

Australian Farm Deaths & Injuries Media Monitors Snapshot January 1 – December 31, 2017

Background

Australian print and online media provides an avenue to highlight the prevalence of farm related deaths and injuries. The process of media monitoring has been used by the National Farm Injury Data Centre (NFIDC) since 2005 to assist in the collection of information on farm injury events (fatal and non-fatal). This report focuses predominantly on data involving on-farm injury events reported in the Australian print and online media for the period January 1st to December 31st 2017. It also captures non-farm quad related fatality and injury over the same period.

Deaths

There were approximately 36,300 media articles received by the NFIDC from Meltwater during the period. A total of 68 on-farm deaths were reported:

- The overall number of fatal on-farm cases (n=68) is higher than the corresponding period in 2016 (n=63).
- Nine of the 68 deaths involved a child aged under 15 years.
- Tractors (n=13) and quads (n=11) were reported most frequently.
- Media monitoring also captures non-farm quad related fatality. There was one additional fatal injury event that occurred off-farm for this period (i.e. there were a total of 12 quad related deaths nationally including farm and non-farm cases).

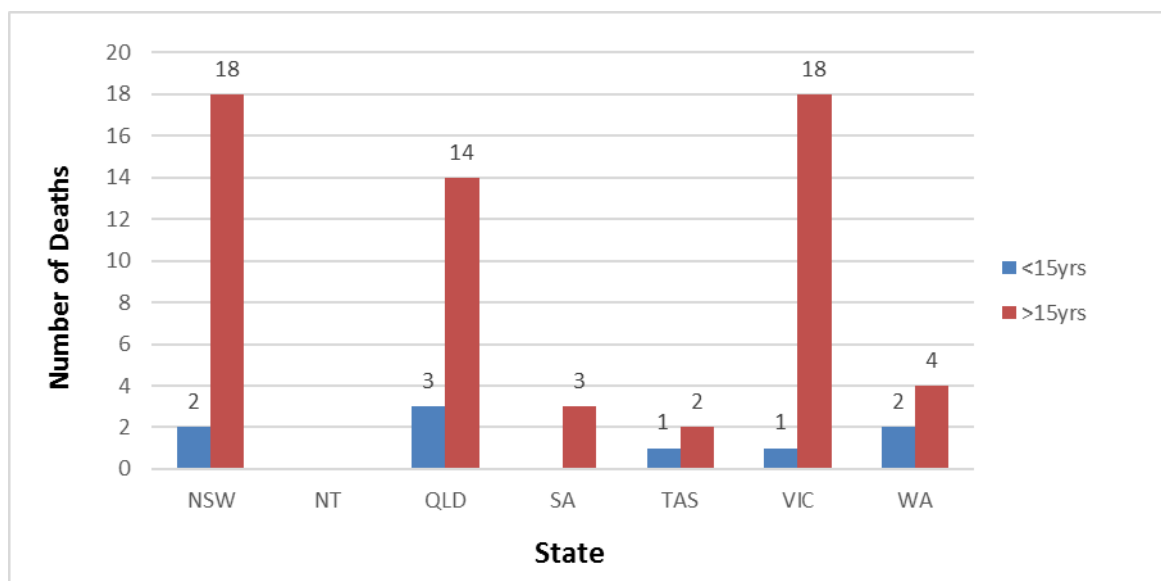


Figure 1: On-farm deaths reported in Australian media by age and state, 1st Jan- 31st Dec 2017.

Table 1: Agents of injury causing on-farm death as reported in Australian media by age, 1st Jan- 31st Dec 2017.

Category	Agent	2016			2017		
		<15yrs	≥15yrs	Total	<15yrs	≥15yrs	Total
Animal	Cattle		2	2		4	4
	Horse	2		2		1	1
	Insect					1	1
Farm Structure	Dam					1	1
	Roof/Shed/Water Tank	1	1	2	1	3	4
	Silo		3	3		1	1
	Well	1		1			
Farm Vehicle	Aircraft		2	2		1	1
	Car		4	4			
	Helicopter		1	1			
	Motorbike		1	1		2	2
	Quad		6	6	3	8	11
	Side By Side Vehicle				1	1	2
	Truck				1	3	4
	Utility	1	2	3		1	1
	Farm Vehicle NEC*		2	2			
Materials	Hay Bale		1	1			
	Impaled		1	1			
	Rope					1	1
Mobile Farm Machinery / Plant	Earth Moving Equipment		1	1			
	Fertiliser Spreader					1	1
	Forklift		1	1			
	Grader					1	1
	Harvesting Machine					1	1
	Locomotive					1	1
	Tractor	3	6	9	1	12	13
	Mobile Farm Machinery / Plant NEC *	1	8	9	1	4	5
Other	Firearm		2	2			
	Other NEC*				1	1	1
Powered Implements	Ride on Mower					1	1
Working Environment	Fire/smoke/flame		1	1		2	2
	Heat					1	1

Table 1 continued

		2016			2017		
Category	Agent	<15yrs	≥15yrs	Total	<15yrs	≥15yrs	Total
Work Environment	Lightning/storm		3	3		1	1
	Trees being fell		4	4		4	4
	Water		1	1			
Workshop Equipment	Grinder NEC		1	1		1	1
TOTAL		9	54	63	9	59	68

*NEC: Not elsewhere classified

Non-fatal Injury

There were an additional 179 non-fatal on-farm injury events reported in the Australian media for the period 1st January – 31st December 2017.

- The overall number of non-fatal on-farm cases (n=179) is higher than corresponding period in 2016 (n=144).
- Twenty-two of the 179 injury events involved children aged under 15 years.
- Quad related injury (n=39) accounted for over 22% of all incidents. This was closely followed by horse related incidents (n=27), motorcycle related incidents (n=19) and cattle related incidents (n=19).
- For quads, there were 30 additional injuries that occurred off-farm (i.e. there were a total of 69 quad related non-fatal injuries nationally including farm and non-farm cases reported).

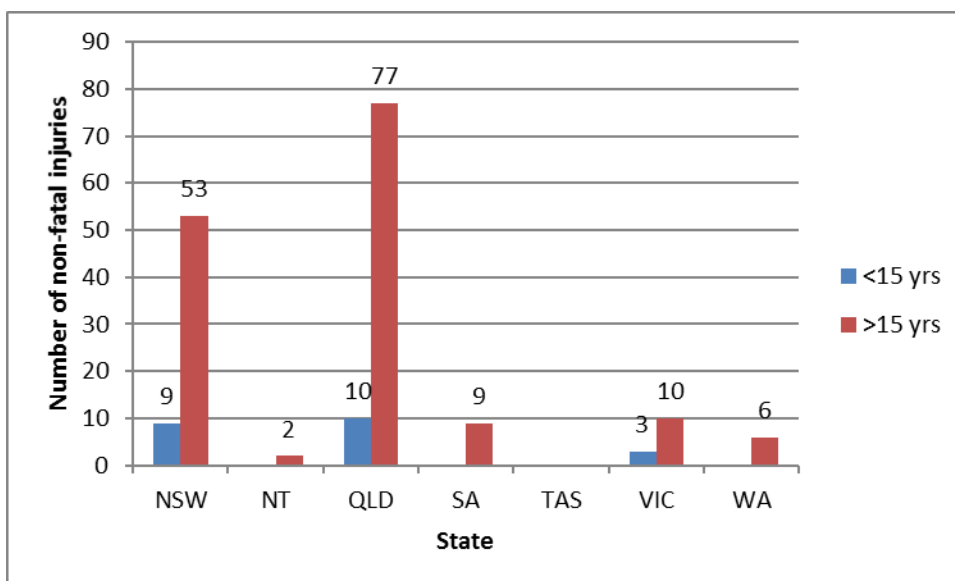


Figure 2: On-farm non-fatal injury events reported in Australian print media, 1st Jan- 31st Dec 2017.

Table 2: Agents of on-farm non-fatal injury as reported in Australian print media, 1st Jan- 31st Dec 2017.

Category	Agent	2017		
		<15yrs	≥15yrs	Total
Animal	Cattle	1	18	19
	Horse	4	23	27
	Sheep		1	1
	Animal NEC		1	1
Farm Chemical	Gases NEC		1	1
Farm Structure	Powerline		1	1
	Shed/roof/water tank		2	2
	Windmill		1	1
	Farm Structure NEC		2	2
Farm Vehicle	Aircraft		2	2
	Motorbike	4	15	19
	Quad	10	29	39
	Side By Side Vehicle		3	3
	Tuck		2	2
	Utility		9	9
	Farm Vehicle NEC		2	2
Materials	Hay Bale		3	3
Mobile Farm Machinery/Plant	Cherry Picker		1	1
	Earth Moving Equipment		1	1
	Fertiliser Spreader		2	2
	Forklift	1	1	2
	Harvesting Machine		4	4
	Tractor	1	16	17
	Mobile Farm Machinery/Plant NEC*		4	4
Working Environment	Fire/Smoke/Flame		3	3
	Ground/rock/stump/hole		2	2
	Tree being felled		5	5
	Working Environment NEC*		1	1
Workshop Equipment	Ladders		1	1
Others	Firearm	1	1	2
TOTAL		22	157	179

*NEC: Not elsewhere classified