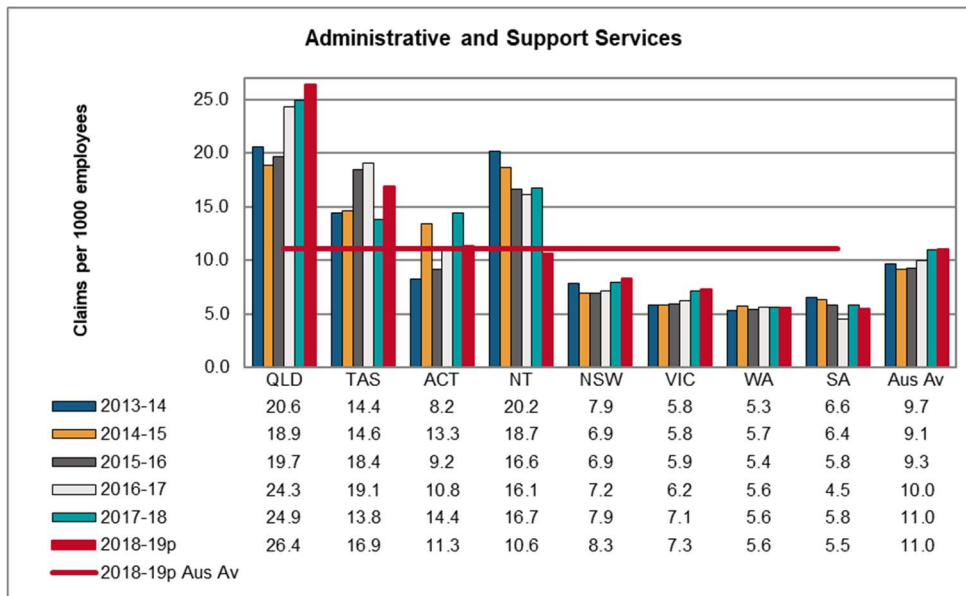
## Administrative and support services

The Australian average incidence rate in the Administrative and support services industry was 11.0 serious claims per 1,000 employees in 2017–18 (Indicator 11n). Western Australia had the lowest incidence rate in 2017–18 (5.6 claims per 1,000 employees), followed by South Australia (5.8).

The Northern Territory recorded the largest decrease (down 17%) in the incidence rate between 2013–14 and 2017–18, followed by South Australia (down 11%). In contrast, the Australian Capital Territory recorded a 75% increase, followed by Victoria (up 22%), and Queensland (up 21%) in their incidence rates during the same period.

Readers should be aware that the Australian Government has not reported any claims for this industry for the reference period. The incidence rates of the Australian Capital Territory should be interpreted with caution as the relative standard error of the number of employees was between 25% and 50%.

**Indicator 11n – Incidence rates of serious claims for Administrative and support services by jurisdiction**



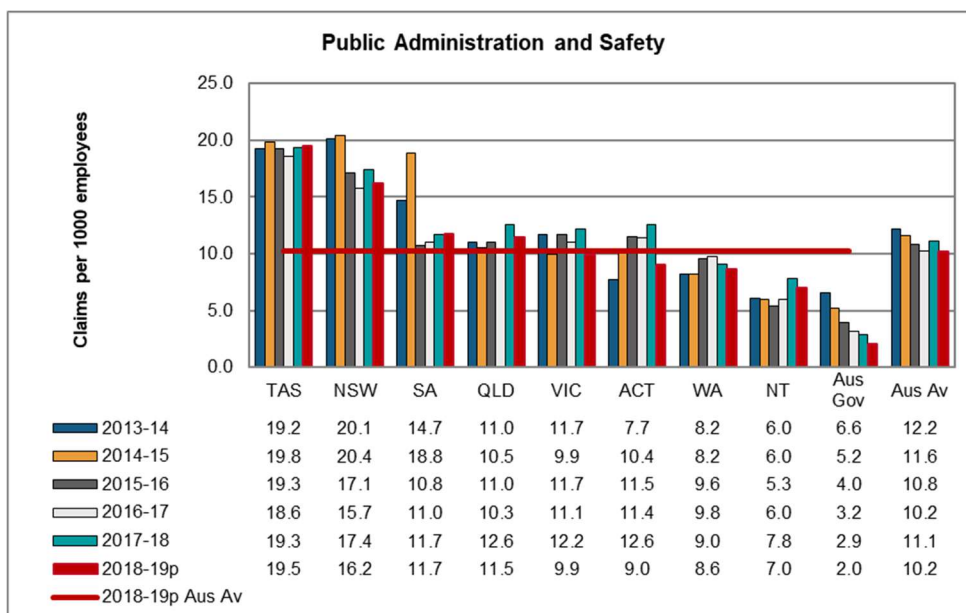
**Public administration and safety**

The Australian average incidence rate of serious claims in the Public administration and safety industry was 11.1 claims per 1,000 employees in 2017–18, down from 12.2 claims per 1,000 employees in 2013–14 (Indicator 11o).

Three of the jurisdictions showed a decrease in the incidence rate of claims between 2013–14 and 2017–18, while the rest recorded increases. The Australian Government recorded the largest decrease (down 56%) in its incidence rate, followed by South Australia (down 21%), and New South Wales (down 14%). On the other hand, the Australian Capital Territory showed a 63% increase in incidence rate, followed by the Northern Territory (up 29%) and Queensland (up 14%).

The incidence rates of the Australian Capital Territory should be interpreted with caution as the relative standard error of the number of employees were between 25% and 50%.

**Indicator 11o – Incidence rates of serious claims for Public administration and safety by jurisdiction**

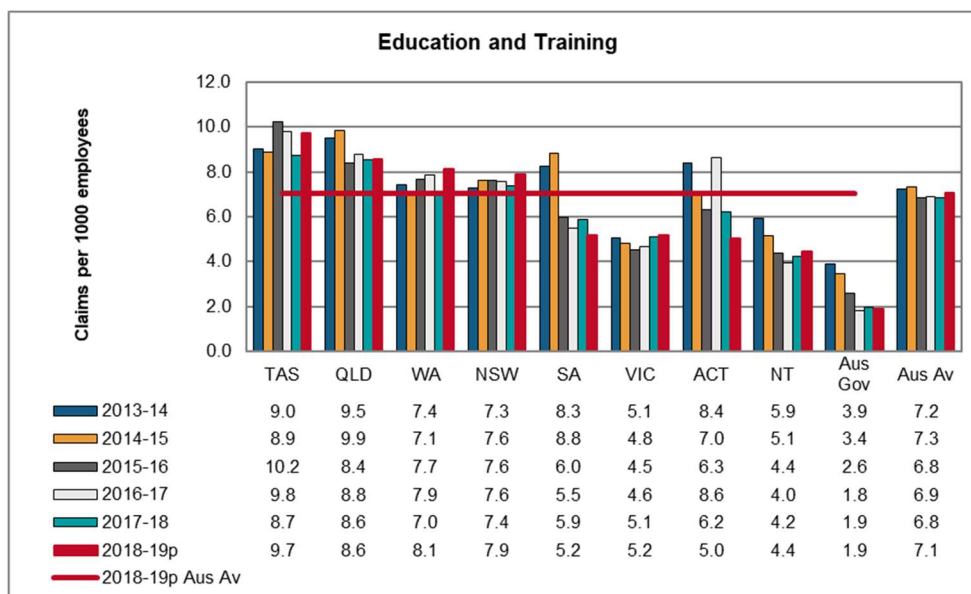


## Education and training

The Australian average incidence rate for the Education and training industry was 6.8 serious claims per 1,000 employees in 2017–18, a 6% decrease since 2013–14 (Indicator 11p). The Australian Government recorded the largest decrease (down 50%), followed by South Australia (down 29%) and the Northern Territory (down 28%). The incidence rate also decreased in the Australian Capital Territory (down 26%) over the same period.

The incidence rates of the Australian Capital Territory and the Australian Government should be interpreted with caution as the relative standard error of the number of employees were between 25% and 50%.

### Indicator 11p – Incidence rates of serious claims for Education and training by jurisdiction

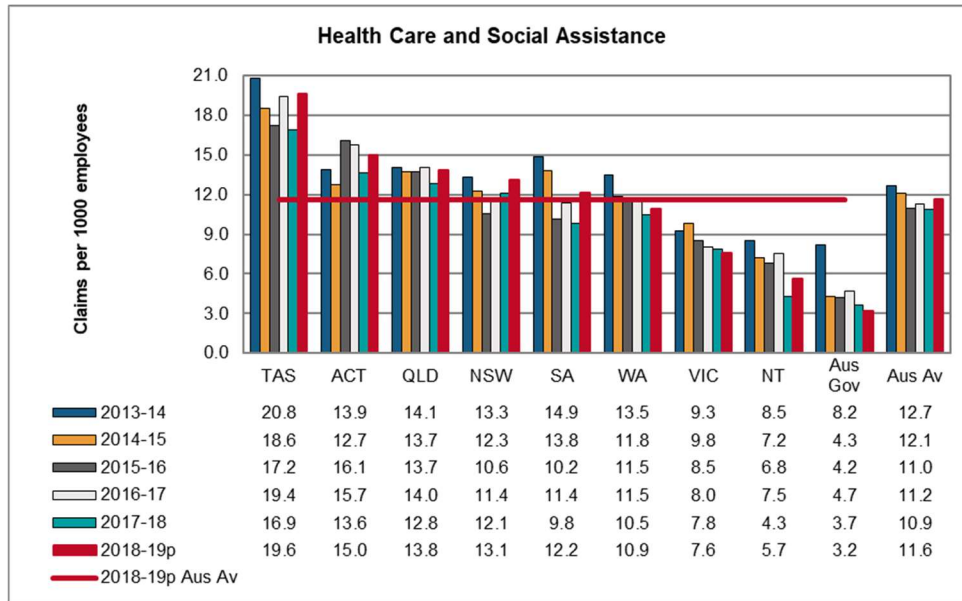


## Healthcare and social assistance

The Australian average incidence rate of serious claims in the Healthcare and social assistance industry in 2017–18 was 10.9 claims per 1,000 employees; 14% lower than in 2013–14 (Indicator 10q). The Australian Government recorded the largest decrease (down 55%) in incidence rates for the industry between 2013–14 and 2017–18, followed by the Northern Territory (down 50%), then South Australia (down 34%).

The incidence rates of the Australian Capital Territory and the Australian Government should be interpreted with caution as the relative standard error of the number of employees were between 25% and 50%.

**Indicator 11q – Incidence rates of serious claims for Healthcare and social assistance by jurisdiction**



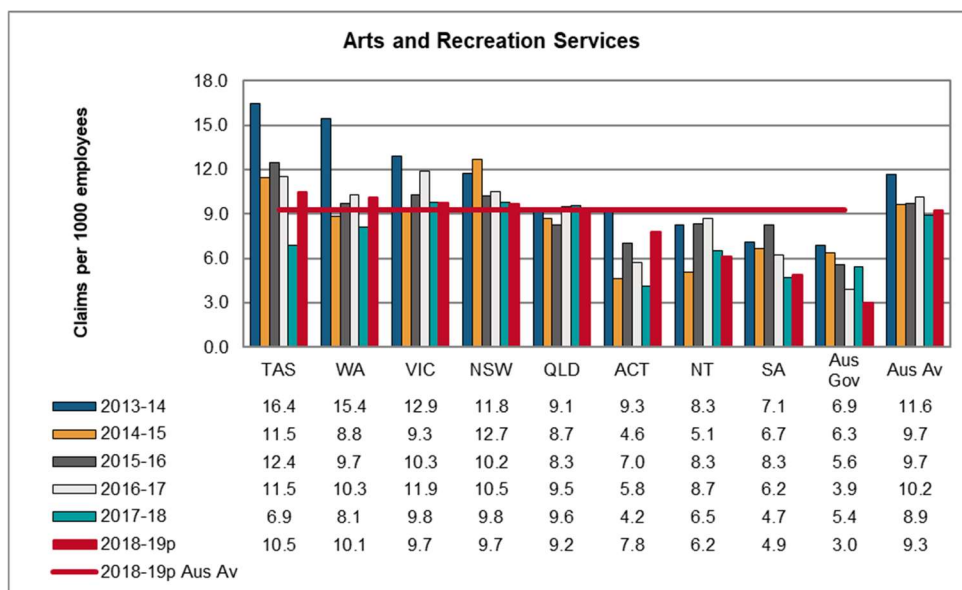
**Arts and recreation services**

The Australian average incidence rate for the Arts and recreation services industry fell by 23% from 11.6 claims per 1,000 employees in 2013–14 to 8.9 claims per 1,000 employees in 2017–18 (Indicator 11r).

Of the other jurisdictions, Tasmania recorded the largest decrease (down 58%), followed by the Australian Capital Territory (down 56%), Western Australia (down 47%), and South Australia (down 34%). Queensland (up 5%) was the only jurisdiction to record an increase in incidence rates between 2013–14 and 2017–18.

The incidence rates of the Australian Government and the Australian Capital Territory should be interpreted with caution as the relative standard error of the number of employees was between 25% and 50%.

**Indicator 11r – Incidence rates of serious claims for Arts and recreation services by jurisdiction**





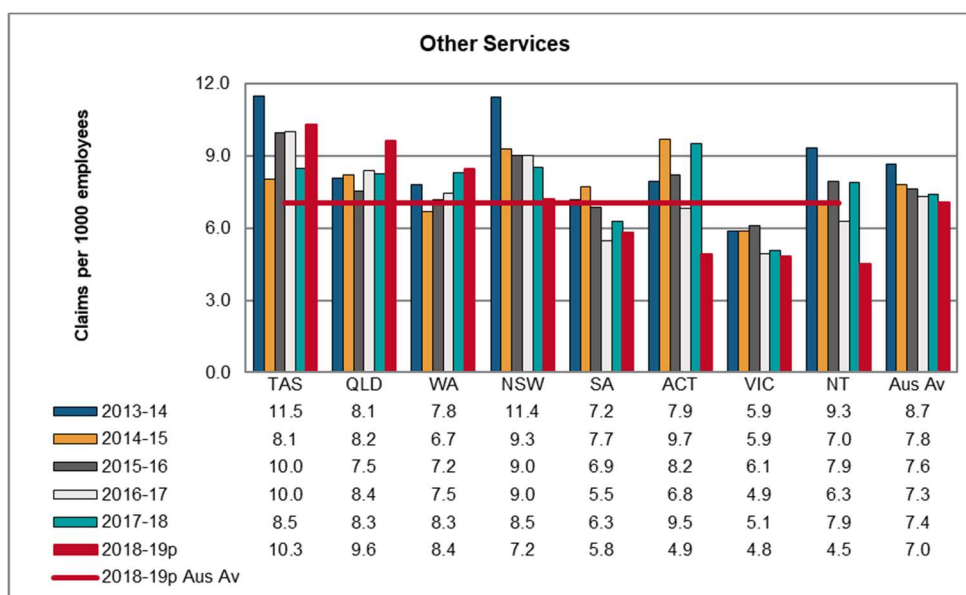
## Other services

The Australian average incidence rate of serious claims in the Other services industry decreased by 15% between 2013–14 and 2017–18.

Of the other jurisdictions, Tasmania recorded the largest decrease (down 26%), followed by New South Wales (down 25%), the Northern Territory (down 16%) and Victoria (down 14%). The Australian Capital Territory (up 20%), Western Australia (up 6%) and Queensland (up 2%) were the only jurisdictions recording increases in their incidence rates during the same reporting period.

The incidence rates of the Australian Capital Territory should be interpreted with caution as the relative standard error of the number of employees was between 25% and 50%. The Australian Government data are not reported due to the high relative standard error (greater than 50%) in the employee numbers.

### Indicator 11s – Incidence rates of serious claims for Other services by jurisdiction





# Appendix 1 — Explanatory notes

## Workers' compensation claims data

### Scope

#### *National Data Set for Compensation-based Statistics*

The data presented in this report are extracted from the National Data Set for Compensation-based Statistics (NDS), which is compiled annually from claims made under state, territory and Commonwealth workers' compensation Acts. The New Zealand Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) also collects data in accordance with the NDS.

#### *Traumatic Injury Fatalities*

This edition sources information from the Traumatic Injury Fatalities (TIF) collection. This collection sources data from workers' compensation data, fatality notifications to the various work health and safety authorities and information in the National Coronial Information System (NCIS).

Typically, only around 60% of work-related fatalities recorded in the TIF collection are compensated. This is in part due to self-employed workers not being covered by workers' compensation schemes. Many self-employed workers work in high risk sectors such as agriculture, transport and construction.

It should be noted that traumatic injury fatality data can be volatile year-on-year. In particular, multiple death events can impact the data, despite efforts of jurisdictions in reducing or eliminating work-related traumatic injury fatalities. Further information about the TIF collection and a detailed analysis of the data can be found on the [Safe Work Australia](#) website.

#### *Serious claim*

A serious claim is a workers' compensation claim for an incapacity that results in a total absence from work of one working week or more. Claims excluded from this definition include those arising from a work-related fatality or a journey to or from work or during a recess period. One working week is defined as lost when the number of hours lost is greater than or equal to the number of hours usually worked per week.

#### *Occupational injuries and diseases*

The data in this report do not cover all cases of occupational injury and diseases as workers' compensation generally covers employees only. Therefore, many contractors and self-employed workers are not represented by these data. The exclusion of self-employed persons is likely to result in an underestimate of the number of cases in industries where self-employed persons are common, such as Agriculture, forestry and fishing, Construction, Transport, postal and warehousing – Road transport, Administrative and support services and Arts and recreation services. However, the incidence and frequency rates shown in this report for all industries are considered to be reliable, as the denominators used in the calculation of the rates have been adjusted to exclude self-employed persons.

In addition, the following have been excluded from the data in this report:

- occupational injuries and diseases resulting in absences from work of less than one working week,
- military personnel within the Defence force,
- cases not claimed as workers' compensation or not acknowledged as being work-related, and
- claims for compensation to the Dust Diseases Authority of New South Wales.

Australian Government employees working in each jurisdiction have been included in Australian Government figures rather than state or territory results. The Australian Capital Territory Public Service employees are covered by the Comcare scheme but operate under the work health and safety provisions of the Australian Capital Territory. These employees and their claims have been combined with the Australian Capital Territory private sector employees for reporting outcomes in this report.

The following table shows the preliminary number of serious claims, an estimate of the number of employees in each jurisdiction, and an estimate of the number of hours worked in each jurisdiction in 2018–19 rounded to the nearest 10. Please note that the number of serious claims shown for Victoria includes adjustment factors that are explained later in this section. The figures for employee and hours worked in the table below are those that have been used to calculate the incidence and frequency rates in this report. Please note that the number of claims for 2018–19 are preliminary and subject to revision in future years as claims are finalised.

**Appendix 1 – Table 1: Summary of key jurisdictional data, 2018–19**

Jurisdiction	Serious claims	Per cent of claims	Employees	Per cent of employees	Hours worked	Per cent of hours worked
<b>New South Wales</b>	37,630	32.9	3,744,030	30.8	6,162,804,260	31.0
<b>Victoria</b>	22,900	20.0	3,107,320	25.6	4,976,227,890	25.0
<b>Queensland</b>	28,530	24.9	2,299,920	18.9	3,808,679,530	19.1
<b>Western Australia</b>	11,400	10.0	1,263,570	10.4	2,128,380,970	10.7
<b>South Australia</b>	6,400	5.6	787,690	6.5	1,255,622,270	6.3
<b>Tasmania</b>	3,180	2.8	226,360	1.9	342,420,650	1.7
<b>Northern Territory</b>	980	0.9	136,170	1.1	237,464,450	1.2
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>	1,630	1.4	168,370	1.4	260,902,330	1.3
<b>Australian Government</b>	1,720	1.5	416,560	3.4	727,559,370	3.7
<b>Seacare</b>	60	0.1	4,410	0.0	11,443,210	0.1
<b>Australian total</b>	<b>114,430</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>12,154,400</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>19,911,504,920</b>	<b>100.0</b>

## Time series and adjustment of scheme data

The estimates of the number of employees and their hours worked for Australia are supplied by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and these denominator data are based on the Labour Force Survey, the Survey of Employment and Earnings and data provided by Comcare. Further adjustments are performed using data from the Census, the Forms of Employment Survey and the Survey of Employment Arrangements, Retirement and Superannuation. These data are matched to the scope of the claims data but may not be exact, particularly in the smaller jurisdictions, due to the number of employees being derived from a survey of the population rather than a census.

The New Zealand employment data used has been sourced from the New Zealand census information.

Incidence and frequency rates, especially for the most recent years, are expected to rise as the number of accepted claims increases, as more claim are lodged and finalised. This may involve additional claims being accepted or shorter-term claims with temporary incapacity incurring additional time lost and subsequently matching the definition of a serious claim: one that involves one or more working weeks of time lost.

Claims data shown in this report for 2018–19 are preliminary unless otherwise stated. Therefore, these data items are likely to be understated and a comparison of 2018–19 data with those of previous years should be undertaken with caution.

In analysing trends over time, consideration needs to be given to any changes to jurisdiction-specific legislation and administrative processes during the period concerned, further details of which should be sought from the jurisdictions. Any commentary relating to these comparisons should be interpreted carefully, where provided.

Frequency rates for the Seacare scheme have been calculated using a 24-hour basis. This is in recognition of the 24-hour risk of exposure to workplace hazards due to the nature of employment in the maritime industry. This definition is consistent with data published by the Seacare Authority.

## Definition of injury and disease

Occupational injuries are defined as all employment-related injuries that are the result of a single traumatic event, occurring while a person is on duty or during a recess period at the workplace, and where there was a short or non-existent latency period. This includes injuries that are the result of a single exposure to an agent(s) causing an acute toxic effect.

Occupational diseases are defined as all employment-related diseases that result from repeated or long-term exposure to an agent(s) or event(s), or that are the result of a single event resulting in a disease (for example, the development of hepatitis following a single exposure to the infection).

The data in this report has been classified using the Type of Occurrence Classification System (TOOCS). More information on the definition of injury and disease can be found in the TOOCS on the [Safe Work Australia](#) website.

## Adjustment of Victorian data

Only claims involving one or more weeks of compensation have been used for analysis in Part 1 of the CPM, to enable greater comparability in the jurisdictional data. This accounts for the different employer excesses that exist in various schemes. Under the Victorian workers' compensation scheme the employer is generally liable for the first 10 days of lost wages by the injured worker. In addition to this, Victorian employers pay the first \$692 of medical services (for the year 2018-19 – indexed annually) unless the employer has elected the Excess Buyout option. Please refer to WorkSafe Victoria's website for more information on the Excess Buyout option.

As employers do not always provide WorkSafe Victoria with information on claims lasting fewer than 10 days, an adjustment factor needs to be applied in order to compare Victorian claims data with other jurisdictions. To calculate the Victorian under-10-days excess impact, the percentage of claims between one and two weeks duration for Victoria were compared with the percentage of one to two weeks claims for other Australian jurisdictions. From this comparison, the number of Victorian claims between one and two weeks were increased by a factor so that the percentage of such claims was similar to the Australian average. The analysis was undertaken at the industry division level to allow for a greater degree of homogeneity in respect of claim duration in Victoria. The application of the factors has increased claims supplied by WorkSafe Victoria by 13% (from 20,286 to 22,897) in 2018–19.

## Changes to South Australian data

Safe Work Australia conducted a review of the methodology used to calculate South Australian under-10-days excess factors. Following the review, it was found that the claim numbers after factoring did not accurately represent the South Australian claims. Hence the excess factors for South Australian claims were not applied to their claims data from 2015–16 onward.

## Adjustment of Tasmanian data

The recent increase in the number of claims for Tasmania is a result of legislative changes which came into effect 1 January 2018. Amendments to S97A removed the obligation for an insurance excess. Employers are now required to have a policy in place which indemnifies them for the full amount of liabilities including the first weekly payment and the first \$200 of any benefits payable. The expected impact of this legislative change was an increase in the number of more minor claims being reported.

## Size of business

The number of employees in each of the three business size groups (in Indicator 9) has been sourced from the ABS. Estimates of employment figures by 'Small: less than 20 employees', 'Medium: 20–199 employees' and 'Large: 200 employees or more' business size groups published in the 'Australian Industry' publication (ABS cat. No. 8155.0) were used. These estimates were produced annually using a combination of data directly collected from the annual Economic Activity Survey (EAS) conducted by the ABS and Business Activity Statement (BAS) data provided by businesses to the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). As figures in this publication are for 'Employment', the ABS Labour Force data were also used in order to be able to exclude self-employed persons from the 'Australian Industry' figures.

The scope and coverage of these estimates are for the private sector only, which consists of all business entities in the Australian economy except for entities classified as general Government.

## Appendix 2 – Jurisdictional contact information

Appendix 2 – Table 1: Jurisdictional contact information

Jurisdiction	Organisation	Contact details
<b>New South Wales</b>	State Insurance Regulatory Authority	13 10 50 <a href="mailto:contact@sira.nsw.gov.au">contact@sira.nsw.gov.au</a> <a href="http://www.sira.nsw.gov.au">www.sira.nsw.gov.au</a>
	SafeWork NSW	<a href="mailto:contact@safework.nsw.gov.au">contact@safework.nsw.gov.au</a> <a href="http://www.safework.nsw.gov.au">www.safework.nsw.gov.au</a>
	NSW Workers Compensation Commission	1300 368 040 <a href="mailto:registry@wcc.nsw.gov.au">registry@wcc.nsw.gov.au</a> <a href="http://www.wcc.nsw.gov.au">www.wcc.nsw.gov.au</a>
	icare NSW	<a href="http://www.icare.nsw.gov.au">www.icare.nsw.gov.au</a>
<b>Victoria</b>	WorkSafe Victoria	Advisory Service 1800 136 089 <a href="mailto:info@worksafe.vic.gov.au">info@worksafe.vic.gov.au</a> <a href="http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au">www.worksafe.vic.gov.au</a>
<b>Queensland</b>	Office of Industrial Relations	Infoline 1300 362 128 <a href="http://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au">www.worksafe.qld.gov.au</a>
<b>Western Australia</b>	WorkCover WA	(08) 9388 5555 <a href="http://www.workcover.wa.gov.au">www.workcover.wa.gov.au</a>
	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety– WorkSafe	1300 307 877 <a href="http://www.dmirs.wa.gov.au">www.dmirs.wa.gov.au</a>
<b>South Australia</b>	ReturnToWorkSA	13 18 55 <a href="http://www.rtwsa.com">www.rtwsa.com</a>
	SafeWork SA	1300 365 255 <a href="http://www.safework.sa.gov.au">www.safework.sa.gov.au</a>
<b>Tasmania</b>	WorkSafe Tasmania	Helpline 1300 366 322 (inside Tas) (03) 6166 4600 (outside Tas) <a href="mailto:wstinfo@justice.tas.gov.au">wstinfo@justice.tas.gov.au</a> <a href="http://www.worksafe.tas.gov.au">www.worksafe.tas.gov.au</a>
<b>Northern Territory</b>	NT WorkSafe	1800 019 115 <a href="mailto:ntworksafe@nt.gov.au">ntworksafe@nt.gov.au</a> <a href="http://www.worksafe.nt.gov.au">www.worksafe.nt.gov.au</a>
<b>Australian Capital Territory</b>	WorkSafe ACT	(02) 6207 3000 <a href="http://www.worksafe.act.gov.au">www.worksafe.act.gov.au</a>
<b>Seafarers</b>	Seacare Authority	(02) 6275 0070 <a href="mailto:seacare@comcare.gov.au">seacare@comcare.gov.au</a> <a href="http://www.seacare.gov.au">www.seacare.gov.au</a>
<b>Australian Government</b>	Comcare	1300 366 979 <a href="http://www.comcare.gov.au">www.comcare.gov.au</a>
<b>New Zealand</b>	Accident Compensation Corporation	64 7 848 7400 <a href="http://www.acc.co.nz">www.acc.co.nz</a>
	WorkSafe New Zealand	0800 030 040 <a href="http://www.worksafe.govt.nz">www.worksafe.govt.nz</a>