



28 March 2023

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Your Official Information Act request, reference: GOV-023867

Thank you for your email of 11 March 2023, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

From the years 2010 - 2022

- *Number of yearly ACC injury claims (total)*
- *Number of ACC soft tissue knee injury claims each year*
- *Annual cost of knee soft tissue injuries for these years*
- *Referral numbers for x-ray and ultrasound scans and MRI for soft tissue knee injuries*

The requested information is attached as Appendix 1

When interpreting the data provided, please refer to the 'Notes' tab.

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

You can email me at GovernmentServices@acc.co.nz.

Ngā mihi

Sara Freitag

Acting Manager Official Information Act Services
Government Engagement

Caveats and Notes:

- Claims are included where they have a cover decision of *Accept*.
- Claims managed by an accredited employer have been excluded as we hold limited data about these.
- Soft tissue knee injuries are identified where a claim has an approved injury with a diagnosis of 'soft tissue' and an injury site of 'knee'.
- New claims are counted where a soft tissue knee injury claim was lodged with ACC between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2022. A claim may be lodged immediately following an accident or at a later date.
- Data are displayed in calendar years, i.e. 1 January to 31 December.
- Active claims are counted where a soft tissue knee injury claim received a payment from ACC between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2022. A claim was not necessarily lodged or had the accident occur within the same time period.
- A claim may be active in more than one calendar year and will be counted (in Tables 2 and 3) once for each relevant year where at least one payment was made.
- Costs are GST exclusive and based on payment date which may differ from date of service.
- Costs do not include Public Health Acute Services (PHAS) payments. These costs are for treatment in a public hospital during the acute phase of an injury and are covered by bulk payments made by ACC to the Crown. As such, these payments cannot be attributed to individual claims.
- Claims with x-ray, ultrasound scan or MRI are identified where a soft tissue knee injury claims receives a payment between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2022 within contract radiologist or high tech imaging services for Plain film (x-ray), Ultrasound scan or Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI).
- **A claim may include multiple injuries. Where more than one injury is present we are not able to link costs and services to individual injuries. It is therefore possible that some costs and HTI/radiology services are related to a different injury on a claim with a soft tissue knee injury.**
- The data was extracted on 23 March 2023 and may differ if extracted again at a later date.

Table 1: New soft tissue knee injury claims and total new claims lodged between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2022 by calendar year

Lodgement Calendar Year	Soft Tissue Knee Injury Claims	Total Claims
2010	129,807	1,657,643
2011	133,113	1,665,069
2012	141,597	1,702,056
2013	144,967	1,760,740
2014	152,507	1,809,971
2015	159,096	1,865,475
2016	166,449	1,953,957
2017	168,326	1,963,662
2018	173,203	2,000,180
2019	180,861	2,045,832
2020	170,303	1,902,493
2021	175,915	1,918,972
2022	176,209	1,883,636
Total	2,072,353	24,129,686

Table 2: Active soft tissue knee injury claims and costs paid between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2022 by calendar year

Payment Calendar Year	Active Claims	Active Costs
2010	161,593	\$199,036,830
2011	165,458	\$195,635,640
2012	175,057	\$203,617,761
2013	180,215	\$219,366,381
2014	189,624	\$246,979,933
2015	198,281	\$271,331,059
2016	206,762	\$288,348,954
2017	209,514	\$308,117,914
2018	217,120	\$333,232,355
2019	230,051	\$364,996,628
2020	221,223	\$389,922,575
2021	231,834	\$437,940,632
2022	230,401	\$472,338,278
Total	2,044,827	\$3,930,864,940

Table 3: Active soft tissue knee injury claims with selected HTI / radiology payments between 1 January 2010 and 31 December 2022 by calendar year

Payment Calendar Year	X-Ray Claims	Ultrasound Claims	MRI Claims
2010	44,734	4,832	17,312
2011	46,179	5,651	19,299
2012	49,498	7,127	20,436
2013	51,013	8,142	21,938
2014	53,318	9,029	22,972
2015	57,234	10,498	25,458
2016	59,189	11,723	26,236
2017	61,045	12,401	26,157
2018	62,883	12,870	27,385
2019	67,220	14,406	28,397
2020	65,219	13,907	28,887
2021	69,286	15,347	31,013
2022	69,160	16,244	30,128
Total	701,959	138,572	301,813