

COVID-19 related workers' compensation claims

From 1 January to 31 December 2020

Safe Work Australia has collected preliminary data on COVID-19 related workers' compensation claims.

1,222 workers' compensation claims have been lodged across Australia

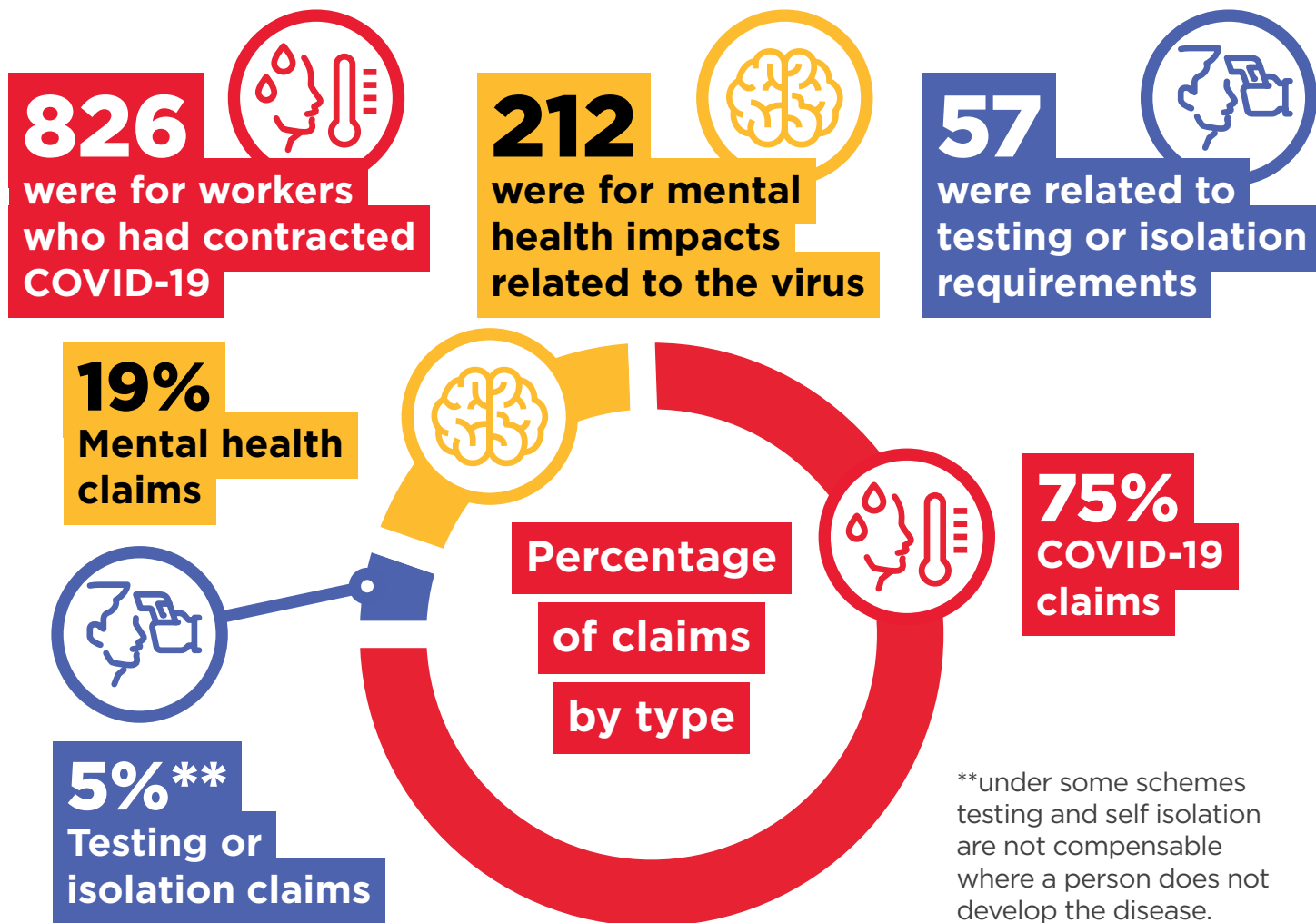
of these: **974** claims were accepted

127 claims were rejected*

121 claims were pending

*Rejected claims may include a range of scenarios, including where a worker was tested for COVID-19 but found to be negative, or where there was evidence the disease was not contracted at work.

Of the 1,095 accepted and pending claims lodged from 1 January to 31 December 2020



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Health care and social assistance

69% of all claims made

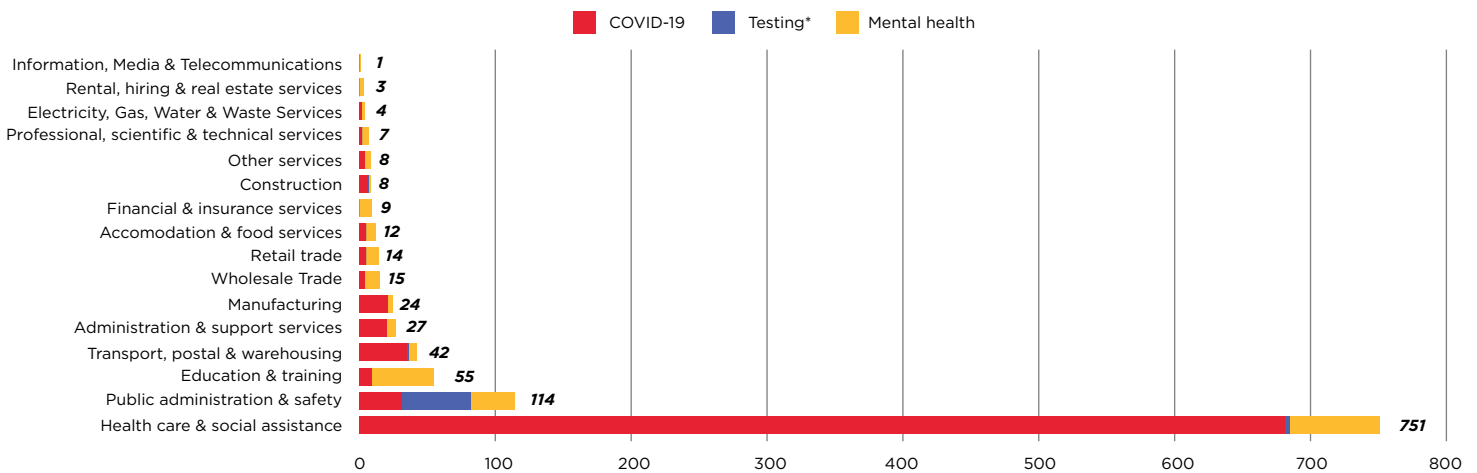
Claims by industry

Public administration and safety

10% of all claims made



Number of approved and pending claims by industry and nature of injury or disease



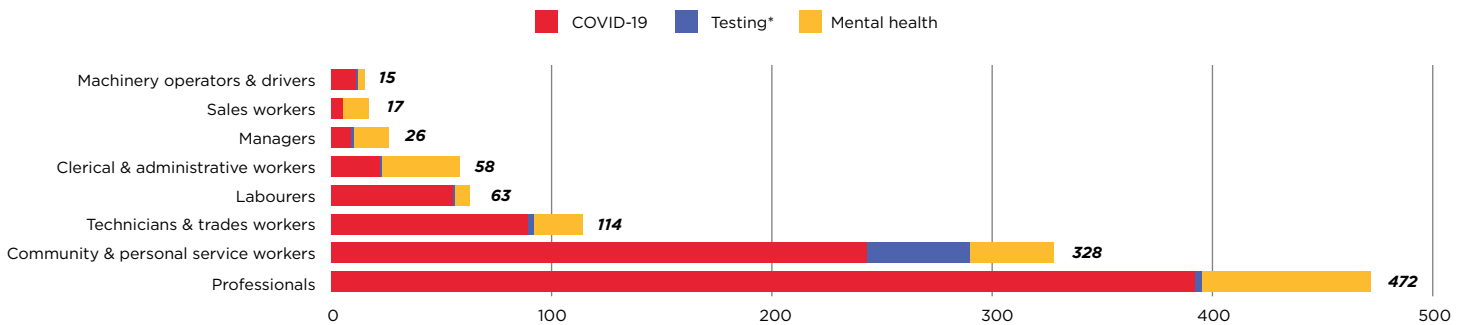
Professionals
43% of all claims made

Claims by occupation

Community and personal service workers
30% of all claims made



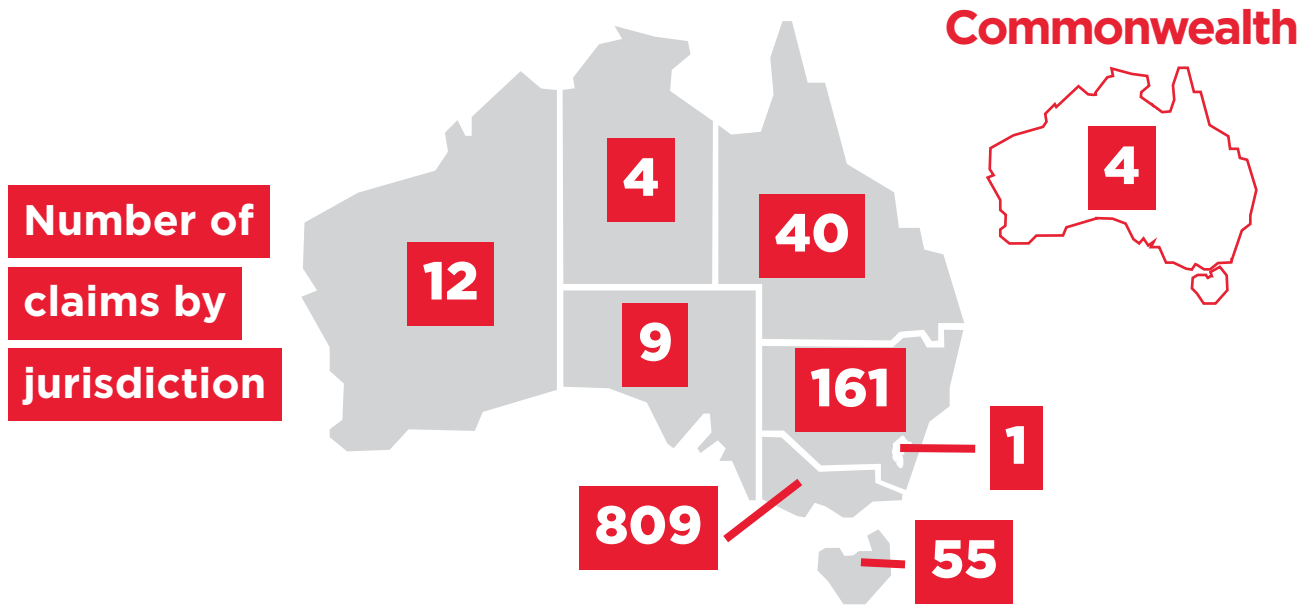
Number of approved and pending claims lodged by occupation and nature of injury or disease



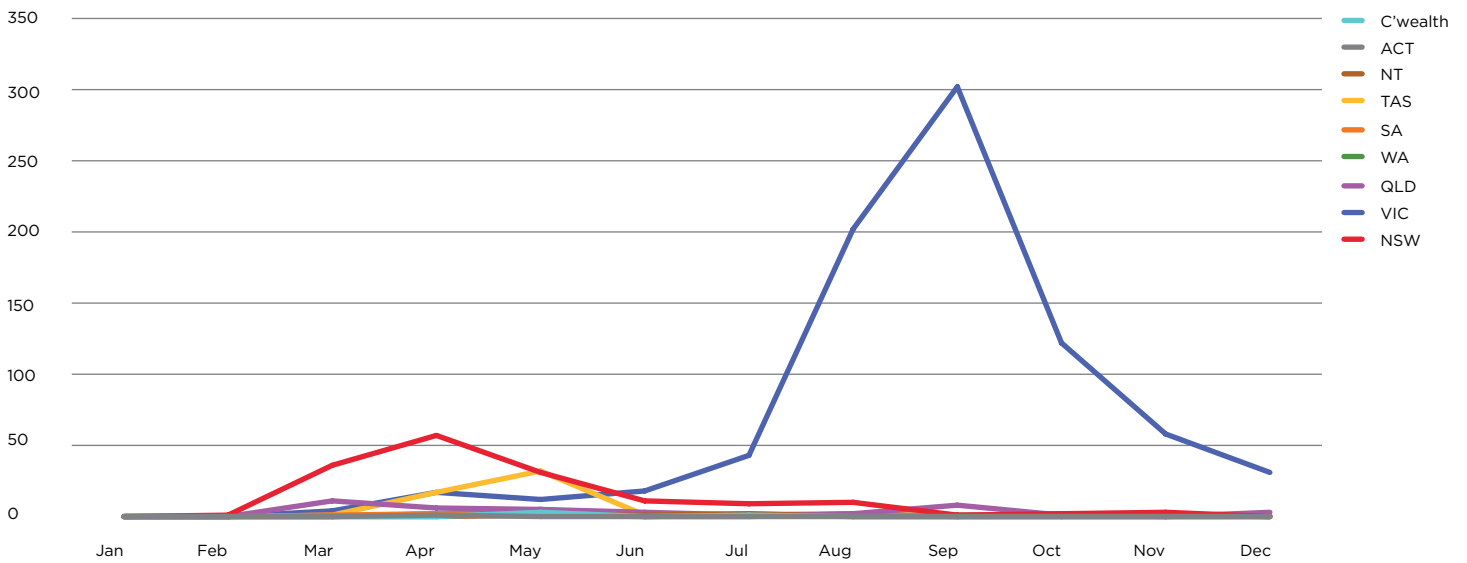
*under some schemes testing and self isolation are not compensable where a person does not develop the disease.

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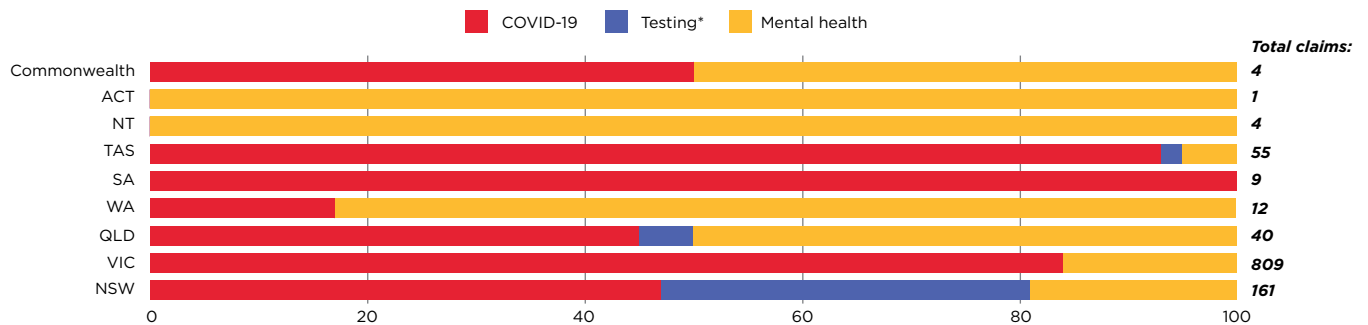
From 1 January to 31 December 2020



Number of approved and pending claims by month and jurisdiction



Proportion of approved and pending claims by nature of injury or disease by jurisdiction



*under some schemes testing and self isolation are not compensable where a person does not develop the disease.

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Notes about the data

Data on COVID-19-related workers' compensation claims were received from all jurisdictions from 1 January to 31 December 2020. The scope of data included in this report is different to the previous report (containing claims to 31 July 2020) published on 3 November 2020. For this reason, the two reports are not comparable.

There are significant variations in the way jurisdictions collect and report data on COVID-19. Caution should be used in interpreting the data.

Claims unrelated to COVID-19 made while working from home are not included.

'Testing or isolation' includes situations where workers face the risk of exposure to disease through their work. If a worker is suspected of having contracted COVID-19, but ultimately found to not have contracted the disease, they may still claim for medical tests or isolation requirements. Data on 'testing or isolation' excludes Victoria.

Further information will be available towards the end of 2021 when the full 2019-20 National Data Set for Compensation-based Statistics is compiled.

For more information

The Safe Work Australia website provides a central hub of [COVID-19 work health and safety \(WHS\) guidance for workplaces](#). Information is available for more than 35 industries covering topics including WHS duties, risk assessments, physical distancing, cleaning, hygiene and mental health.

Safe Work Australia has several functions related to workers' compensation, including developing national policy and carrying out research. Safe Work Australia does not determine a worker's coverage or eligibility for workers' compensation benefits, or manage workers' compensation claims and return to work programs. Workers' compensation arrangements are the responsibility of the relevant [workers' compensation authority in each jurisdiction](#).