

26 April 2024

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-031448

Thank you for your email of 31 March 2024, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *Can you please provide information concerning ACC funded courses as part of an injured persons vocational rehabilitation.*
 - a. *The total dollar amount spent on courses for injured persons in each of the last 5 years.*
 - b. *The percentage of injured persons who gain qualifications from courses that have been ACC funded in each of the last 5 years?*
 - c. *The number of courses by duration; type of qualification; at tertiary level; in each of the last 5 years.*
2. *Does ACC collect data on injured persons digital literacy, access to computers, access to WIFI. If so, how is that data collected and analysed.*
3. *The numbers of injured workers who gain cover under schedule 2 claims?*
4. *The number of injured workers declined cover under schedule 2 claims?*
5. *The types of injuries and exposures approved/declined under schedule 2.*
6. *The number of claims approved /declined for entitlements due to suicide?*

Vocational rehabilitation

Information about courses or qualifications we have funded as part of vocational rehabilitation is contained on individual claim files and it is not recorded in a collatable way. Due to this, we cannot determine information without manually reviewing information held on individual claim files where we have paid for vocational rehabilitation. Due to this, we are refusing this part of your request as the information cannot be made available without substantial collation and research. This decision is made under section 18(f) of the Act. In doing so, we consider that extending our timeframe to respond or charging (as allowed under the Act) would not enable us to avoid a significant impact on our operations.

We have however identified the following policies and processes on vocational rehabilitation options, which may be relevant to your enquiries:

- www.acc.co.nz/assets/Policy-and-procedure-documents/about-vocational-rehabilitation-vr-policy.pdf
- www.acc.co.nz/assets/Policy-and-procedure-documents/planning-vocational-rehabilitation-vr-post-ioa-policy.pdf
- www.acc.co.nz/assets/Policy-and-procedure-documents/set-up-back-to-work-support.pdf

Digital literacy and access to computers/Wi-Fi

ACC does not collect data on digital literacy or access to computers and Wi-fi.

Schedule 2 claims

The requested information is provided in the attached Excel file. When reviewing the information, please refer to the notes provided.

Some values in table 2 only indicate that the claim count is fewer than four (denoted as <4) to protect our clients' privacy. 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 our clients' privacy.

Suicide claims

The requested information is also provided in the attached Excel file.

Please note that Section 119 of the Accident Compensation Act 2001 (the AC Act) outlines when wilfully self-inflicted injuries or suicide may or may not be covered. This can be viewed here: www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2001/0049/latest/DLM101487.html.

Claims where the injury was self-inflicted or from a suicide need special consideration. ACC does not decline fatal claims solely because they are as a result of suicide. Rather, wilfully self-inflicted claims are often accepted and then disentitled. Our guidance on this can be viewed here: www.acc.co.nz/assets/Policy-and-procedure-documents/ineligibility-if-suicide-or-wilfully-self-inflicted-injury.pdf.

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

ACC may decide 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.

If you have any questions about this response, please get in touch

You can email me at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz. If you are not happy with this response, you can also contact the Ombudsman via info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Ngā mihi



Christopher Johnston
Manager Official Information Act Services
Government Engagement

Description:

Accepted and declined claims for those assessed under Schedule 2.

Accepted and declined claims due to fatal wilfully self-inflicted injuries.

Caveat and Notes:

- Claims are included where the cover decision is accept or decline. Duplicate claims and claims where the cover decision is not yet made have been excluded.
- Claims managed by an accredited employer are not included.
- Claims identified as assessed under schedule 2 (Tables 1 and 2) have been identified where the claim has a schedule 2 indicator. Please note that this indicator is based on a keyword search and may not represent all claims assessed under Schedule 2.
- Claims identified as fatal wilfully self-inflicted claims are identified where the claim is flagged as fatal and has an active wilfully self-inflicted indicator.
- While ACC does not decline claims because they are wilfully self-inflicted, these claims are usually disentitled. As such ACC data should not be considered a comprehensive count of fatal wilfully self-inflicted injuries as many may not be lodged with ACC in the first place where no entitlements are available.
- New claims are counted where the claim is lodged with ACC between 1 January 2019 and 31 March 2024. A claim may be lodged immediately following an accident or at any later stage.
- Data are displayed in calendar years, i.e. 1 January to 31 December.
- In the interest of client privacy, claim counts of less than four claims have been replaced with '<4'. A&R does not recommend releasing unsuppressed data.
- Data were extracted 18 April 2024 and may differ if re-run later.

Table 1 New claims assessed under schedule 2 lodged between 1 January 2019 and 31 March 2024 broken down by cover decision and calendar year

Cover Decision	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 YTD
Accept	1,261	1,176	1,223	1,011	1,122	269
Decline	345	304	325	246	323	43

Table 2 New claims assessed under schedule 2 lodged between 1 January 2019 and 31 March 2024 broken down by cover decision, schedule 2 group and calendar year

Cover Decision	Schedule 2 Type	Lodgement Calendar Year					
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 YTD
Accept	01 Asbestosis/Silicosis	92	101	89	64	69	14
	02 Lung Cancer/Mesothelioma-asbestos	83	77	90	83	80	18
	03 Beryllium	<4					<4
	04 Phosphorus	<4	<4		<4	<4	
	05 Chromium				<4		
	07 Arsenic	<4			<4		
	08 Mercury					<4	
	09 Lead	<4	<4	7	11	<4	
	11 Halogen Aliphatic Hydrocarbons	14	11	10	<4	<4	
	12 Benzene/Aromatic Hydrocarbons	<4	<4	<4	<4		
	14 Ionising Radiation	15	19	21	19	28	<4
	15 Epithelial Skin Cancer	6	4	5	<4	<4	
	16 Anthrax			<4			
	17 Leptospirosis	11	10	13	17	25	<4
	18 Brucellosis	<4					
	19 Orf (sheep/cow pox)	6	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4
	22 Byssinosis	<4	<4	4	<4	4	
	23 Pneumoconiosis-metals	<4	<4		<4	<4	
	25 Hand-Arm Vibration Syndrome		<4				
	26 Sino-nasal Carcinoma	<4	<4		<4		
	28 Extrinsic Allergic Alveolitis	5	<4	4		5	
	29 Naso-Pharyngeal Carcinoma			<4			
	30 Laryngeal Carcinoma		<4				
	31 Lung Cancer-non asbestos	<4	<4	<4	<4	9	<4
	33 Bladder Carcinoma	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4	
	34 Hodgkins Lymphoma			<4			
	35 Toxic Encephalopathy	5	4	5	5	6	<4
	36 Peripheral Neuropathy	5	10	8	10	10	
	37 Occupational Asthma	7	7	12	9	5	<4
	38 Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	18	9	16	16	15	<4
	39 Chronic Renal Failure-metals	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4
	40 Occupational Contact Dermatitis	973	901	927	753	851	222
Decline	01 Asbestosis/Silicosis	54	78	96	52	109	7
	02 Lung Cancer/Mesothelioma-asbestos	9	8	10	7	7	<4
	03 Beryllium	<4				<4	
	04 Phosphorus				<4		
	05 Chromium	<4	<4			4	
	07 Arsenic					<4	
	08 Mercury			<4		<4	
	09 Lead	5	<4	12	11	6	<4
	11 Halogen Aliphatic Hydrocarbons	9	<4		<4	<4	
	12 Benzene/Aromatic Hydrocarbons		<4				
	14 Ionising Radiation	8	8	7	8	7	<4
	15 Epithelial Skin Cancer	<4	<4	<4	<4	4	<4
	17 Leptospirosis	13	5	9	13	17	<4
	18 Brucellosis				<4		
	19 Orf (sheep/cow pox)			<4		<4	
	22 Byssinosis	<4	<4	4	<4	<4	
	25 Hand-Arm Vibration Syndrome	<4	<4	<4	<4	4	
	26 Sino-nasal Carcinoma		<4				
	28 Extrinsic Allergic Alveolitis	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4	
	29 Naso-Pharyngeal Carcinoma		<4			<4	

Table 3 New claims for fatal wilfully self-inflicted injuries lodged between 1 January 2019 and 31 March 2024 broken down by cover decision and calendar year

Cover Decision	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 YTD
Accept	104	95	80	80	77	3
Decline	5	3	5	5	5	

Please note - the schedule 2 types listed in Table 2 are those that have at least one claim lodged between 1 January 2019 and 31 March 2024. For the full list of potential injury types that can be considered please refer to Schedule 2 which includes a list of injury types.

30 Laryngeal Carcinoma			<4		
31 Lung Cancer-non asbestos	4	<4	<4	5	<4
33 Bladder Carcinoma	4	<4	<4	4	4
34 Hodgkins Lymphoma					<4
35 Toxic Encephalopathy	4	4	<4	<4	5
36 Peripheral Neuropathy	8	<4	13	12	<4
37 Occupational Asthma	17	16	12	14	11
38 Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	14	13	15	16	10
39 Chronic Renal Failure-metals	<4	5	6	<4	<4
40 Occupational Contact Dermatitis	185	146	121	92	113
41 Vitiligo					<4