

## Victorian Rebate Will Save Lives on Farms

The announcement today by Worksafe Victoria that a rebate program will soon be available to assist farmers in improving quad bike safety is a welcome development. “Quads have been the leading cause of on-farm fatalities across Australia for the past five years” said Dr Tony Lower Director of the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety.

“When delivered as part of a broader safety initiative, previous farm rebate programs such as that for fitting of rollover protection structures on tractors, have been extremely successful in reducing deaths and injuries” stated Lower. “Undoubtedly, the rebate will fast-track action by farmers to limit these needless injuries and deaths on quads.”

The rebate encourages primary producers to upgrade to other safer and more fit-for purpose vehicles such as side by sides and if that’s not possible, then to fit a Crush Protection Device on their quad.

“The potential for farmers across Victoria to benefit from this rebate and to improve safety for themselves, their workers and families is highly significant. At the end of the day it’s about everyone getting home to their family in one piece.”

With every on-farm injury death conservatively costing the community over \$2 million, it is a highly cost-effective investment by Worksafe Victoria and the Victorian Government that will provide both economic and more importantly, major social and community benefits for Victorian farmers, workers and families.

Further information and guidance on quad and side-by-side vehicle safety, is available from the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety <http://www.aghealth.org.au/> or call 02 6752 8210 for further information.

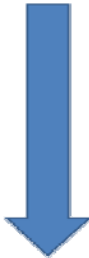
---

Release Date: July 22, 2016

Contact: Dr Tony Lower

Director - Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety

Ph: (02) 6752 8210

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>Most Effective</p>  <p>Least Effective</p> | <p>Elimination - don't use the quad bike for the farm task</p> <p>Substitution - use a more stable machine such as a tractor, farm ute or side-by side vehicle</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">....if still deciding to use a quad bike</p> <p>Engineering Control - fit a tested crush protective device</p> <p>Administrative Controls - ensure training, induction and rider supervision (strictly no passengers of any age, no loads/spray tanks and no children under 16 riding quads of any size)</p> <p>Personal Protective Equipment - wear an approved helmet</p> |
|--|---|



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**SYDNEY**