

Media enquiry

Date	06/12/23																																
Reporter	Che Baker																																
From	Stuff																																
Contact	9(2)(a)																																
Timeframe	Not specified																																
Request	The number of new claims, active claims, and active claims costs for avocado-related injuries for the past five years and 2023 YTD.																																
Data reference	AR-5226																																
Response	<p>Kia ora Che,</p> <p>Thanks again for your query.</p> <p>Please find below the data you have requested, along with some explanatory notes on how the data was extracted and its limitations.</p> <p>FYI, we published the below news article last year which has some injury prevention advice that you may find useful.</p> <p>https://www.acc.co.nz/newsroom/stories/aotearoa-enters-peak-avocado-injury-season/#:~:text=ACC%20covered%20a%20record%20626,at%20%24553%2C110%20as%20of%20October.</p> <p>Table 1: Number of new claims, active claims and active costs for avocado related injuries between 1 January 2018 and 8 November 2023</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Accident year</th> <th>New claims</th> <th>Active claims</th> <th>Active costs</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>497</td> <td>506</td> <td>\$438,050</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>525</td> <td>539</td> <td>\$389,653</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>627</td> <td>632</td> <td>\$679,926</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021</td> <td>672</td> <td>665</td> <td>\$720,125</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022</td> <td>518</td> <td>580</td> <td>\$553,686</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023</td> <td>362</td> <td>402</td> <td>\$526,185</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>3,201</td> <td>2,938</td> <td>\$3,307,625</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Data caveats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a no-fault scheme, ACC relies on information recorded by claimants on a claim form following an injury. To answer your request, we used a free-text search for the key word "avocado" recorded in the accident description. 	Accident year	New claims	Active claims	Active costs	2018	497	506	\$438,050	2019	525	539	\$389,653	2020	627	632	\$679,926	2021	672	665	\$720,125	2022	518	580	\$553,686	2023	362	402	\$526,185	Total	3,201	2,938	\$3,307,625
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	<p>Please note, there can be considerable variability in the detail provided by claimants, and for this reason the data should not be presented as definitive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All figures are GST exclusive, and cover all treatment and entitlements incurred for that claim, except bulk-funded services where costs are not allocated to individual claims. Bulk-funded services include the majority of emergency ambulance services funding, as well as the cost of acute treatment at public hospitals, which we bulk-fund through our \$741 million contribution to Public Health Acute Services (PHAS). • An active claim is one where a payment has been made against it in the year shown, regardless of the year in which the claim was lodged. Some claims have ongoing costs, so in any given year it's likely we'll be paying costs on claims lodged in previous years. That means, for example, that the amount we have paid out in 2017 will include some payments relating to injuries suffered in 2016 or earlier, as well as those suffered in that year. • 'New claims' have been counted by the date that a claim was lodged with ACC. This can be immediately after the injury occurred or at any later stage. • Data were extracted on 9 November 2023 and may differ if rerun at a later date. <p>Ends</p> <p>If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.</p>
Who involved	Analytics and Reporting

Media enquiry

Date	Wednesday, 1 November 2023
Reporter	Amberleigh Jack
From	Stuff
Contact	Mobile: ^{9(2)(a)} Email: amberleigh.jack@stuff.co.nz
Timeframe	Thursday, 9 November 2023
Request	<p>Kia ora team,</p> <p>Just putting through a Halloween data request if possible.</p> <p>Can we get injury stats for Halloween injuries this year? I'm thinking pumpkin/knife as keywords could be great on their own.</p> <p>Then maybe "halloween"?</p> <p>Can we also get updated stats on injuries caused by cutting avocados as a follow to a story we wrote last year?</p> <p>If you need anything more from me, please let me know - thank you!</p> <p>Amberleigh</p> <p>Media team follow-up note: We phoned Amberleigh to discuss and have agreed with her and Analytics and Reporting to collate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Data on Halloween injuries 2018 – 2023<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Number and cost of claims with the accident date 31 October from 2018 – 2023○ Number and cost of claims throughout the whole month of October from 2018-2023○ To link the word “knife” to “pumpkin carving” so that we can hopefully see a link with Halloween injuries.○ The journalist has requested that we please include “Halloween”, “pumpkin”, “knife” as keywords, along with any other words you suggest.• Data on injuries caused by cutting avocados 2018 – 2023
Data reference	AR-5226
Response	<p>Kia ora Amberleigh,</p> <p>Thanks again for your query.</p> <p>Please find the data requested below about Halloween injuries, and avocado related injuries along with some explanatory notes on how this data was extracted and its limitations. Please note that a claim may be lodged immediately following an accident or at any later stage. This means that, given the recency of the 2023 Halloween, these numbers may change.</p> <p>We've also provided injury prevention tips beneath the tables. Note that the advice on staying safe when cutting pumpkins, avocados or preparing other food is the same, so can be applied to either of your stories.</p> <p>Thanks Out of</p>

Table 1: Number of new claims and lifetime costs for Halloween related injuries with an accident date of 31 October between 2018 and 2023

Accident date	New claims	Lifetime costs
31/10/2018	24	\$9,789
31/10/2019	13	\$1,295
31/10/2020	20	\$16,078
31/10/2021	9	\$4,260
31/10/2022	18	\$18,959
31/10/2023	8	<\$100
Total	92	\$50,435

Please note that there were less than four pumpkin carving related injuries that occurred on 31 October between 2018

Table 2: Number of new claims and lifetime costs for Halloween related injuries with an accident date in the month of October between 2018 and 2023

Accident month and year	New claims	Lifetime costs
2018-Oct	29	\$15,786
2019-Oct	17	\$1,934
2020-Oct	21	\$16,339
2021-Oct	12	\$5,987
2022-Oct	29	\$24,257
2023-Oct	10	\$165
Total	118	\$64,469

Please note that there were five injuries relating to the cutting/carving of a pumpkin that occurred in the month of October between 2018 and 2023. Less than four of these have specified that it is related to Halloween.

Table 3: Number of new claims, active claims and active costs for avocado related injuries between 1 January 2018 and 8 November 2023

Accident year	New claims	Active claims	Active costs
2018	497	506	\$438,050
2019	525	539	\$389,653
2020	627	632	\$679,926
2021	672	665	\$720,125
2022	518	580	\$553,686
2023	362	402	\$526,185
Total	3,201	2,938	\$3,307,625

Comment from ACC’s Injury Prevention Leader, James Whitaker, on how to stay safe:

“ACC is here to help you recover from any covered injury, but it’s better for everyone if these injuries don’t happen in the first place.

“Research indicates the vast majority of injuries are predictable and therefore preventable - including injuries from celebrating Halloween. Injuries don’t just affect the injured person, but also their whānau, friends and workmates.

“Injuries often happen when we rush or try to do too many things at once. If we take a moment to slow down, and do things the safest way, we can help keep ourselves safe.”

More specifically, to prevent injuries while cutting pumpkins, avocados or preparing other food:

- *focus on one task at a time – thinking about the safe way to do things before getting stuck in*
- *use sharp knives so you don’t need to apply much pressure when cutting*
- *place objects you are cutting on cutting boards instead of holding them in your hand*
- *put your cutting board on top of a damp towel or a non-slip mat in order to prevent it from sliding around*
- *use oven mitts when handling objects that might be too hot to touch*

Additional comment from James Whitaker on avocado injuries:

Each year, we get claims from people who have suffered a knife wound to their hand while taking the stone out of the avocado. Some of these injuries can be nasty and take some time to recover from. Avos are no more or less dangerous than anything else on the supermarket shelf. As with most things, there are steps you can take to lessen the risk of lodging an ACC claim. If we take a moment to slow down, and do things the safest way, we can help keep ourselves safe.

ACC supports people to recover from around 2 million injuries per year and around half of these injuries occur in people's own homes. The number of kitchen related injuries ACC supports is more than double the combined number of injuries linked to cricket, touch rugby, softball and tennis. Injuries often happen when we rush or try to do too many things at once.

ENDS

Data notes and caveats:

- Please note that a claim may be lodged immediately following an accident or at any later stage. Given the recency of the 2023 Halloween, these numbers may change.
- The data set available to ACC is reliant on the information provided on an ACC45 injury claim form, which is completed when a person seeks treatment for their injury. The form has a free-text field 'accident description' where a person can provide a brief description of how their accident happened. This field is not mandatory to complete and not every client does so. Also, when the field is completed, there is considerable variation in the way accidents are described. The data should therefore be considered indicative, but not a definitive count of claims.
- This report counts: The number of Halloween related injuries with an accident date of 31 October and that occurred in the month of October from 2018 to 2023. These claims have been identified where the accident description contains the words 'knife', 'knife', 'cut', 'carve', 'carved' and 'carving' with 'pumpkin', 'Halloween' and 'trick or treat'.
- Note that only accepted claims are included. Accredited employer claims have been excluded.
- All figures are GST exclusive, and cover all treatment and entitlements incurred for that claim, except bulk-funded services where costs are not allocated to individual claims. Bulk-funded services include the majority of emergency ambulance services funding, as well as the cost of acute treatment at public hospitals, which we bulk-fund through our \$741 million contribution to Public Health Acute Services (PHAS).
- An active claim is one where a payment has been made against it in the year shown, regardless of the year in which the claim was lodged. Some claims have ongoing costs, so in any given year it's likely we'll be paying costs on claims lodged in previous years. That means, for example, that the amount we have paid out in 2017 will include some payments relating to injuries suffered in 2016 or earlier, as well as those suffered in that year.
- '**Active costs**' are the GST exclusive cost of payments made for claims that were active in the specified period.
- '**Lifetime costs**' are the GST exclusive cost of claims with an accident date within the specified period, and will include payments made to date. Costs should not be compared across years as claims may still be accruing costs and accidents that have occurred more recently have had less time to do this.
- Data were extracted on 9 November 2023 and may differ if rerun at a later date.

Background information on ACC legislation

ACC makes claim decisions in accordance with the Accident Compensation Act 2001. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) is responsible for advising the Minister for ACC on matters relating to the scheme including broader scheme direction and performance as well as the legislation and regulations governing the scheme. For questions relating to ACC legislation, please refer to MBIE. For questions about ACC legislation and policy, please contact: media@mbie.govt.nz

Complaints

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Who involved

Analytics and Reporting, Out of scope

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Proactive media response-2021

December 24, 2021

New Zealand enters peak avocado injury season

Avocados have a unique place in Kiwi culinary culture, from topping the toast of millennials to their lead role in guacamole – reportedly New Zealand’s most googled recipe for 2021.

But while the cost of avos may be dropping at the supermarket thanks to an early harvesting season, the cost to Kiwis from avocado-related injuries is shooting up.

New figures from ACC show active claims costs for avocado injuries reached almost \$680,000 in 2020, up from \$392,000 in 2019.

A record 626 Kiwis lodged an avocado-related claim last year, up from just 525 in 2019 and fewer than 500 in 2018.

Kiwis’ wrists, hands, fingers, and thumbs suffered the most, accounting for two-thirds of these claims. The top cause of injury was ‘laceration, puncture or sting’.

As of October 31, there have already been more than 500 avocado-related claims lodged in 2021.

ACC injury prevention leader James Whitaker says most injuries were caused by “people cutting themselves as well as the avo”.

“Each year, we get claims from people who have suffered a knife wound to their hand while taking the stone out of the avocado.

“Some of these injuries can be nasty and take some time to recover from.”

Figures show claims for avocado injuries increased by more than one-third in the past five years, from 461 in 2016 to 626 in 2020.

And the figures show that on average, more than one-quarter of these injuries occur in just two months – December and January.

Kiwis are now eating more avos than ever – industry group New Zealand Avocado reported earlier this year sales had doubled in the past five years, from \$30m in 2015 to \$60m in 2020.

Research shows that 90 per cent of all injuries are preventable, and Whitaker says avocado injuries are no different.

“Avos are no more or less dangerous than anything else on the supermarket shelf.

“As with most things, there are steps you can take to lessen the risk of lodging an ACC claim.”

ACC has recently teamed up with Wellington-based cooking school Le Cordon Bleu New Zealand to learn more about how the next generation of Kiwi chefs keep themselves safe around avocados and knives.

Taking your knife in your hands

So how do you safely cut an avocado? Julie Clark, founder of Wellington-based Floriditas Café and Restaurant, uses this method:

- Stand the avocado on its end with the fatter end on the surface. Take out the small stem if it's still in there
- Hold the avocado between your thumb and forefinger and run a knife down on one side, then turn it round and run the knife down the other side. A small paring knife works best
- When you feel the stone, gently move the knife around it. That will give you an even cut all the way around
- Alternatively, lie the avocado flat on its side. Place one hand on top of the avocado to hold it steady.
- Cut around the avocado, moving it as you go
- To separate the two halves, twist them in opposite directions with your hands
- To remove the stone, gently place the tip of your knife underneath the thinner end and pop it out - do not stab the stone with a knife
- Always use ripe avocados. Unripe avocados are the most dangerous because the stone is very difficult to dislodge
- To remove the flesh, hold the avocado in the palm of your hand and run a large spoon/kitchen spoon around the inner edge of the skin to scoop it out
- Put the avocado flat side down on a cutting board before cutting it
- To "fan" the avocado, cut it lengthways and gently push it to one side with the tips of your fingers
- Slide a knife underneath the sliced avocado to transfer it to a salad, slice of toast etc

UNRIPE AVOCADOS

- If the stone does not dislodge because the avocado is not ripe enough, remove the flesh, with the stone still in, and place stone-side down on a board
- Cut the half in even quarters to remove it from the stone
- If that does not work, remove the stone with a teaspoon. In this case, however, the avocado is probably not ripe enough to eat


By the numbers

- ACC covered a record 626 avocado-related injuries in 2020
- As of October 31, there have been 507 avocado-related claims in 2021
- Active claims costs for 2021 stood at \$553,110 as of October
- People 65 and over are the most common age-group for avocado-related injuries – between 2016 and 2020, there were 336 claims among this group
- Over-65s are the leading age-group for claims again in 2021, with 68 as of October
- Active claims costs for avocado-related injuries reached a five-year high last year of \$679,926

- Between 2016 and 2020, more than one-quarter of all avocado injuries occurred in December and January

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Media inquiry

Date received	14/01/19
Reporter/Producer	Newstalk ZB
From	Rosie Gordon
Contact	Rosie.Gordon@nzme.co.nz
Timeframe	ASAP today
Request	<p>From: Rosie Gordon [mailto:Rosie.Gordon@nzme.co.nz] Sent: Monday, 14 January 2019 1:20 PM To: ^{Out of scope} [REDACTED] Subject: Avocado claims - Newstalk ZB request</p> <p>Hi Lisa,</p> <p>Rosie Gordon from Newstalk ZB here.</p> <p>I would like to know how many New Zealanders make ACC claims over injuries involving avocados.</p> <p>I would like to know how many people have made claims including the word avocado in the last year.</p> <p>I would like to know how much these claims have cost ACC.</p> <p>And any details ACC has on how these injuries happen, e.g whether people cut their hands removing avocado stones.</p> <p>I am on ^{9(2)(a)} [REDACTED]</p> <p>My deadline is 5pm but it would be great to please have this information as soon as possible.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>ROSIE GORDON REPORTER D: ^{9(2)(a)} [REDACTED] E: Rosie@newstalkzb.co.nz</p>  <p>NZME. NEWSROOM</p>
Redmine #	48751

Response

Hi Rosie,

With regards your inquiry:

Q: How many New Zealanders make ACC claims over injuries involving avocados, how many people have made claims including the word avocado in the last year. And what do they cost the ACC scheme.

Below, is the table that shows injuries number and costs from the last three years.

Table 1: Table 2: New Claims, active claims and active costs excl. GST of avocado related injuries between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2018.

Calendar Year	New Claims	Active Claims	Active Claim Costs
2016	374	366	\$232,323
2017	402	402	\$259,510
2018	420	428	\$320,371
Grand Total	1,196	1,196	\$812,204

Notes:

New Claims - the claims in these tables have been counted by the date that the claim was lodged with ACC. This can be immediately after the injury occurred or at any later stage.

Active claims - are claims that generated a payment in the relevant financial years. These claims were not necessarily lodged, or had the accident occur, in the same financial year. Costs are based on payment date. Payment date may be different to the date of service.

Costs are GST Exclusive and include all claim costs e.g. treatment, weekly compensation etc.

Q: Information on how these injuries happen, e.g whether people cut their hands removing avocado stones.

Please see table 2: lacerations and punctures are most common.

Table 2: Avocado related claims lodged between 1 January 2016 and 31 December 2018 broken down by diagnosis.

Primary Diagnosis	Claim Count		
	2016	2017	2018
Burns (burn,scald,corrosive Inj'y)	<4	0	0
Concussion	<4	0	0
Dental Injury	<4	6	<4
Foreign Body In Orifice/eye	<4	<4	<4
Fracture/dislocation	4	5	<4
Gradual Process - Local Inflamm.	<4	0	0
l/non-i Laceration,puncture,sting	263	275	302

Inhalation/ingestion Specific Occ.	0	<4	0
None	11	9	4
Other	<4	7	4
Soft Tissue Inj (contu,str,spr,int	88	96	105
Grand Total	374	402	420

Notes:

Diagnosis is based off the client's primary injury, claims may have multiple injuries however these secondary injuries will not show within this data extract.

Who involved	
Signed off by	

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Garlic	34	51	43	53	73	42	296
Kumara	54	96	97	104	101	103	555
Orange	130	145	134	148	146	123	826
Potato	544	524	480	531	448	429	2,956
Pumpkin	546	541	477	560	418	513	3,055
Tomato	224	214	230	228	227	207	1,330
Watermelon	24	38	50	58	46	42	258
Grand Total	3,049	3,077	3,191	3,390	3,082	3,091	18,880

**Apple-related claims
by primary injury**

Primary Diagnosis Group	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (YTD)
Soft tissue injury	253	248	294	309	323	297
Laceration/puncture/sting	286	242	294	257	236	239
Foreign body in orifice/eye	22	29	37	21	26	31
None	15	13	15	25	26	17
Fracture/dislocation	19	19	18	17	17	14
Other	22	25	40	40	27	31
Grand Total	617	576	698	669	655	629

Banana-related claims by primary injury

Primary Diagnosis Group	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (YTD)
Soft tissue injury	22	22	30	55	44	44
Laceration/puncture/sting	16	15	26	31	21	15
Other	10	16	11	27	22	25
Grand Total	48	53	67	113	87	84

Carrot-related claims by primary injury

Primary Diagnosis Group	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (YTD)
Laceration/puncture/sting	277	227	251	269	227	254
Soft tissue injury	24	30	38	29	32	33
Foreign body in orifice/eye	12	9	17	19	24	9
Other	17	19	20	23	23	15
Grand Total	330	285	326	340	306	311

Avocado-related claims by primary injury

Primary Diagnosis Group	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (YTD)
Laceration/puncture/sting	164	227	242	251	259	243
Soft tissue injury	30	55	52	46	44	54
None	5	4	5	7	6	<4
Other	9	12	14	8	12	..
Grand Total	208	298	313	312	321	305

Cabbage-related claims by primary injury

Primary Diagnosis Group	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (YTD)
Laceration/puncture/sting	110	82	107	99	84	103
Soft tissue injury	..	18	24	26	20	31
Other	<4	6	7	5	7	6
Grand Total	144	106	138	130	111	140

Chilli-related claims by primary injury

Primary Diagnosis Group	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (YTD)
Soft tissue injury	20	25	16	22	14	23
Laceration/puncture/sting	10	8	7	10	10	9
Burns	11	<4	4	<4	5	11
Other	14	..	9	..	10	17
Grand Total	55	51	36	46	39	60

Cucumber-related claims by primary injury

Primary Diagnosis Group	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (YTD)
Laceration/puncture/sting	54	44	44	36	42	43
Soft tissue injury	<4	..	4	6	<4	5
Other	..	<4	5	7	..	7
Grand Total	62	52	53	49	55	55

Kumara-related claims by primary injury

Primary Diagnosis Group	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Laceration/puncture/sting	43	66	71	77	74	77
Soft tissue injury	7	21	17	22	17	18
Other	4	9	9	5	10	8
Grand Total	54	96	97	104	101	103

Coconut-related claims by primary injury

Primary Diagnosis Group	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (YTD)
Laceration/puncture/sting	22	31	24	30	30	28
Soft tissue injury	..	10	9	10	9	7
Other	<4	6	16	9	10	13
Grand Total	29	47	49	49	49	48

Garlic-related claims by primary injury

Lodgement Calendar Year

Primary Diagnosis Group	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (YTD)
Laceration/puncture/sting	26	28	24	26	28	20
Soft tissue injury	4	14	8	9	16	8
Foreign body in orifice/eye	<4	<4	4	8	14	5
Other	<4	..	7	10	15	9
Grand Total	34	51	43	53	73	42

Orange-related claims by primary injury

Primary Diagnosis Group	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Laceration/puncture/sting	84	96	79	82	89	68
Soft tissue injury	32	36	37	42	41	37
Foreign body in orifice/eye	0	4	7	4	8	6
Other	14	9	11	20	8	12
Grand Total	130	145	134	148	146	123

Pumpkin-related claims by primary injury

Primary Diagnosis Group	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Laceration/puncture/sting	433	455	387	449	335	394
Soft tissue injury	99	69	74	81	65	99
Other	14	17	16	30	18	20
Grand Total	546	541	477	560	418	513

Watermelon-related claims by primary injury

Primary Diagnosis Group	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (YTD)
Laceration/puncture/sting	16	33	41	46	33	25
Soft tissue injury	4	<4	<4	6	..	8
Other	4	..	..	6	<4	9
Grand Total	24	38	50	58	46	42

Potato-related claims by primary injury

Primary Diagnosis Group	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Laceration/puncture/sting	381	373	317	364	320	309
Soft tissue injury	92	83	91	87	68	66
Burns	45	38	37	41	34	29
Foreign body in orifice/eye	9	9	8	6	7	<4
None	7	9	8	8	<4	7
Other	10	12	19	25	..	..
Grand Total	544	524	480	531	448	429

Tomato-related by primary injury

Primary Diagnosis Group	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018 (YTD)
Laceration/puncture/sting	151	144	137	150	159	125
Soft tissue injury	44	48	56	50	43	55
Burns	9	7	8	5	5	6
Other	20	15	29	23	20	21
Grand Total	224	214	230	228	227	207

Who involved	
Signed off by	

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Media inquiry

Date received	08 February 2019										
Reporter/ Producer	Francesca Cocchi										
From	Food Network magazine										
Contact	FCocchi@hearst.com										
Timeframe											
Request	I'm an editor at Food Network Magazine working on an article about avocado-related injuries for our In the Know section. I read that the ACC has tracked this kind of incident over the last few years. Would you be able to confirm the number of avocado-related injuries on file with the ACC in New Zealand from 2016-2018? These numbers only reflect the number of people who have filed claims with the ACC for such injuries, right (rather than total number of injuries as reported by hospitals)? Thanks in advance for your help!										
Redmine #											
Response	<p>Hi Francesca, Here is the info you are after. Actually the number of claims we have reflects all the people who sought treatment for their injury, regardless of whether they went to the hospital, their doctor, a physio, or any other medical professional.</p> <table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Calendar Year</th><th>New Claims</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>2016</td><td>374</td></tr><tr><td>2017</td><td>402</td></tr><tr><td>2018</td><td>420</td></tr><tr><td>Grand Total</td><td>1,196</td></tr></tbody></table>	Calendar Year	New Claims	2016	374	2017	402	2018	420	Grand Total	1,196
Calendar Year	New Claims										
2016	374										
2017	402										
2018	420										
Grand Total	1,196										

Who involved	Out of scope (from existing stats)
Signed off by	

Media inquiry

Date received	21 February 2019
Reporter/ Producer	Caroline Williams
From	Stuff
Contact	Caroline.williams@stuff.co.nz
Timeframe	COP 22 Feb
Request	<p>I've been in touch with a woman who suffered serious injuries, ^{9(2)(a)} [REDACTED] after slipping over on a banana peel ^{9(2)(a)} [REDACTED]. I'm keen to see if ACC has any stats about fruit and vegetable related injuries.</p> <p>Could ACC please answer the following questions, with any comments attributed to a spokesperson, by midday Friday?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. How many people were injured in fruit and vegetable related accidents in 2018? For example, injuries from<ul style="list-style-type: none">- slipping on fruit and vegetables- cutting/chopping off limbs while preparing fruit and vegetables- getting juices from fruit and vegetables in eyes- fruit and vegetables being inserted in bodily orifices- projectile fruit and vegetables- fruit and vegetables being dropped on limbs- eating fruit and vegetables with foreign objects inside (i.e. needles in strawberries)2. How many people died from fruit and vegetable related accidents in 2018?3. How much did ACC spend on fruit and vegetable related accidents in 2018?
Redmine #	#49110
Response	We do not provide exact figures where there are fewer than four claims for a particular injury, year, or region etc. This is to avoid inadvertently identifying a client, and thereby breaching their privacy.

In such instances we indicate the claim figure as <4. To protect this policy, where required we suppress figures using '..'

Table 1: Fruit and vege claims 1 Jan 2013 to 31 December 2018

Fruit / Vegetable	Lodgement Calendar Year						Grand Total
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	
Apple	617	576	698	669	655	664	3,879
Avocado	208	298	313	312	321	362	1,814
Banana	48	53	67	113	87	92	460
Cabbage	144	106	138	130	111	148	777
Carrot	330	285	326	340	306	336	1,923
Chili	55	51	36	46	39	67	294
Coconut	29	47	49	49	49	51	274
Cucumber	62	52	53	49	55	59	330
Garlic	34	51	43	53	73	48	302
Kumara	54	96	97	104	101	124	576
Orange	130	145	134	148	146	140	843
Potato	544	524	480	531	448	478	3,005
Pumpkin	546	541	477	560	418	541	3,083
Tomato	224	214	230	228	227	232	1,355
Watermelon	24	38	50	58	46	46	262
Grand Total	3,049	3,077	3,191	3,390	3,082	3,388	19,177

Table 2: Apples, by primary injury

	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Soft tissue injury	253	248	294	309	323	314
Laceration/puncture/sting	286	242	294	257	236	251
Foreign body in orifice/eye	22	29	37	21	26	32
None	15	13	15	25	26	17
Fracture/dislocation	19	19	18	17	17	16
Other	22	25	40	40	27	34
Grand Total	617	576	698	669	655	664

Table 3: Bananas, by primary injury

	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Soft tissue injury	22	22	30	55	44	51

Laceration/puncture/sting	16	15	26	31	21	15
Other	10	16	11	27	22	26
Grand Total	48	53	67	113	87	92

Table 4: Carrots, by primary injury

	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Laceration/puncture/sting	277	227	251	269	227	271
Soft tissue injury	24	30	38	29	32	34
Foreign body in orifice/eye	12	9	17	19	24	11
Other	17	19	20	23	23	20
Grand Total	330	285	326	340	306	336

Table 5: Avocados, by primary injury

	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Laceration/puncture/sting	164	227	242	251	259	290
Soft tissue injury	30	55	52	46	44	62
None	5	4	5	7	6	<4
Other	9	12	14	8	12	..
Grand Total	208	298	313	312	321	362

Table 6: Cabbages by primary injury

	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Laceration/puncture/sting	110	82	107	99	84	109
Soft tissue injury	..	18	24	26	20	33
Other	<4	6	7	5	7	6
Grand Total	144	106	138	130	111	148

Table 7: Chillies, by primary injury

	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Soft tissue injury	20	25	16	22	14	28
Laceration/puncture/sting	10	8	7	10	10	9
Burns	11	<4	4	<4	5	12
Other	14	..	9	..	10	18
Grand Total	55	51	36	46	39	67

Table 8: Cucumbers, by primary injury

	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Laceration/puncture/sting	54	44	44	36	42	46
Soft tissue injury	<4	..	4	6	<4	6
Other	..	<4	5	7	..	7
Grand Total	62	52	53	49	55	59

Table 9: Kumara, by primary injury

	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Laceration/puncture/sting	43	66	71	77	74	91
Soft tissue injury	7	21	17	22	17	23
Other	4	9	9	5	10	10
Grand Total	54	96	97	104	101	124

Table 10: Garlic, by primary injury

	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Laceration/puncture/sting	26	28	24	26	28	24
Soft tissue injury	4	14	8	9	16	9
Foreign body in orifice/eye	<4	<4	4	8	14	5
Other	<4	..	7	10	15	10
Grand Total	34	51	43	53	73	48

Table 11: Oranges, by primary injury

	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Laceration/puncture/sting	84	96	79	82	89	74
Soft tissue injury	32	36	37	42	41	41
Foreign body in orifice/eye	0	4	7	4	8	7
Other	14	9	11	20	8	18
Grand Total	130	145	134	148	146	140

Table 12: Pumpkins, by primary injury

	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018

Laceration/puncture/sting	433	455	387	449	335	417
Soft tissue injury	99	69	74	81	65	102
Other	14	17	16	30	18	22
Grand Total	546	541	477	560	418	541

Table 13: Watermelons, by primary injury

	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Laceration/puncture/sting	16	33	41	46	33	27
Soft tissue injury	4	<4	<4	6	..	10
Other	4	..	..	6	<4	9
Grand Total	24	38	50	58	46	46

Table 14: Tomatoes, by primary injury

Primary Diagnosis Group	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Laceration/puncture/sting	151	144	137	150	159	142
Soft tissue injury	44	48	56	50	43	61
Burns	9	7	8	5	5	8
Other	20	15	29	23	20	21
Grand Total	224	214	230	228	227	232

Table 15: Coconuts, by primary injury

	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Laceration/puncture/sting	54	44	44	36	42	46
Soft tissue injury	<4	..	4	6	<4	6
Other	..	<4	5	7	..	7
Grand Total	62	52	53	49	55	59

Table 16: Potatoes, by primary injury

	Lodgement Calendar Year					
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Laceration/puncture/sting	381	373	317	364	320	343
Soft tissue injury	92	83	91	87	68	71
Burns	45	38	37	41	34	36
None	7	9	8	8	<4	9

Foreign body in orifice/eye	9	9	8	6	7	<4
Other	10	12	19	25	..	..
Grand Total	544	524	480	531	448	478

Who involved	
Signed off by	

RELEASED UNDER THE
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Media enquiry

Date	1 March 2021
Reporter	Chris Bond
From	MORE FM
Contact	Bondy chrisbond@mediaworks.co.nz
Timeframe	12 March 2021
Request	<p>Hey <small>Out of scope</small></p> <p>Hope you are doing well mate.</p> <p>Can you please help with some data on injuries for preparing and consuming food.</p> <p>Thanks in advance</p>
Redmine #	
Response	<p>Hi Bondy,</p> <p>I hope you are doing well.</p> <p>Sorry it has taken me a few days to come back to you, this was a complicated request for our Analytics team.</p> <p>There is some variance in how people fill in their ACC Claim form so <u>this is not a definitive list</u>, but some of the leading food-related injuries from cuts, burn and other injuries.</p> <p>Our Analytics team have added this note: "Accident description searches allow for some spelling variation. Key word searches have been prioritised in the order on the notes page, eg. a claim which mentions 'coffee' will not be included in soup claims, even where 'coffee' is mentioned. Please note that key word searches may return some claims which aren't relevant to the request. For example, a claim which mentions 'avocado' may refer to fruit picking, and a claim which mentions 'fish' may refer to a live animal."</p> <p>Also: Please note that there were fewer than 4 claims which mentioned 'chicken' with a read code / ICD9 code / ICD10 code that referred to salmonella or food poisoning, with associated costs less than \$100.</p> <p>I have summarised some of the data below for you.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">Burn related claims<ul style="list-style-type: none">Hot drinks were one of the highest causes of burn-related ACC claims. There were 7,179 burn related injury claims from hot drinks in the last five years.The cost over five years to help these people recover was \$2.8m. The 1382 hot drink related injuries in 2020 came at a cost of \$632,957, the highest cost for the past five years.Soup also featured in a high number of burn related injuries. There were 1,254 soup related burn injuries in the past five years. These injuries came at a cost of \$541k over the past five years. Pies, chips and pizza were the next highest for burn related injuries.Cutting related claims<ul style="list-style-type: none">For cutting injuries (while preparing food) Fish was the No 1 item on this list. There were

6105 cutting related injuries with fish over the past five years at a cost of \$2.3m

- Pumpkin was the leading vegetable for causing injury while preparing food. There were 1985 injuries relating to cutting pumpkins over five years. These cost \$500k with the 2020 cost the highest from this period (\$159k)
- **Potato** was the second for vegetables with 1788 cutting related injuries over the past five years, which cost \$357, 934 – the highest cost of the past five years.
- Avocado was the highest fruit for cutting related injuries. There were 1775 avocado cutting related injuries over the past five years which cost \$1.4m.

3. Other related claims

- In terms of **'Other' injuries** – this will include all claims besides those with a primary diagnosis of burn or laceration / puncture / sting. So these could be soft tissue injuries, fractures etc., and may include claims that just mention 'coffee' or other food in passing, even if not directly related to the injury.
- Over the past five years there have been a total of 26, 248 injuries involving **hot drinks** that were not burns. These injuries came at a cost of \$19.5m with the 2020 cost (\$4.5m) the highest in this period.
- **Fish** were the second highest on this list. There were 11,232 injuries that mention fish in their description in the last five years. These came at a cost of \$16.5m.
- **Chicken** was the third highest on this list with 8148 injuries where 'chicken' was mentioned. These came at a cost of \$9.2m.

Injury Prevention advice

Kirsten Malpas, ACC Injury Prevention leader, says “Most injuries are preventable if you slow down and take a moment to assess the risks”.

I have compiled the following data for you.

Table 1: Number of new food related claims registered between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2020, broken down by given injury and food types.

Table 2: Number of active food related claims with a payment made between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2020, broken down by given injury and food types.

Table 3: Active costs (excluding GST) for food related claims with a payment made between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2020, broken down by given injury and food types.

Table 1: Number of new food related claims registered between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2020, broken down by given injury and food types.

Injury Type	Food Type	Registration Financial Year				
		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Burn	Cheese	10	14	16	15	21
	Chips	61	28	31	30	33
	Curry	11	14	17	21	23
	Fish n Chips	4	<4	6	<4	5
	Fondue	<4	<4	<4	-	<4
	Hot Drink	1,514	1,433	1,428	1,422	1,382
	Mac n Cheese	-	-	-	<4	-
	Pie	60	60	54	64	55
	Pizza	44	40	37	30	38
	Sausage	14	19	11	15	9
	Soup	262	248	273	255	216
	Toastie	21	25	25	17	17
	Other Eat / Drink	208	219	236	221	204
	Cut	Avocado	233	403	291	344	504
Carrot		253	257	254	270	228
Cheese		222	246	229	209	238
Fish		1,224	1,158	1,253	1,301	1,169
Kumara		82	77	74	79	71
Onion		449	418	434	408	375
Pineapple		21	32	35	35	50
Potato		377	336	373	357	345
Pumpkin		418	420	396	408	343
Watermelon		51	35	35	36	43

	Avocado	97	149	140	127	157
	Carrot	107	96	96	126	88
	Cheese	103	103	81	100	121
	Chicken	1,571	1,693	1,642	1,649	1,593
	Chips	285	278	263	284	251
	Curry	44	41	37	37	40
	Fish	2,232	2,145	2,416	2,284	2,155
	Fish n Chips	17	13	28	23	30
	Fondue	<4	4	<4	<4	<4
	Hot Drink	5,176	5,354	5,335	5,325	5,058
	Kumara	52	48	39	54	41
	Mac n Cheese	-	-	-	<4	<4
	Onion	109	86	109	97	104
	Pie	120	94	91	105	96
	Pineapple	31	26	22	30	28
	Pizza	163	166	198	198	195
	Potato	523	505	475	409	383
	Pumpkin	142	130	151	151	127
	Sausage	49	59	56	61	56
	Soup	115	117	116	102	116
	Toastie	12	4	9	5	6
	Watermelon	41	28	26	33	38
Other	Other Eat / Drink	5,587	5,834	5,826	5,980	5,848

Table 2: Number of active food related claims with a payment made between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2020, broken down by given injury and food types.

Injury Type	Food Type	Payment Financial Year				
		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Burn	Cheese	11	10	14	14	19
	Chips	59	36	27	25	35
	Curry	11	15	17	24	27
	Fish n Chips	4	<4	7	<4	5
	Fondue	-	<4	<4	-	<4
	Hot Drink	1,413	1,422	1,362	1,374	1,348
	Mac n Cheese	-	-	-	<4	-
	Pie	57	54	47	63	49
	Pizza	38	41	37	31	34
	Sausage	14	18	12	10	6
	Soup	249	228	270	251	222
	Toastie	22	22	23	17	18
Other Eat / Drink	182	193	203	197	178	
Cut	Avocado	227	368	273	321	452
	Carrot	230	245	236	240	223
	Cheese	199	223	210	180	206
	Fish	1,059	1,040	1,123	1,163	1,047
	Kumara	73	77	70	79	67
	Onion	404	381	393	363	338
	Pineapple	19	25	32	28	45
	Potato	328	308	335	310	322
	Pumpkin	360	387	366	352	311
	Watermelon	45	33	36	36	32

	Avocado	138	162	175	167	183
	Carrot	113	114	105	126	121
	Cheese	106	107	84	98	124
	Chicken	1,502	1,623	1,662	1,620	1,603
	Chips	278	284	259	292	256
	Curry	31	25	24	19	34
	Fish	2,001	1,981	2,197	2,109	2,064
	Fish n Chips	9	4	17	20	14
	Fondue	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4
	Hot Drink	4,993	5,318	5,382	5,506	5,248
	Kumara	66	54	55	59	61
	Mac n Cheese	-	-	-	<4	-
	Onion	114	94	114	121	114
	Pie	110	76	77	87	87
	Pineapple	25	22	25	28	27
	Pizza	145	151	169	189	178
	Potato	604	595	568	516	476
	Pumpkin	172	154	172	173	158
	Sausage	43	46	42	50	51
	Soup	119	104	118	98	114
	Toastie	10	7	8	6	6
	Watermelon	45	30	26	31	42
Other	Other Eat / Drink	4,568	4,901	4,899	5,169	5,267

Table 3: Active costs (excluding GST) for food related claims with a payment made between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2020, broken down by given injury and food types.

Injury Type	Food Type	Payment Financial Year					
		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	
Burn	Cheese	\$1,355	\$6,059	\$3,397	\$5,876	\$2,014	
	Chips	\$55,798	\$34,548	\$15,979	\$139,662	\$50,512	
	Curry	\$4,016	\$2,485	\$52,676	\$10,347	\$11,063	
	Fish n Chips	\$17,916	\$866	\$1,628	<\$100	\$1,964	
	Fondue	\$0	\$191	<\$100	\$0	\$797	
	Hot Drink	\$503,597	\$569,070	\$548,564	\$594,975	\$632,957	
	Mac n Cheese	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$255	\$0	
	Pie	\$11,543	\$9,154	\$7,637	\$9,818	\$13,431	
	Pizza	\$5,392	\$12,195	\$7,182	\$5,111	\$8,670	
	Sausage	\$1,848	\$2,988	\$874	\$3,014	\$295	
	Soup	\$101,926	\$77,863	\$112,386	\$128,129	\$121,279	
	Toastie	\$2,696	\$4,454	\$3,865	\$3,183	\$1,015	
	Other Eat / Drink	\$40,667	\$106,291	\$149,567	\$218,843	\$95,104	
	Cut	Avocado	\$94,642	\$137,874	\$170,094	\$136,577	\$203,476
		Carrot	\$50,905	\$89,766	\$43,985	\$49,149	\$54,231
Cheese		\$59,086	\$61,159	\$59,542	\$46,016	\$64,250	
Fish		\$341,665	\$472,028	\$368,131	\$591,945	\$481,554	
Kumara		\$21,406	\$13,938	\$14,402	\$14,363	\$16,455	
Onion		\$111,719	\$84,599	\$103,578	\$92,777	\$65,628	
Pineapple		\$2,637	\$4,890	\$14,538	\$5,602	\$9,457	
Potato		\$65,820	\$72,376	\$72,228	\$58,218	\$89,292	
Pumpkin		\$92,038	\$83,401	\$100,636	\$72,588	\$159,212	
Watermelon		\$9,223	\$5,002	\$6,261	\$8,997	\$7,316	
Other		Avocado	\$259,650	\$292,419	\$333,073	\$246,694	\$293,347
		Carrot	\$1,085,499	\$1,154,131	\$1,210,483	\$1,281,573	\$1,487,974
	Cheese	\$140,612	\$119,581	\$171,091	\$118,725	\$140,481	
	Chicken	\$1,880,806	\$1,742,844	\$1,714,209	\$1,927,348	\$1,940,945	
	Chips	\$183,887	\$191,736	\$165,859	\$164,322	\$163,864	
	Curry	\$16,774	\$8,703	\$14,954	\$2,876	\$16,512	
	Fish	\$2,443,231	\$2,880,383	\$3,037,711	\$4,117,681	\$3,991,486	
	Fish n Chips	\$14,156	\$22,539	\$3,566	\$8,240	\$2,004	
	Fondue	<\$100	\$451	\$2,221	<\$100	\$472	
	Hot Drink	\$3,400,640	\$3,478,669	\$3,945,769	\$4,170,037	\$4,506,630	
	Kumara	\$75,535	\$59,066	\$74,271	\$72,203	\$72,282	
	Mac n Cheese	\$0	\$0	\$0	<\$100	\$0	
	Onion	\$109,667	\$95,201	\$132,561	\$127,194	\$182,614	
	Pie	\$158,917	\$79,717	\$51,783	\$66,878	\$73,499	
	Pineapple	\$5,498	\$10,109	\$23,581	\$13,554	\$11,212	
	Pizza	\$115,173	\$141,748	\$202,457	\$156,338	\$116,334	
	Potato	\$471,343	\$600,584	\$535,508	\$521,187	\$437,902	
	Pumpkin	\$108,456	\$102,569	\$97,887	\$72,065	\$70,438	
	Sausage	\$38,400	\$20,022	\$94,642	\$87,532	\$81,503	
	Soup	\$62,622	\$57,740	\$45,313	\$77,836	\$75,921	
	Toastie	\$1,952	\$9,682	\$1,206	\$1,099	\$2,461	
Watermelon	\$21,746	\$19,833	\$10,670	\$10,331	\$17,299		
Other Eat / Drink	\$3,777,144	\$4,704,069	\$5,264,116	\$5,058,917	\$5,529,136		

Notes on the data

- As a no-fault scheme, ACC relies on information recorded by claimants on a claim form following an injury. To answer your request, we used a free-text search for the key words;
- The data have been extracted based on the following criteria: The claim registration / payment date is between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2020. The claim cover decision is equal to 'Accept'.
- For hot drink related injuries the accident description contains 'coffee', 'hot chocolate', 'tea' or 'milo'.
- For soup related injuries the accident description contains 'soup'
- For pie related injuries the accident description contains 'pie'.
- For toastie related injuries the accident description contains 'toastie' or 'toasted sandwich'.
- For curry related injuries the accident description contains 'curry'.
- For sausage related injuries the accident description contains 'sausage'.
- For fish and chip related injuries the accident description contains 'fish and chips'.

- For chip related injuries the accident description contains 'chips'.
- For fondue related injuries the accident description contains 'fondue'.
- For macaroni and cheese related injuries the accident description contains 'macaroni and cheese' or 'mac and cheese'.
- For pizza related injuries the accident description contains 'pizza'.
- For avocado related injuries the accident description contains 'avocado'.
- For watermelon related injuries the accident description contains 'watermelon'.
- For pineapple related injuries the accident description contains 'pineapple'.
- For pumpkin related injuries the accident description contains 'pumpkin'.
- For kumara related injuries the accident description contains 'kumara'.
- For potato related injuries the accident description contains 'potato'.
- For onion related injuries the accident description contains 'onion'.
- For carrot related injuries the accident description contains 'carrot'.
- For cheese related injuries the accident description contains 'cheese'.
- For chicken related injuries the accident description contains 'chicken'.
- For fish related injuries the accident description contains 'fish' but does not contain 'fishing'.
- For other eating / drinking related injuries the accident description contains 'drink' or 'eat'.
- For burn claims the primary diagnosis is equal to 'Burns (Burn, Corrosive Injury, Scald)'.
- For cut claims the primary diagnosis is equal to 'Infected/ Non-Infected Laceration, Puncture Wound, Sting'.
- For food poisoning claims the read code / ICD9 code / ICD10 code contains 'salmonella' or 'food poison'.
- We do not provide exact figures where there are fewer than four claims for a particular injury, time frame, or region etc, or costs under \$100. This is to avoid inadvertently identifying a client, and thereby breaching their privacy. In such instances we indicate the claim figure as <4 or <\$100. To protect this policy, where required we suppress figures using '..'

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All figures are GST exclusive, and cover all treatment and entitlements incurred for that claim, except the cost of emergency treatment at public hospitals, which we bulk-fund through our \$530 million contribution to Public Health Acute Services (PHAS), and costs are not allocated to individual claims. • An active claim is one where a payment has been made against it in the year shown, regardless of the year in which the claim was lodged. Some claims have ongoing costs, so in any given year it's likely we'll be paying costs on claims lodged in previous years. That means, for example, that the amount we have paid out in 2017 will include some payments relating to injuries suffered in 2016 or earlier, as well as those suffered in that year. <p>ENDS</p>
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Who involved	Out of scope	AnR
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