

# HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES



The Health & community services industry employed 1.57 million people in 2011–12 (14% of the Australian workforce). Within this industry 91% of workers were classed as employees and covered by workers' compensation. Employers in this industry paid 1.7% of payroll in 2011–12 to provide workers' compensation coverage for their employees.

## FATALITIES

Over the five years from 2007–08 to 2011–12, 15 Health & community services workers died from work-related injuries. Of these, 8 involved a vehicle. The total number of deaths equates to 0.23 fatalities per 100 000 workers, which is substantially lower than the national rate of 2.29.

- *Vehicle incident* accounted for 7 fatalities with 6 of the workers in a car at the time of the incident and 1 was in an aircraft.
- *Being assaulted by a person or persons* accounted for 3 fatalities and 2 workers died by *Drowning*.
- Of the three remaining fatalities, 1 worker died from *Being hit by moving objects*, 1 involved *Falls from a height* and 1 involved choking on food.

## SERIOUS CLAIMS

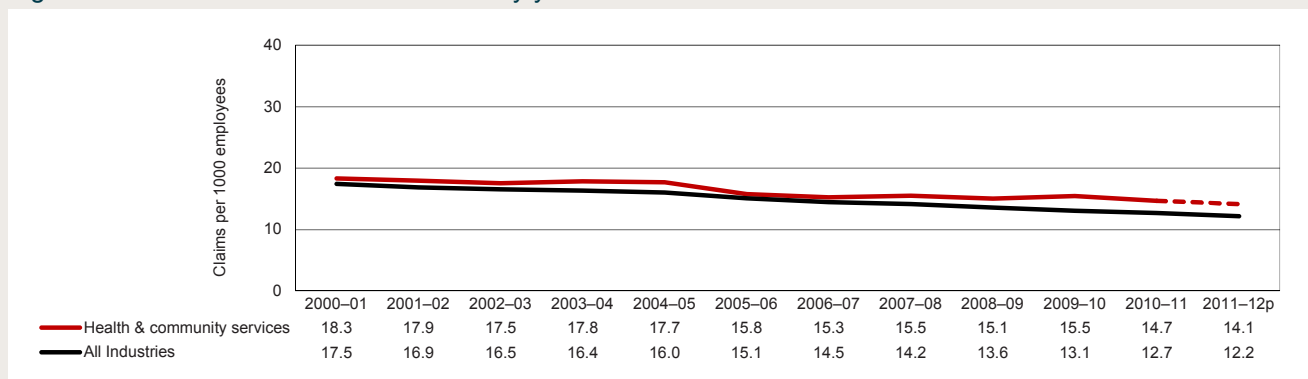
The preliminary data for 2011–12 show there were 19 248 successful workers' compensation claims for serious injury or illness in the Health and community services industry. Over the five years from 2007–08 to 2011–12, the Health & community services industry accounted for 14% of all serious workers' compensation claims. On average there were 50 claims each day from employees who required one or more weeks off work because of work-related injury or disease.

Figure 1 shows that the incidence rate of serious claims in the Health & community services industry has fallen 20% from 18.3 claims per 1000 employees in 2000–01 to 14.7 in 2010–11. The rate is 14% higher than the rate for all industries (12.7) and was the sixth highest incidence rate of all industries in 2010–11.

Between 2007–08 and 2011–12:

- *Body stressing* accounted for 52% of claims with half of these claims due to muscular stress while handling objects other than lifting, carrying or putting objects down.
- *Falls, trips and slips of a person* accounted for 18% of claims with most due to falls on wet floors indoors and falling over hazards in outside areas.
- *Being hit by moving objects* accounted for 11% of claims with most due to being assaulted by persons or accidentally hit by people.

Figure 1: Serious claims: Incidence rates by year





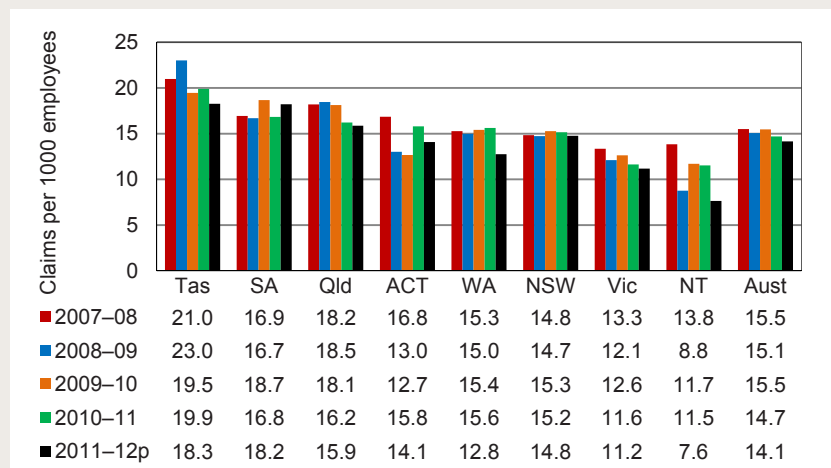
## SERIOUS CLAIMS BY JURISDICTION

Figure 2 shows the incidence rates of serious claims in the Health & community services industry by jurisdiction.

Over the period 2007–08 to 2010–11 all jurisdictions except New South Wales and Western Australia recorded decreases in incidence rates. The Northern Territory recorded the largest decrease (17%) followed by Victoria (13%) and Queensland (11%).

The preliminary data for 2011–12 show that Tasmania recorded the highest incidence rate with 18.3 claims per 1000 employees, while the Northern Territory recorded the lowest rate with 7.6.

Figure 2: Serious claims: Incidence rates by jurisdiction



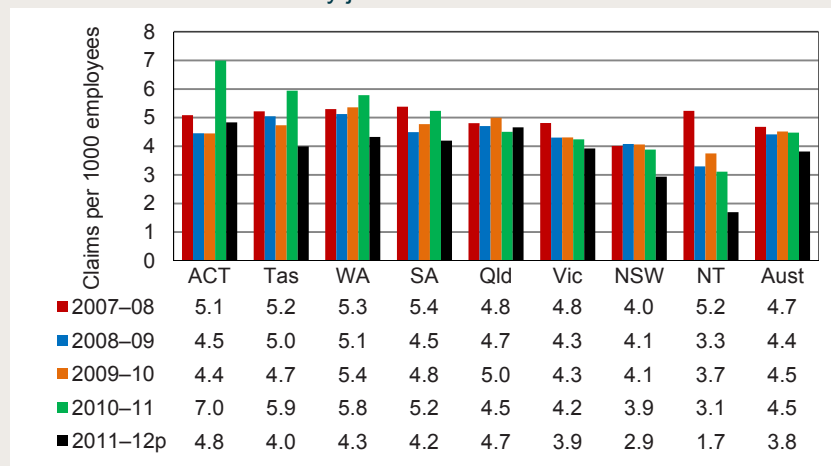
## CLAIMS INVOLVING 12 OR MORE WEEKS TIME LOST BY JURISDICTION

Figure 3 shows incidence rates of claims involving 12 or more weeks off work by jurisdiction. Preliminary data for 2011–12 show 27% of serious claims had compensation paid for 12 or more weeks off work.

Over the period 2007–08 to 2010–11 all jurisdictions except Western Australia, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory recorded decreases in incidence rates of long term claims with the largest decrease in the Northern Territory (40%) followed by Victoria (12%) and Queensland (6%).

The preliminary data for 2011–12 show that incidence rates of long term claims ranged from 1.7 claims per 1000 employees in the Northern Territory to 4.8 in the Australian Capital Territory.

Figure 3: Claims involving twelve or more weeks off work: Incidence rates by jurisdiction



Claims data were extracted from the National Data Set (NDS) for Compensation-based Statistics. The data presented here are restricted to accepted claims for serious injury and disease. Serious claims include fatalities, claims for permanent disability and claims for conditions that involve one or more weeks of time lost from work. Serious claims do not include those involving journeys to and from work. The 2011–12 data are preliminary and expected to rise. As such they have not been used to determine the percentage change in rates over time. More information on this industry can be found at [swa.gov.au](http://swa.gov.au).

Information on fatalities is extracted from the Traumatic Injury Fatalities database. Annual fatalities reports can be found at [swa.gov.au](http://swa.gov.au).

