

11 November 2020



Tēnā koe 

Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-007224

Thank you for your email of 7 October 2020, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *How many people applied for compensation for mental injuries between Sept 2019 and Sept 2020?*
- *How much money has been spent on psychologist and psychiatrist assessments within that same time frame, for those applying for mental injury cover?*
- *How many people had their mental injury compensation claim accepted within that time frame?*
- *How many people had their mental injury compensation claim denied within that time frame?*

You clarified with us on 13 October 2020 that you were seeking information on compensation *and* cover for mental injuries related to sensitive claims/sexual abuse or assault.

Support for sensitive claims

It is important to note that since 2014, under ACC’s integrated services for sensitive claims (ISSC), survivors of sexual violence are able to access up to 14 hours of one-on-one therapist support without having their claim assessed for cover. They can also access social worker and family/whānau support, and the provider can access cultural support. Most clients access only this pre-cover support and others proceed to a supported assessment for cover. Therefore, the data provided relates only to clients who choose to be assessed for cover and access other ACC entitlements.

You can find further information about this support at www.findsupport.co.nz.

Information on Supported Assessment decisions and the cost to ACC of these assessments are below.

Table 1: Number of sensitive claims receiving Supported Assessment services under ISSC contracts by claim cover decision and decision reason

Decision	Decision reason	Supported Assessment in 2019/20		All time	
		Claims	% of total	Claims	% of total
Held	-	276	5%	396	2%
Decline	Other reasons	357	6%	1,670	7%
	Cover Timeframes Expired	376	6%	614	2%
	Withdrawn	295	5%	1,404	6%
Accept	-	4,602	78%	20,953	84%
Total		5,906	-	25,037	-

Table 2: Spend on Supported Assessment and related services under ISSC contract

Service	Supported Assessment in 2019/20	All time
Supported Assessment	\$5,038,952	\$30,161,923
Supported Assessment (lead provider)	\$5,341,189	\$11,645,107
Supported Assessment Report	\$9,502,652	\$37,016,858
Total	\$19,882,793	\$78,823,888

Supported Assessment (lead provider) is used when the client's *lead provider* is carrying out the assessment alongside a different *assessment provider* if the lead provider is not qualified to complete the assessment alone.

- The supported assessment is used primarily but not exclusively for determining cover for sensitive claims. Claims may have additional supported assessments over the life of the claim to determine if the client needs additional treatments or entitlements.
- Supported assessments include assessments undertaken by psychologists, psychiatrists, psychotherapists and counsellors.

You can find further information about this topic at <https://www.acc.co.nz/assets/contracts/issc-schedule.pdf>.

A summary of the assessment data

Between 1 October 2019 and 30 September 2020, ACC paid for 5,906 claims to receive a Supported Assessment. The cost of the services and related services including additional report writing time was \$19,882,793 excluding GST.

Of those 5,906 claims, 4,602 (78%) are accepted for cover, 1,028 (17%) are declined or withdrawn, and 276 (5%) are awaiting a cover decision.

Since the ISSC began in November 2014 ACC has paid for Supported Assessment services for 25,037 claims. Of those claims 20,953 (84%) are accepted for cover, 3688 (15%) are declined or withdrawn, and 396 (2%) are awaiting a cover decision.

Compensation entitlements

Clients with a sensitive claim who have a covered mental injury may be entitled to either Loss of Potential Earnings (LoPE) or weekly compensation. LoPE is for clients who have sustained a personal injury before reaching the age of 18. Further information about LoPE can be found in Schedule 1 (47) of the Accident Compensation Act 2001.

The table below shows provides the costs of LoPE and weekly compensation for sensitive claims with related mental injuries.

Table 3: Number of active sensitive claims with related mental injuries with LoPE or weekly compensation payments made between 1 October 2019 and 30 September 2020

Payment Type	Active Claims	Active Costs
LoPE	123	\$3,307,402
Weekly Comp	791	\$33,541,534

Notes about the data*Tables 1 and 2*

- Supported Assessment payments in 2019/20 means claims where ACC paid for a supported assessment between 1 October 2019 and 30 September 2020.
- Data are based on the date ACC made payment for the service, which may be later than the date the service occurred due to invoicing delays.
- Claims where the client chose not to seek a cover decision partway through the assessment process are listed as declined.
- Data were extracted on 27 October 2020 and may differ if extracted at a later date.
- Costs are exclusive of GST.

Table 3

- The claim lodgment/payment date is between 1 October 2019 and 30 September 2020.
- Active claims are claims that generated a payment in the relevant period. These claims were not necessarily lodged, or had the accident occur, in the same period.
- Data were extracted on 23 October 2020 and may differ if extracted at a later date.
- Costs are exclusive of GST.

How to get in touch

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

Nāku iti noa, nā



Sasha Wood

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Government Engagement & Support