

01 March 2021

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

**Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-008817**

Thank you for your email of 2 February 2021 to our Media team, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

*Dog bites  
#NZ WIDE 2017-2020  
Dog bites, hospitalised*

*#North & South Island 2017-2020*

*Districts :  
Rangitikei 2017-2020  
Manawatu 2017-2020  
Whanganui 2017-2020  
South Taranaki 2017-2020  
Gisbourne 2017-2020*

*And if there are graphs please send those as well, as figures please.*

#### **Our response**

During a telephone conversation with one of our advisors, it was confirmed that ACC cannot identify whether a person with a dog bite injury was hospitalised, but that we could identify the number of dog-related claims lodged by district health boards (DHBs). The five DHBs who lodged the most dog-related claims between 2017 and 2020 is provided in Table 1.

#### **Notes about the data**

- Not all claims will be dog bites as it is not possible to exclude all other dog-related injuries. Therefore, the data is likely to include claims where a person tripped over or collided with a dog.
- Region and territorial location is the location of the accident and may not be where the person resides or sought treatment.
- New claims are counted by the date they are lodged with ACC. A claim can be lodged immediately after an injury or at a later date.
- Active claims are ones that generated a payment in the period. A claim can be active over many years and appear more than once in the data. The count of active claims includes new claims for which a payment has been made in the period.
- Public Health Acute Services (PHAS) costs are not included. These are costs associated with services at a public hospital during the acute stage of an injury. They are bulk funded and cannot be attributed to individual claims.
- Claims managed by an accredited employer are not included as ACC holds little data about these claims.
- Costs are for active claims and are GST exclusive.
- The data is provided by calendar year. It was extracted on 12 February 2021 and may differ if extracted at a later date.

**Table 1: The five DHBs who lodged the most dog-related claims broken down by year of lodgement**

Lodgement Provider	Lodgement Year			
	2017	2018	2019	2020
Tairāwhiti District Health Board	59	68	83	98
MidCentral District Health Board	73	76	61	58
Taranaki District Health Board	56	53	46	40
Waikato District Health Board	20	20	31	20
Whanganui District Health Board	37	20	16	15

Tables 2-6 include statistics for new and active claims by accident region and the territorial authorities you specifically asked for.

**Table 2: New and active claims, and active costs for dog-related claims broken down by calendar year**

Calendar Year	New Claims	Active Claims	Active Costs
2017	14,717	13,956	\$5,906,118
2018	14,234	13,582	\$6,363,812
2019	13,173	12,518	\$5,570,813
2020	12,675	11,920	\$5,985,420
<b>Total</b>	<b>54,799</b>	<b>48,960</b>	<b>\$23,826,163</b>

**Table 3: New dog-related claims broken down by accident region and calendar year**

Region	Lodgement Year			
	2017	2018	2019	2020
Northland	887	895	797	843
Auckland	4,324	4,177	3,825	3,744
Waikato	1,753	1,736	1,584	1,510
Bay of Plenty	1,249	1,181	1,094	1,075
Gisborne	209	225	217	228
Hawkes Bay	672	672	617	617
Taranaki	382	385	356	309
Manawātū-Whanganui	769	728	690	655
Wellington	1,254	1,184	1,114	1,069
<b>North Island Total</b>	<b>11,499</b>	<b>11,183</b>	<b>10,294</b>	<b>10,050</b>
Tasman	123	109	122	103
Nelson	172	159	138	129
Marlborough	155	157	109	145
Canterbury	1,689	1,612	1,555	1,444
West Coast	103	108	82	84
Otago	587	567	536	512
Southland	275	236	195	178
<b>South Island Total</b>	<b>3,104</b>	<b>2,948</b>	<b>2,737</b>	<b>2,595</b>
Other*	114	103	142	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,717</b>	<b>14,234</b>	<b>13,173</b>	<b>12,675</b>

\* The majority of claims in the 'other' category are New Zealanders who were injured by dogs overseas and then received treatment and /or entitlements once they returned to NZ. Also includes claims where the accident location was Chatham Islands Territory, Other Islands, In NZ Waters, At Sea, At Sea – not in NZ waters, In the Air – NZ or In the Air – Overseas.

**Table 4: New dog-related claims broken down by specific territorial authority accident regions and calendar year**

District	Lodgement Year			
	2017	2018	2019	2020
Gisborne District	209	225	217	228
Horowhenua District	80	105	76	99
Manawatū District	67	78	66	62
Palmerston North City	239	212	211	189
Rangitikei District	55	65	42	50
Ruapehu District	43	41	56	43
South Taranaki District	83	83	66	62
Tararua District	59	52	49	49
Whanganui District	226	175	190	163
Rest of NZ	13,656	13,198	12,200	11,730

**Table 5: Number of active dog-related claims with payments broken down by specific territorial authority accident regions and calendar year**

District	Payment Year			
	2017	2018	2019	2020
Gisborne District	167	168	169	164
Horowhenua District	72	92	100	91
Manawatū District	70	71	69	57
Palmerston North City	228	197	218	185
Rangitikei District	50	59	42	47
Ruapehu District	36	18	44	26
South Taranaki District	44	48	34	36
Tararua District	59	57	46	47
Whanganui District	221	203	188	178
Rest of NZ	13,009	12,669	11,608	11,089

**Table 6: Active costs for dog-related claims paid broken down by specific territorial authority accident regions and calendar year**

District	Lodgement Year			
	2017	2018	2019	2020
Gisborne District	\$81,554	\$61,601	\$65,786	\$45,951
Horowhenua District	\$29,332	\$22,062	\$18,488	\$15,191
Manawatū District	\$10,498	\$20,518	\$36,200	\$22,621
Palmerston North City	\$113,034	\$123,787	\$181,752	\$185,616
Rangitikei District	\$9,967	\$9,072	\$4,944	\$7,500
Ruapehu District	\$10,627	\$5,463	\$16,100	\$8,657
South Taranaki District	\$8,376	\$35,393	\$19,760	\$51,302
Tararua District	\$19,356	\$11,622	\$18,513	\$10,580
Whanganui District	\$103,195	\$74,952	\$79,859	\$64,928
Rest of NZ	\$5,520,179	\$5,999,342	\$5,129,411	\$5,573,073

**How to contact us**

If you have any questions, you can email me at [GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz](mailto:GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz).

Nāku iti noa, nā



Sasha Wood  
**Manager Official Information Act Services**  
 Government Engagement & Support