

## Farm injury deaths continue to impact rural communities

Figures released today by the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety illustrate little change in the number of on-farm fatal injuries for the first quarter of 2017.

“No deaths are acceptable, as these events are almost always preventable” said Dr Tony Lower from the Centre.

“The unenviable safety record of quads is again being highlighted as they top the list with six fatal on-farm cases, two of which involved children. Quads also make up 33% of the total number of non-fatal incidents reported in the media.”

“While quad manufacturers always point to rider error to avoid any implications regarding the safety of their product, with over 60% of deaths in Australia involving rollovers, the lack of a lateral stability standard and crush protection means not only do they roll all too easily, but when they do, the consequences are often fatal” stated Lower.

“Because of these design flaws, the margin of error for riding quads is so small that it all too often ends in tragedy.”

“We strongly encourage farmers to use other safer vehicles that are more stable and suitable for the many and varied tasks on the farm. If that is not possible and you are continuing to use a quad, then ensure a crush protection device is fitted, wear a helmet and follow basic riding safety practices.”

“With children again figuring in the data, it is also critical to never allow children to ride a quad of any size or be carried as a passenger. We simply see too many incidents like this.”

“We know that there are highly effective ways to control the risks and prevent needless deaths and injuries. Hindsight is a wonderful thing, but we need to take these steps before issues arise. In this way we will not only save lives and serious injuries, as an industry we will be more productive.”

A copy of the report and a wide range of materials that can assist those that work and live on farms to reduce the risks to themselves, farm workers, family members and visitors, is available from the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety web site [www.aghealth.org.au](http://www.aghealth.org.au) on 02 6882 1486 for further information.

---

Release Date: April 10, 2017

Contact:  
Hon. A/Prof Tony Lower  
Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety  
Ph: (02) 6752 8210