

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Agency - Comcare

Department of Employment Question No. EM0784_15

Senator McKenzie provided in writing.

Question

Comcare - Claims

- Please provide the incidence rate of serious psychological claims by year first determined from 2009 to current, divided into the different components of the scheme.
- Please provide the mental stress claims for work pressure and work related harassment and bullying as a proportion of total mental stress claims from 2009 to date.

Answer

Incidence rate of serious psychological injury claims The incidence rate refers to claims per 1000 Full Time Equivalent employees.

Table 1 below shows the number and incidence rate of serious¹ psychological injury claims, based on the financial year in which the claim was first accepted. The incidence rate refers to claims per 1000 Full Time Equivalent employees.

Table 1: Serious psychological injury claims

	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14 (to 31 May)
All Premium Payers						
Claims	285	311	395	342	440	281
Incidence rate	1.4	1.5	1.8	1.6	2.0	1.3
Australian Government						
Claims	231	253	326	292	367	240
Incidence rate	1.2	1.3	1.7	1.5	1.9	1.2
ACT Government						
Claims	54	58	69	50	73	41
Incidence rate	2.9	3.1	3.5	2.5	3.6	2.0
Licensees						
Claims	74	74	65	66	58	30
Incidence rate	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2

¹ A claim that reaches one week of incapacity is considered a serious claim.

Mental stress claim proportions

Table 2 below shows the number of accepted claims resulting from mental stress² in the workplace based on the financial year of initial acceptance. A breakdown of claims resulting from work pressure, and work-related harassment and/or workplace bullying claims³ is provided, with their proportion of all mental stress related claims also included.

Table 2: Claims resulting from mental stress in the workplace

	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14 (to 31 May)	Total
All Premium Payers							
Work pressure	101	119	155	120	200	157	852
Proportion of mental stress	44%	42%	39%	35%	42%	41%	40%
Harassment and bullying	73	121	159	147	179	138	817
Proportion of mental stress	31%	43%	40%	43%	37%	36%	39%
Mental stress	232	282	399	345	479	382	2119
Australian Government							
Work pressure	86	96	127	107	183	137	736
Proportion of mental stress	46%	42%	38%	36%	46%	42%	42%
Harassment and bullying	62	104	140	129	145	119	699
Proportion of mental stress	33%	46%	42%	43%	36%	37%	39%
Mental stress	188	228	330	297	402	325	1770
ACT Government							
Work pressure	15	23	28	13	17	20	116
Proportion of mental stress	34%	43%	41%	27%	22%	35%	33%
Harassment and bullying	11	17	19	18	34	19	118
Proportion of mental stress	25%	31%	28%	38%	44%	33%	34%
Mental stress	44	54	69	48	77	57	349
Licensees							
Work pressure	21	15	18	14	17	14	99
Proportion of mental stress	24%	17%	23%	20%	23%	30%	22%
Harassment and bullying	12	11	21	21	16	12	93
Proportion of mental stress	14%	13%	27%	30%	22%	26%	21%
Mental stress	88	86	77	70	74	46	441

² Mental stress is used to describe the mechanism that caused the injury.

³ Referred to as harassment and bullying in Table 2.