

Australian Farm Deaths & Injuries Media Monitors Snapshot January 1 – March 31, 2018

Background

Australian print and online media provide 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 March 31st, 2018. It also captures non-farm quad related fatality and injury over the same period.

Deaths

There were approximately 28,700 print and media articles received by the NFIDC from Meltwater during the period. A total of 13 on-farm deaths were reported:

- The overall number of fatal on-farm cases (n=13) is lower than the corresponding period in 2017 (n=18).
- Trucks (n=2), trees being felled (n=2) and water storage (n=2) were reported most frequently.

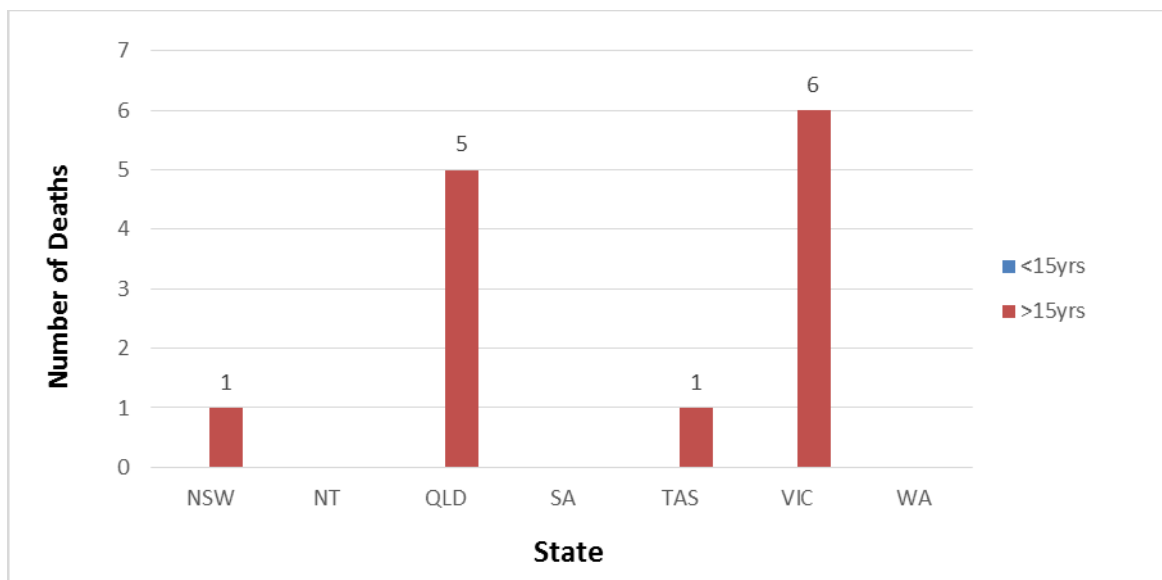


Figure 1: On-farm deaths reported in Australian media by age and state, 1st Jan- 31st Mar 2018.

Table 1: Agents of injury causing on-farm death as reported in Australian media by age, 1st Jan- 31st Mar 2017 and 1st Jan- 31st Mar 2018.

Category	Agent	2017			2018		
		<15yrs	≥15yrs	Total	<15yrs	≥15yrs	Total
Animal	Cattle					1	1
	Horse					1	1
Farm Structure	Dam					2	2
	Irrigation Channel						
	Piggery						
	Powerline						
	Pump						
	Roof/Shed/Water Tank		3	3			
Farm Vehicle	Aircraft						
	Farm Vehicle NEC*						
	Helicopter						
	Motorbike					1	1
	Quad	2	4	6			
	Side By Side Vehicle						
	Truck		1	1		2	2
	Trailer						
	Utility					1	1
Materials	Rope		1	1			
Mobile Farm Machinery / Plant	Forklift						
	Tractor		3	3			
	Mobile Farm Machinery / Plant NEC *		1	1			
Other	Powerline					1	1
Working Environment	Fire/smoke/flame		2	2		1	1
	Lightning/storm		1	1			
	Log					1	1
	Trees being felled					2	2
Workshop Equipment	Grinder NEC						
	Ladder						
TOTAL		2	16	18	0	13	13

*NEC: Not elsewhere classified

Non-fatal Injury

There were an additional 37 non-fatal on-farm injury events reported in the Australian media for the period 1st January – 31st March 2018.

- Five (13.5%) of the 37 injury events involved children aged under 15 years.
- Quad related injury (n=8) accounted for over 20% of all incidents. This was followed by motorbike related incidents (n=6) and tractor related incidents (n=5).
- For quads, there were ten additional injuries that occurred off-farm (i.e. there were a total of 18 quad related non-fatal injuries nationally including farm and non-farm cases reported).

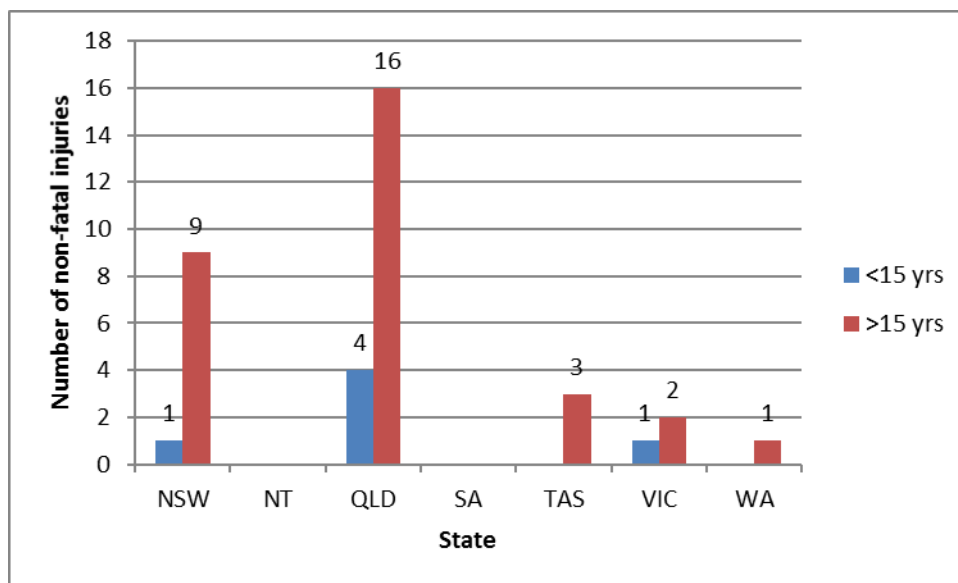


Figure 2: On-farm non-fatal injury events reported in Australian print media, 1st Jan- 31st Mar 2018.

Table 2: Agents of on-farm non-fatal injury as reported in Australian print media, 1st Jan- 31st Mar 2018.

Category	Agent	2018		
		<15yrs	≥15yrs	Total
Animal	Cattle		3	3
	Horse	1	4	5
Farm Vehicle	Aircraft		1	1
	Motorbike	3	3	6
	Quad		8	8
	Side By Side Vehicle			
	Truck		1	1
	Utility		1	1
Mobile Farm Machinery/Plant	Forklift		1	1
	Harvesting Machine		1	1
	Mobile Stock Feeding Equipment		1	1
	Tractor		5	5
	Mobile Farm Machinery/Plant NEC*		1	1
Other	Firearms	1	2	3
TOTAL		5	32	37

*NEC: Not elsewhere classified