

COVID-19 related workers' compensation claims

As at 31 July 2020

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Safe Work Australia has collected preliminary data on COVID-19 related workers' compensation claims.

533

workers' compensation claims have been lodged across Australia

of these: **253** claims were accepted

95 claims were rejected*

185 claims were pending

*Rejected claims may include a range of scenarios, including where a worker was tested for COVID-19 but found to be negative, or where there was evidence the disease was not contracted at work.

Of the claims lodged as at 31 July

202



were for workers who had contracted COVID-19

179



were for mental health impacts related to the virus

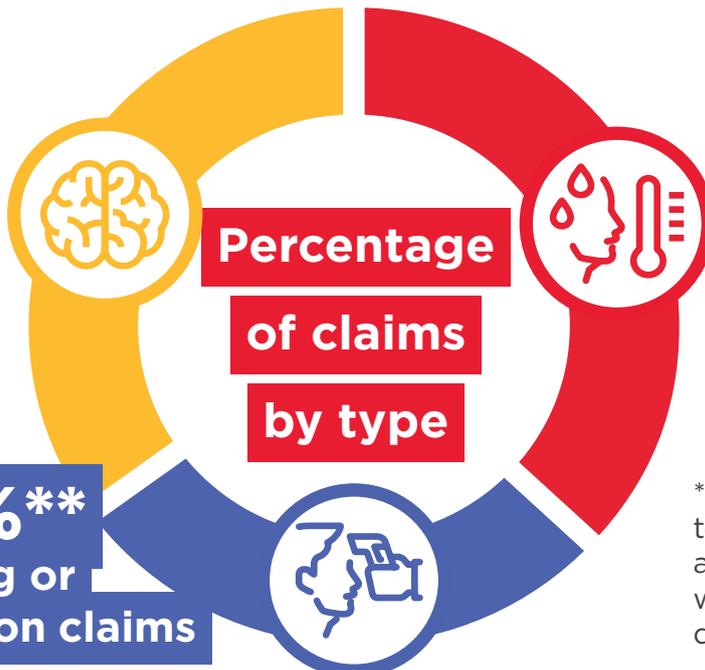
152



were related to testing or isolation requirements

34%

Mental health claims



Percentage of claims by type

38%

COVID-19 claims

29%**

Testing or isolation claims

**under some schemes testing and self isolation are not compensable where a person does not develop the disease.



Coronavirus
COVID-19



safe work australia

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Health care and social assistance

34% of all claims made

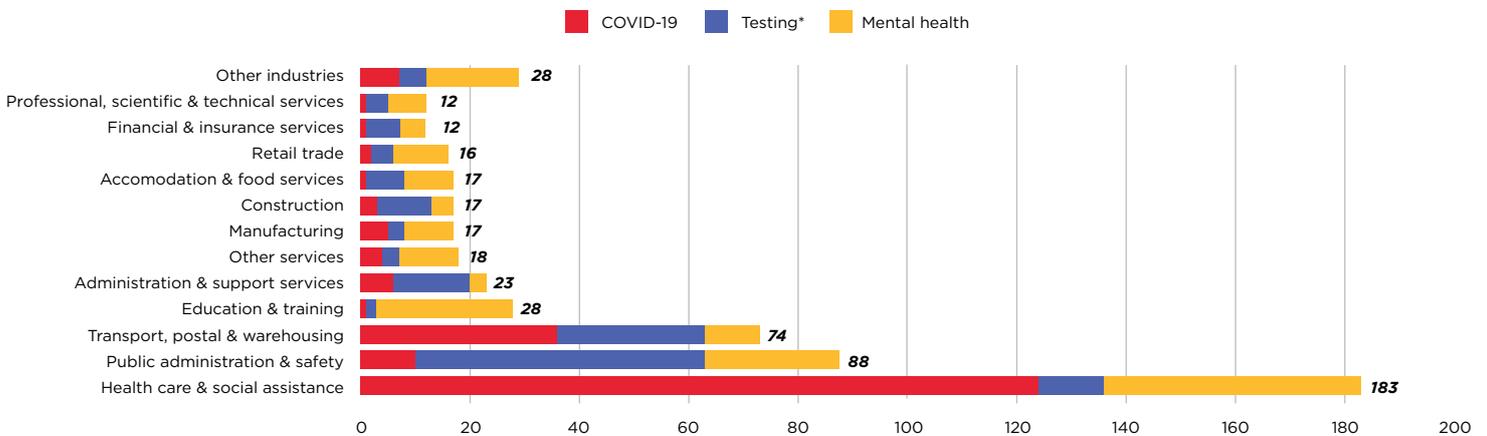
Claims by industry

Public administration and safety

17% of all claims made



Number of claims lodged by industry and nature of injury or disease



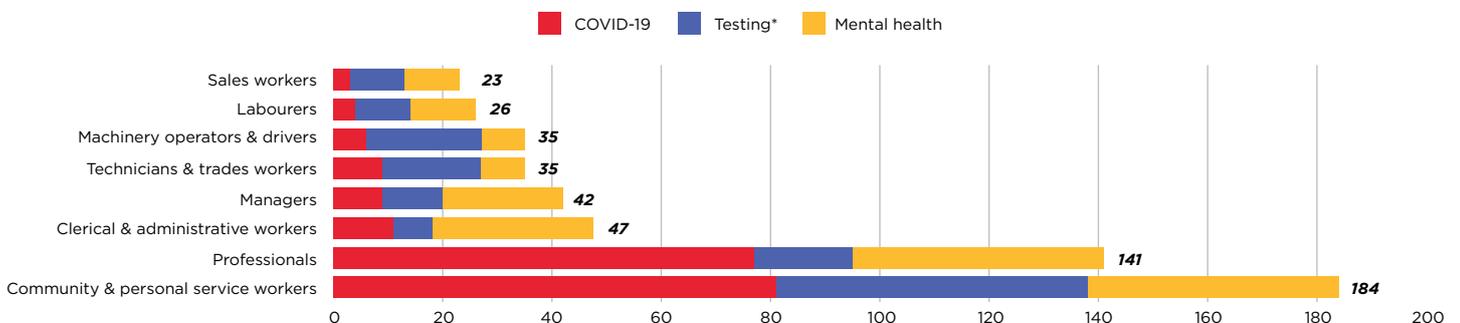
Community and personal service workers

Professionals



Claims by occupation

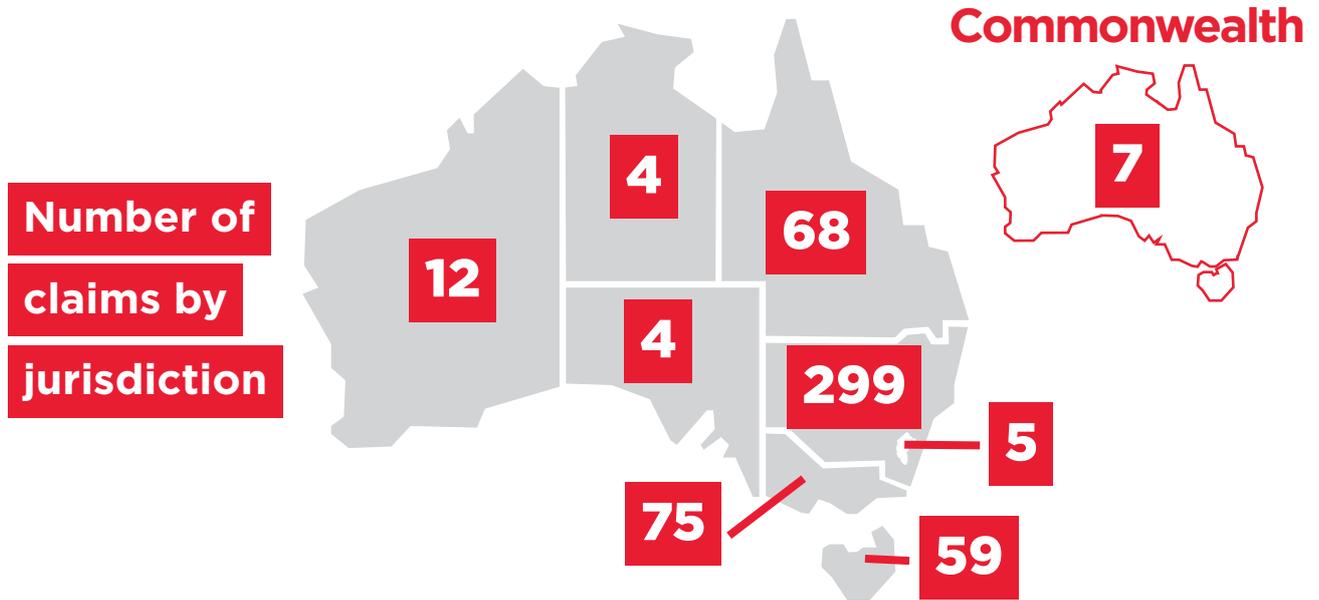
Number of claims lodged by occupation and nature of injury or disease



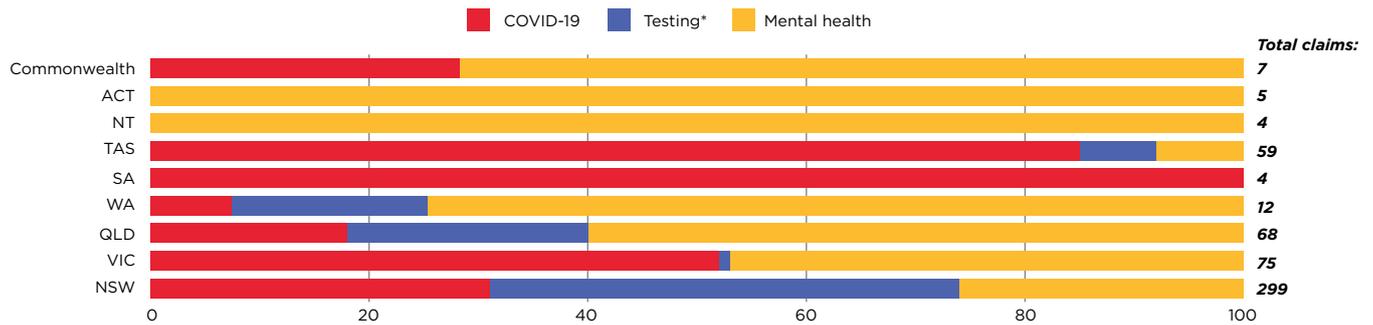
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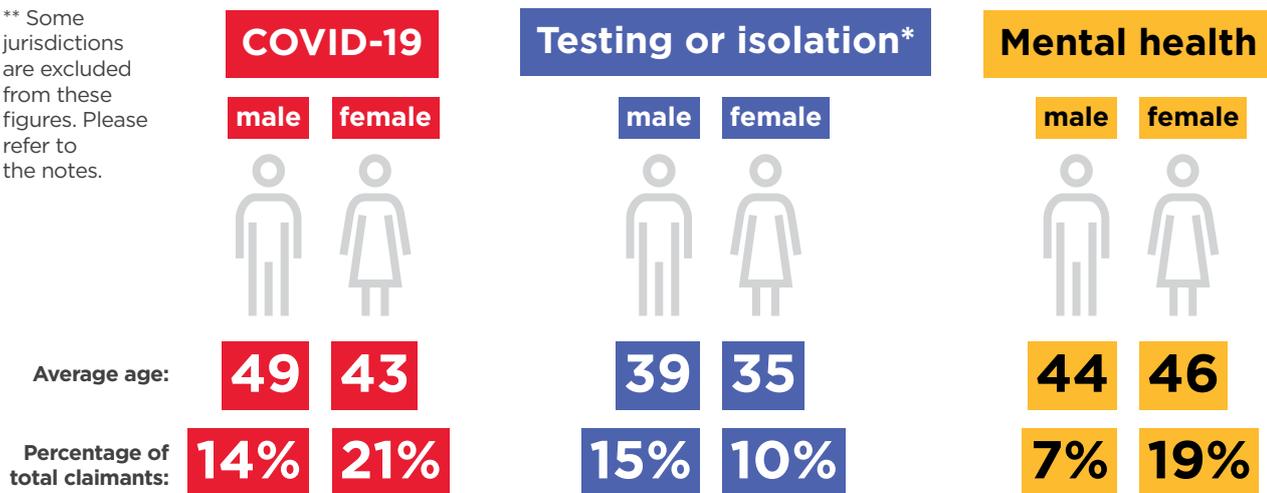


Proportion of claims by jurisdiction and nature of injury or disease by jurisdiction



Claimants by nature of injury or disease and gender**

** Some jurisdictions are excluded from these figures. Please refer to the notes.



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Notes about the data

Data on COVID-19-related workers' compensation claims were received from all jurisdictions up to 31 July 2020. Due to the timing of this collection, the report does not capture the extent of any claims arising from the second wave of COVID-19 in Victoria that started in late June 2020.

There are significant variations in the way jurisdictions collect and report data on COVID-19. Caution should be used in interpreting the data. Safe Work Australia was not able to provide details on working from home claims; and could not include information about the age and gender of claimants for all jurisdictions.

Data in this report includes all lodged claims, regardless of determination, but excludes withdrawn claims.

'Testing or isolation' includes situations where workers face the risk of exposure to disease through their work. If a worker is suspected of having contracted COVID-19, but ultimately found to not have contracted the disease, they may still claim for medical tests or isolation requirements.

Further information will be available towards the end of 2021 when the full 2019-20 National Data Set for Compensation-based Statistics is compiled.

For more information

The Safe Work Australia website provides a central hub of [COVID-19 work health and safety \(WHS\) guidance for workplaces](#). Information is available for more than 35 industries covering topics including WHS duties, risk assessments, physical distancing, cleaning, hygiene and mental health.

Safe Work Australia has several functions related to workers' compensation, including developing national policy and carrying out research. Safe Work Australia does not determine a worker's coverage or eligibility for workers' compensation benefits, or manage workers' compensation claims and return to work programs. Workers' compensation arrangements are the responsibility of the relevant [workers' compensation authority in each jurisdiction](#).