

12 January 2022

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-015856

Thank you for your email of 8 December 2021, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Due to the fact that I developed noticeable tinnitus by the age of [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] what are the average ages ACC have awarded successful hearing loss claims? I
wish to compare ACC's successful claimants age groups to my [REDACTED] years of age.*

Our response

Please find the data in response to your request, in the attached Appendix.

Notes about the data

Please consider the following notes and caveats when reviewing the attached data:

- Data has been extracted where the claim lodgement date is between 1 January 2011 and 30 November 2021 and the claim cover decision is equal to 'Accept' or 'Decline'.
- Claims have been counted by the date that the claim was lodged with ACC. This can be immediately after the injury occurred or at any later stage.
- Data is provided by calendar year (1 January to 31 December). The 2021 year is from 1 January – 30 November 2021.
- Age is based on the client's age at claim registration and may differ to their age at the time of an accident.
- Data was extracted on 17 December 2021 and may differ if extracted again at a later date.

Please note that a claim may show as accepted in this dataset but be declined for a hearing loss injury if that claim included other injuries caused by the same event and those other injuries were accepted.

For noise-induced hearing loss data specifically, please see ACC's published dataset at

<https://catalogue.data.govt.nz/dataset/nihl-data>

ACC takes privacy seriously

ACC does not routinely disclose low value numbers relating to claims. Accordingly, in the tables provided, we have used the value '<4' if the number of claims is between one and three. In other instances, values are suppressed and notated as (...). This limits the potential for particular individuals, or matters specific to certain individuals, from being identified. Withholding in this way is necessary to protect the privacy of these individuals under section 9(2)(a) of the Act. In doing so, we have considered the public interest in making the withheld information available and have determined that it does not outweigh the need to protect the privacy of these persons.

How to get in contact

If you have any questions, you can email me at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, ACC has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on ACC's website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available [here](#).

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sasha Wood', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Sasha Wood

Manager Official Information Act Services
Government Engagement & Support

Please note that a claim may show as accepted in this dataset but be declined for a hearing loss injury if that claim included other injuries caused by the same event and those other injuries were accepted.

Table 1: Number of new hearing loss related claims lodged between 1 January 2011 and 30 November 2021, broken down by cover decision.

Lodgement Calendar Year	Cover Decision	
	Accept	Decline
2011	2,417	1,295
2012	2,489	1,325
2013	2,497	1,199
2014	3,447	1,626
2015	4,321	2,155
2016	5,026	2,601
2017	5,186	3,007
2018	5,008	3,499
2019	4,941	4,128
2020	4,028	4,066
2021 (YTD)	2,689	3,008

Table 2: Number of new hearing loss related claims lodged between 1 January 2011 and 30 November 2021, broken down by cover decision and age.

Cover Decision	Age	Lodgement Calendar Year										
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (YTD)
Accept	0 - 14 years	--	5	--	6	12	6	4	7	6	--	6
	15 - 19 years	<4	7	6	7	11	12	12	7	12	<4	6
	20 - 24 years	7	9	8	13	6	16	12	10	10	5	4
	25 - 29 years	10	10	<4	9	7	16	16	10	12	15	8
	30 - 34 years	8	19	11	16	10	15	18	24	13	13	6
	35 - 39 years	21	21	22	14	29	24	32	25	28	29	16
	40 - 44 years	48	36	50	52	64	72	47	48	44	43	22
	45 - 49 years	112	104	98	110	140	149	135	142	131	102	65
	50 - 54 years	229	240	215	246	270	333	321	329	296	223	166
	55 - 59 years	376	367	370	427	525	575	618	580	566	435	281
	60 - 64 years	493	476	450	610	733	812	887	776	782	673	512
	65+ years / Unknown	1,106	1,195	1,257	1,937	2,514	2,996	3,084	3,050	3,041	2,476	1,597
	0 - 14 years	<4	<4	<4	4	--	<4	<4	<4	--	5	<4
	15 - 19 years	--	--	--	5	<4	--	--	--	<4	4	<4
Decline	20 - 24 years	4	6	7	10	11	10	10	9	12	14	7
	25 - 29 years	11	12	11	15	15	12	15	20	21	22	14
	30 - 34 years	14	12	13	17	24	16	26	25	34	32	33
	35 - 39 years	35	22	30	24	30	33	39	44	50	54	38
	40 - 44 years	61	48	49	59	66	73	75	75	84	81	52
	45 - 49 years	98	77	72	96	105	129	130	181	162	153	114
	50 - 54 years	143	135	138	158	207	249	214	278	301	313	201
	55 - 59 years	195	180	165	198	258	323	368	453	506	476	356
	60 - 64 years	197	233	162	260	340	409	475	502	636	658	502
	65+ years	526	593	539	780	1,090	1,341	1,648	1,904	2,312	2,254	1,886

Table 3: Number of new hearing loss related claims lodged between 1 January 2011 and 30 November 2021, broken down by top 15 most prevalent injury descriptions (read code / ICD9 code / ICD10 code).

Cover Decision	Injury Description	Lodgement Calendar Year										
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (YTD)
Accept	Noise-induced hearing loss	2,200	2,244	2,101	2,995	3,738	4,307	4,427	4,311	4,115	3,452	2,278
	Hearing loss	72	94	208	228	281	407	394	359	414	210	124
	Noise effects on inner ear	7	12	31	44	63	64	82	78	104	103	105
	Sensorineural hearing loss	6	<4	5	7	15	15	22	26	45	52	45
	Tympanic membrane perforation	13	20	19	13	26	17	21	15	29	20	18
	Barotrauma, otic	<4	4	11	9	12	31	17	18	19	19	8
	Concussion	9	5	7	10	15	8	19	20	22	16	4
	Accident caused by exposure to noise	--	<4	5	6	13	13	22	22	20	14	5
	Contusion, ear	6	7	11	5	8	12	16	11	<4	14	6
	Head injury	<4	4	6	8	12	10	12	7	12	8	6
	Tinnitus	<4	--	<4	9	<4	14	12	9	5	6	<4
	Sensorineural hearing loss, bilateral	4	<4	--	--	<4	5	<4	<4	9	13	12
	Neck sprain	--	--	<4	4	4	--	4	4	<4	7	6
	Contusion of face, scalp and neck, excluding eye(s)	5	4	<4	<4	6	--	<4	<4	4	<4	<4
	Traumatic subdural haemorrhage	<4	<4	<4	5	<4	<4	5	<4	<4	--	<4
	Other	85	90	85	--	121	--	129	122	--	--	65
Decline	Noise-induced hearing loss	1,113	1,129	908	1,251	1,657	1,955	2,042	2,197	2,088	2,385	1,618
	Hearing loss	127	132	214	259	352	438	712	978	1,531	1,259	1,064
	Noise effects on inner ear	12	20	27	50	58	98	106	157	215	170	123
	Sensorineural hearing loss	4	6	7	13	14	26	47	43	85	72	82
	Accident caused by exposure to noise	7	9	10	10	18	29	37	39	84	64	39
	Tinnitus	5	8	10	9	9	18	11	22	25	15	12
	Sensorineural hearing loss, bilateral	--	--	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4	5	13	18	17
	Unspecified sudden hearing loss	--	<4	--	5	8	6	7	<4	14	5	4
	Ear anomalies with hearing impairment	--	--	--	<4	7	4	<4	8	10	7	5
	Acoustic explosive ear trauma	<4	<4	4	<4	<4	<4	5	5	4	6	5
	Unilateral deafness	--	<4	--	<4	<4	4	4	5	8	8	<4
	Barotrauma, otic	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4	4	<4	4	6	<4
	Other ear injuries	--	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4	4	4	7
	Acoustic (8th) nerve injury	<4	<4	<4	4	<4	<4	<4	<4	4	4	<4
	Combined perceptive hearing loss	<4	--	--	--	<4	<4	<4	7	<4	<4	<4
	Other	19	14	11	14	21	11	18	25	--	--	25

Table 4: Number of new declined hearing loss related claims lodged between 1 January 2011 and 30 November 2021, broken down by top 5 most prevalent decline reasons.

Cover Decision	Decline Reason	Lodgement Calendar Year										
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021 (YTD)
Decline	Exclusionary Criteria Apply	298	300	228	306	484	2,103	2,767	3,332	3,939	3,873	2,820
	No Occupational Gradual Process	760	875	764	1,155	1,282	341	82	--	<4	<4	<4
	No Physical Injuries	43	101	195	137	109	13	<4	4	4	<4	4
	Not Caused by Treatment	<4	<4	<4	--	4	5	5	--	4	<4	--
	Other	--	--	<4	<4	4	8	--	<4	--	13	--