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# **Quad Related Deaths and Injuries in Australia 2015 - Media Monitors Report**

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## **Background**

Australian print 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 nonfatal). This report focuses specifically on data involving quads (both on and off farms).

## **Method**

iSENTIA (formerly Media Monitors Australia) is a privately owned company contracted by the NFIDC to scan approximately 2,500 daily, weekly and monthly publications Australia wide. Publications are scanned for various search terms nominated by the NFIDC. In relation to the monitoring of quad related injury events, the following search terms are used: *“ATV re accidents, injuries or safety on farms or rural properties”, “Quad Bike” and/or “Quad bike in re to accidents, injuries or safety on farms or rural properties”*.

Each day's articles are received via email in PDF format, are viewed for relevance and then entered into a *Microsoft Excel* database. Any quad related death that has been reported in the media is added to the Quad Related Deaths Register. The Access Liaison Officer at the National Coroners' Information System (NCIS) is notified of the fatal injury event and the NFIDC is then informed of the matching NCIS case number. This process allows for timely reporting of quad related fatality cases in Australia, as cases are added to the register regardless of their closure status i.e. open cases are included within the register. Once sufficient information is available from NCIS so that cause of death, mechanism of injury and intent can be accurately defined, these events can then be reported on more comprehensively.

## **Results**

### ***Deaths***

There were approximately 1,900 print media articles received by the NFIDC from iSENTIA in 2015. A total of 15 quad related deaths were reported for this period. Table 1 provides a summary of the quad related fatal injury events:

- Of the 22 reported deaths, 15 (68%) occurred on a farm.
- Where information was available, 10 of the 20 reported deaths (50%) were rollovers.
- Three of the 22 reported deaths (13%), involved children under the age of 16 years.
- Thirteen of the 22 reported deaths (59%), involved persons over 50 years of age.

**Table 1:** Quad related deaths as reported in the Australian media 2015

| Age | Sex | State | Description of Event   | Rollover<br>Yes or No | Farm<br>Yes or No |
|-----|-----|-------|--|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 6   | M   | WA    | A six-year-old boy has died after his quad bike rolled in a small quarry on his family's property.   | Y                     | Y                 |
| 7   | M   | NSW   | The boys, both aged seven, were riding separate quad bikes at a farm near Walgett on Sunday afternoon when one of the boys rolled his quad which landed on him, police said. | Y                     | Y                 |
| 15  | M   | NSW   | A TEENAGER was left fighting for his life after a fall from quad bike in northwest Sydney yesterday.   | Y                     | N                 |
| 21  | M   | TAS   | Mr Green died after injuries sustained in a quad bike crash on the intersection of Frazer and Innes Street, Strahan, early on Friday morning.                                | N                     | N                 |
| 21  | F   | QLD   | A woman has died after the quad bike she was driving rolled on a beach in far north Queensland.  | Y                     | N                 |
| 29  | M   | TAS   | A MAN killed in a single vehicle accident at Ansons Bay in Tasmania's northeast was not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash.   | N                     | N                 |
| 33  | M   | WA    | A 33-YEAR-OLD Kojonup man died after crashing his quad bike on a dirt track near Qualeup late last month.  | Unknown               | N                 |
| 49  | M   | WA    | A man in his 40s died yesterday after crashing his quad bike in dunes at Lancelin.   | N                     | N                 |
| 49  | M   | VIC   | A SOUTH Purrumbete man died in a quad bike accident on Sunday night. The man was already deceased when he was discovered pinned under the quad bike.                         | N                     | Y                 |
| 51  | M   | NSW   | A man died following what is believed to have been a quad bike accident on a property in Boggabri on Friday.   | N                     | Y                 |
| 54  | F   | NT    | The woman suffered very serious head injuries when she was thrown from the quad bike.  | N                     | Y                 |
| 57  | M   | QLD   | A man fell off riding up a hill.   | N                     | Y                 |
| 59  | M   | QLD   | Five-time Paralympian Ashley Adams has been killed in a motorbike accident on his farm at Blackall in Central Queensland.  | N                     | Y                 |

| Age | Sex | State | Description of Event   | Rollover<br>Yes or No | Farm<br>Yes or No |
|-----|-----|-------|--|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 67  | M   | WA    | A man was thrown from his quad bike.   | Unknown               | Y                 |
| 67  | M   | VIC   | A man in his late 60s had been found dead by a family member after heading out on an ATV to spray weeds. When he didn't return by 6.30pm his son and a family friend went in search of him and found him at about 8.30pm deceased and the quad bike rolled over. | Y                     | Y                 |
| 68  | M   | VIC   | The man is believed to have been rounding up cattle on the bike when it rolled.  | Y                     | Y                 |
| 69  | M   | NSW   | A passing motorist found the 69- year-old trapped under the quad bike on the roadway.  | Y                     | N                 |
| 75  | M   | VIC   | Fall from quad bike.   | Unknown               | Y                 |
| 75  | M   | TAS   | A man has been killed in a quad bike incident in Tasmania. He received critical injuries when the bike rolled on Sunday night.   | Y                     | Y                 |
| 78  | M   | QLD   | A worker was killed while weed-spraying on a steep embankment when his quad bike toppled backwards and landed on him.  | Y                     | Y                 |
| 81  | M   | VIC   | It is understood the 81-year-old was herding stock into a paddock on a cattle farm in Kergunyah, 30km south of Wodonga, when he was killed before 10am. The quad bike he was riding overturned and crushed the man underneath.                                   | Y                     | Y                 |
| 85  | M   | VIC   | He has had an accident on his quad motorcycle, causing a head injury. It appears the deceased has fallen from the rear of the quad motorcycle.   | N                     | Y                 |

### ***Non-fatal Injury***

There were an additional 70 non-fatal quad related injury events reported in the Australian print media in 2015. Table 2 provides a summary of the quad related non-fatal injury events:

- There were 12 children under the age of 16 years involved in quad related injury events, representing 17% of all injury cases. The majority of these children required hospitalisation or medical treatment for their injuries.
- Of the 70 reported injury events, location was unable to be determined for nine cases. Of the remaining cases, 41 (67%) occurred on-farm and 20 (33%) in a non-farming setting.
- Of the 70 cases, rollovers accounted for 25 (36%) of the reported non-fatal injury cases and non-rollovers for 45 (64%) of the cases.

**Table 2:** Quad related non-fatal injury events as reported in the Australian media 2015.

| Age | Sex | State | Description of Event  | Rollover<br>Yes or No | Farm<br>Yes or No |
|-----|-----|-------|---|-----------------------|-------------------|
| 6   | F   | VIC   | A GIRL, 6, was knocked unconscious when the quad bike she was driving on a Bannockburn block hit a drain and became airborne.   | N                     | N                 |
| 8   | F   | NSW   | An 8 year old girl remains in a stable condition after being airlifted to hospital suffering injuries sustained in a quad bike accident.  | Y                     | Y                 |
| 9   | M   | QLD   | A NINE-year-old boy is recovering in hospital after being trapped under a quad bike at a station near Cloncurry on Thursday night.  | Y                     | Y                 |
| 10  | M   | NSW   | On arrival, emergency services located a 31-year-old man, believed to be the driver of the quad bike, and his 10-year-old male pillion passenger on the ground suffering injuries.                      | N                     | N                 |
| 11  | F   | NSW   | Emergency services were called to a property at Fleming Drive at 2.10pm after the quad she was driving rolled onto her.   | Y                     | Y                 |
| 12  | M   | WA    | A young boy was critically injured when he crashed his quad bike in The Lakes yesterday afternoon.  | Y                     | N                 |
| 13  | M   | QLD   | The Brisbane teenager lost control of his quad bike and landed on all fours when he jumped off. The teenager was taken to Toowoomba Hospital with a suspected broken arm but was in a stable condition. | N                     | N                 |
| 13  | F   | NSW   | A 13-year-old girl has been taken to the Lismore Base Hospital following a quad bike accident at Naughton's Gap.  | N                     | Y                 |
| 15  | F   | NT    | TWO teens injured in a quad bike crash early this week.   | N                     | N                 |
| 17  | M   | QLD   | A 17-year-old man suffered a fractured pelvis and internal injuries when he was thrown off a quad bike when mustering cattle near Clermont yesterday afternoon.   | N                     | Y                 |
| 18  | M   | NT    | TWO teens injured in a quad bike crash early this week.   | N                     | N                 |
| 21  | M   | NT    | A quad bike crash man was left with head injuries on a Territory cattle station today.  | N                     | Y                 |
| 22  | M   | QLD   | An ambulance transported a 22-years-old male to Toowoomba Base hospital after he rolled his quad bike at East Greenmount on Sunday.   | Y                     | Unknown           |
| 22  | F   | TAS   | A YOUNG woman from Taiwan has been seriously injured in an ATV accident. The woman, 22, was a passenger on the vehicle at a Richmond property when the crash happened about 3.15pm on Monday.           | N                     | Y                 |

| Age | Sex | State | Description of Event   | Rollover Yes or No | Farm Yes or No |
|-----|-----|-------|--|--------------------|----------------|
| 22  | M   | TAS   | Police say a 22-year-old man from Devonport was thrown from his off-road vehicle after hitting a washout.  | N                  | N              |
| 22  | M   | VIC   | A 22-year-old quad bike rider was flown to the Royal Melbourne Hospital with pelvic and rib injuries. He fell off and hit a tree.  | N                  | N              |
| 24  | F   | TAS   | A WOMAN who was hurt in a quad bike rollover near Lilydale.  | Y                  | Y              |
| 26  | M   | QLD   | A QUAD bike rider has sustained a suspected head injury after falling from the vehicle around 4am this morning in the vicinity of Stanthorpe.  | Y                  | Unknown        |
| 27  | M   | NSW   | The 27-year-old man from Hong Kong, who was working on a Wombat orchard pruning trees, hit his head on a large branch while riding his quad bike just before 11am.   | N                  | Y              |
| 28  | F   | NSW   | A woman has been airlifted to hospital after falling off a quad bike. The 28-year-old suffered chest injuries and lumbar bruising when the bike flipped and the steering wheel landed on her back.   | Y                  | Y              |
| 31  | M   | NSW   | On arrival, emergency services located a 31-year-old man, believed to be the driver of the quad bike, and his 10-year-old male pillion passenger on the ground suffering injuries.   | N                  | N              |
| 31  | M   | QLD   | A 31-YEAR-OLD man was taken to Bundaberg Hospital after he crashed an all-terrain vehicle on his Wallaville property.  | N                  | Y              |
| 32  | M   | NSW   | Saturday afternoon at 5.35pm helicopter tasked to <b>Glen Innes</b> to a Quad bike rollover, a 32yr old male suffered head injuries and flown to Tamworth Hospital.  | Y                  | Y              |
| 33  | M   | NT    | A cattle station worker who crashed his quad bike into a tree has been flown to Darwin after being found unconscious by co-workers.  | N                  | Y              |
| 35  | M   | NSW   | The man was returning to his property from a nearby beach with a friend around 4am (AEST) when he rolled his quad bike, suffering leg, chest and back injuries.  | Y                  | N              |
| 37  | M   | MSW   | Emergency services were called to a farm on Numinbah Rd about 1.30pm (NSW), after the all-terrain vehicle rolled over and landed on the male driver's leg. Tweed-Byron LAC Inspector Gary Cowan said there was a passenger, who was uninjured. | Y                  | Y              |

| Age | Sex | State | Description of Event  | Rollover Yes or No | Farm Yes or No |
|-----|-----|-------|---|--------------------|----------------|
| 38  | M   | QLD   | A 38-year-old man has been airlifted by RACQ CareFlight Rescue overnight (Monday)   | N                  | Unknown        |
| 43  | M   | QLD   | THE RACQ NQ Rescue Helicopter airlifted a 43-year-old man from Lake Moondarra at the weekend after he was injured in a quad bike accident.  | N                  | N              |
| 43  | M   | NSW   | The man fell backwards off the quad bike on an embankment and suffered the injury when the bike rolled back on top of him, breaking his jaw.  | Y                  | Y              |
| 45  | M   | NSW   | A 45yr old male rolled the quad bike he was riding while mustering sheep into a shed.   | Y                  | Y              |
| 47  | M   | QLD   | 47-year-old man was taken in stable condition to Proserpine Hospital after a quad bike crash on Moodys Rd in Strathdickie.  | N                  | N              |
| 48  | M   | NSW   | A 48-year-old Stannum man was injured in a quad bike accident and flown to Lismore Base Hospital. A man has been airlifted to hospital with suspected spinal injuries after rolling his quad bike in northern New South Wales, approximately 14 kilometres north north-west of Deepwater. | Y                  | Y              |
| 50  | F   | QLD   | It's believed the woman was a passenger on a quad bike that was rear ended by another at Teebar late on Saturday. The force of the impact flipped her machine and it landed on her.   | Y                  | Y              |
| 52  | M   | NSW   | A 52yr old male has been flown to Tamworth Hospital after a quad bike rollover on a property at Swan Vale.  | Y                  | Y              |
| 54  | M   | QLD   | A 54-year-old man is in a serious but stable condition at Rockhampton Hospital following a quad bike accident on a property near Theodore earlier today.  | N                  | Y              |
| 55  | M   | QLD   | A TOWNSVILLE man is recovering in hospital after rolling his quad bike near Dalrymple Rd.   | Y                  | N              |
| 65  | M   | QLD   | The man suffered lacerations to his forehead after an accident on a quad bike on a private property at Back Rd, outside of Proston.   | N                  | Y              |
| 65  | M   | QLD   | 65-year-old man suffered minor injuries after a quad bike crash.  | N                  | Y              |
| 67  | F   | QLD   | A 67-yearold woman who had ridden her quad bike through a fence and suffered neck injuries.   | N                  | Y              |
| 75  | M   | NSW   | A 75-year-old man from Warialda was injured when he rolled his quad bike and broke his hip.   | Y                  | Unknown        |
| 79  | M   | QLD   | A 79-YEAR-OLD man was taken to Rockhampton Hospital with rib injuries on Saturday afternoon after a quad bike crash in Cawarral.  | N                  | Unknown        |



| Age       | Sex | State | Description of Event   | Rollover Yes or No | Farm Yes or No |
|-----------|-----|-------|--|--------------------|----------------|
| 81        | M   | NSW   | AN 81-YEAR-OLD man from Dark Corner was flown to Westmead Hospital late on Thursday after rolling his quad bike.   | Y                  | Y              |
| 83        | M   | QLD   | AN 83-YEAR-OLD man is in a stable condition after rolling his quad bike.   | Y                  | Y              |
| MID TEENS | M   | VIC   | A MALE in his mid-teens was taken to Mildura Base Hospital on Saturday after being involved in a quad-bike accident on a Happy Valley property, near Robinvale.  | N                  | Y              |
| Teenager  | F   | QLD   | The young woman was riding her quad bike with friends when it rolled on top of her.  | Y                  | Y              |
| 20's      | F   | QLD   | A STOCKWOMAN in her 20s has suspected rib and hip injuries after crashing a quad bike while working on a property north of Chinchilla.   | N                  | Y              |
| 20's      | M   | QLD   | A FARMER in his 20s appears to have escaped serious injuries after a fall from a quad bike near Texas yesterday. He was reportedly restraining a sheep on the vehicle when the animal came loose, taking him with it.                        | N                  | Y              |
| 30's      | M   | WA    | A MAN is fighting for his life in a Perth Hospital after he was thrown from a quad bike without a helmet in Flint, 82kms east of Perth.  | N                  | N              |
| 30's      | M   | NSW   | A MALE patient in his 30s was airlifted to hospital following a farm accident in Jugiong last Thursday night, June 4.  | N                  | Y              |
| 30's      | M   | NSW   | A MAN in his 30's has been injured after falling off his quad bike in Goondiwindi. Ambulance crews were called to a Boggabilla Lane property at 2.42pm.  | N                  | N              |
| 30's      | F   | QLD   | A WOMAN in her 30s has sustained possible internal injuries after her quad bike rolled on her.   | Y                  | Y              |
| LATE 30's | F   | QLD   | A WOMAN in her late 30s was taken to hospital after flipping a quad bike on private property.  | Y                  | Y              |
| 40's      | M   | QLD   | A MAN in his 40s has suspected spinal injuries after a quad bike accident at Manar Park, Boondooma.  | N                  | Unknown        |
| 50's      | M   | WA    | THE emergency rescue helicopter has been sent to a property in the state's South-West for a man injured in a quad bike accident. Emergency services said the injured man was in his 50s, conscious and breathing.                            | N                  | Y              |
| 50's      | M   | VIC   | The driver had overturned his quadbike in extremely hilly terrain on private property.   | Y                  | Y              |
| 60's      | M   | QLD   | A RACQ CareFlight spokesperson said the cattleman was injured trying to chase down a beast that had broken away from the herd. It's believed his quad bike rolled breaking his collarbone and inflicting potentially serious chest injuries. | Y                  | Y              |

| Age     | Sex     | State | Description of Event   | Rollover Yes or No | Farm Yes or No |
|---------|---------|-------|--|--------------------|----------------|
| Unknown | M       | TAS   | A man has been taken to hospital with suspected rib injuries following a quad bike crash near St Marys in Tasmania.  | N                  | N              |
| Unknown | M       | QLD   | A QUAD bike crash in the South Burnett has left a boy in hospital with head, back and chest injuries.  | N                  | Unknown        |
| Unknown | M       | WA    | A man has been airlifted to Royal Perth Hospital following a quad bike crash in Lancelin.  | N                  | N              |
| Unknown | F       | QLD   | A Kilcoy woman was airlifted to hospital following a quad bike accident on a property north-west of Jimna on the weekend.  | N                  | Y              |
| Unknown | M       | QLD   | A quad bike crash near Yamba, 36km north of Rockhampton, has left a man nursing serious hand and back injuries. The man was mustering cattle when he fell from the bike. | N                  | Y              |
| Unknown | M       | VIC   | A MAN was taken to hospital after falling off his quad bike at a Grassmere private property on Wednesday.  | N                  | Y              |
| Unknown | M       | TAS   | A MAN has been flown to the Royal Hobart Hospital after crashing his quad bike on the outskirts of Scottsdale.   | N                  | Unknown        |
| Unknown | M       | TAS   | A QUAD bike rider and pillion passenger were thrown from the vehicle in a crash.   | N                  | N              |
| Unknown | M       | TAS   | A QUAD bike rider and pillion passenger were thrown from the vehicle in a crash.   | N                  | N              |
| Unknown | M       | QLD   | A man has been taken to hospital with neck injuries after falling off his quad bike in Queensland.   | N                  | Y              |
| Unknown | F       | NT    | The woman was riding a quad bike in a remote spot south of Wagait Beach on Cox Peninsular Rd when she crashed into a ditch and speared forward headfirst.                | N                  | N              |
| Unknown | M       | QLD   | It is believed the man suffered pelvic injuries from a quad bike accident on a property on Pikedale Rd on Friday.  | N                  | Y              |
| Unknown | M       | QLD   | EMERGENCY services are responding to reports of a quad bike rollover at Bungundarra. Initial reports suggest a teenager was involved in the accident.                    | Y                  | Unknown        |
| Unknown | Unknown | NSW   | The aircraft was called to South Ballina where a quad bike had rolled while travelling about 30 km/h on a dirt road.   | Y                  | Y              |