

Australian Farm Deaths & Injuries Media Monitors Snapshot January 1 - December 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 December 31st, 2018. It also captures non-farm quad related fatality and injury over the same period.

Deaths

There were approximately 79,200 media articles received by the NFIDC from Meltwater during the period. A total of 67 on-farm deaths (Figure 1), were reported:

- The overall number of fatal on-farm cases (n=67) is slightly lower than the corresponding period in 2017 (n=68).
- Nine of the 67 deaths involved a child aged under 15 years.
- Tractors (n=9), utes (n=7) and quads (n=6) were reported most frequently.
- Media monitoring also captures non-farm quad related fatality. There were five additional fatal injury events that occurred off-farm for this period (i.e. there were a total of 11 quad related deaths nationally including farm and non-farm cases).

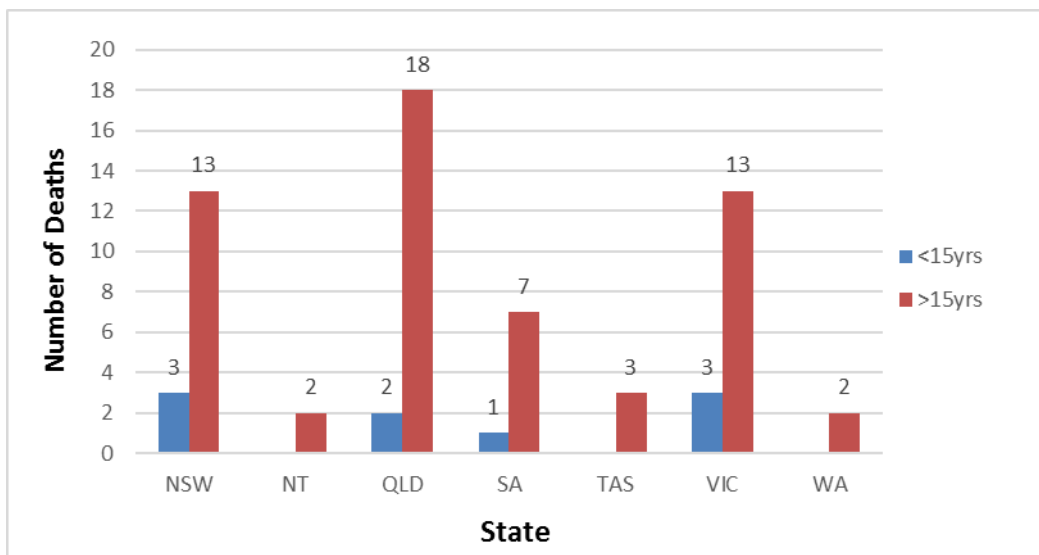


Figure 1: On-farm deaths reported in Australian media by age and state, 1st Jan- 31st Dec 2018.

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

Category	Agent	2017			2018		
		<15yrs	≥15yrs	Total	<15yrs	≥15yrs	Total
Animal	Cattle		4	4		3	3
	Horse		1	1	1	2	3
	Insect		1	1			
	Snake					1	1
	Animal NEC*					1	1
Farm Structure	Dam		1	1		2	2
	Electric Fence				1	1	2
	Powerline					2	2
	Silo		1	1			
	Water Storage	1	3	4		1	1
Farm Vehicle	Aircraft		1	1		1	1
	Car				2	1	3
	Motorcycle		2	2	2	3	5
	Quad	3	8	11		6	6
	Side By Side	1	1	2		1	1
	Trailer					1	1
	Truck	1	3	4		3	3
	Utility		1	1	2	5	7
	Farm Vehicles NEC*					1	1
Materials	Hay Bale					3	3
	Rope		1	1			
Mobile Farm Machinery	Earth Moving Equipment					1	1
	Fertiliser Spreader		1	1			
	Grader		1	1			
	Grain Auger					1	1
	Hay Baler					1	1
	Harvesting Machine		1	1			
	Locomotive		1	1			
	Slasher					1	1
	Tractor	1	12	13	1	8	9
	Mobile Farm Machinery NEC*	1	4	5			

Other	Firearm					1	1
	Other NEC*	1	1	2			
Powered Equipment	Ride on Mower		1	1			
Working Environment	Fire/smoke/flame		2	2		3	3
	Heat		1	1			
	Lightning/storm		1	1			
	Log					1	1
	Trees being felled		4	4		3	3
Workshop Equipment	Grinder NEC*		1	1			
TOTAL		9	59	68	9	58	67

*NEC: Not elsewhere classified

Non-fatal Injury

There were an additional 155 non-fatal on-farm injury events reported in the Australian media for the period 1st January - 31st December 2018.

- The overall number of non-fatal on-farm cases (n=155), is lower than the corresponding period in 2017 (n=179).
- Twenty-two of the 155 injury events involved children aged under 15 years.
- Quad related injury (n=26), accounted for almost 15% of all incidents. This was closely followed by tractor incidents (n=21), motorcycle (n=21) and horse related incidents (n=19).
- For quads (Figure 2), there were 29 additional injuries that occurred off-farm (i.e. there were a total of 57 quad related non-fatal injuries nationally, including farm and non-farm cases).

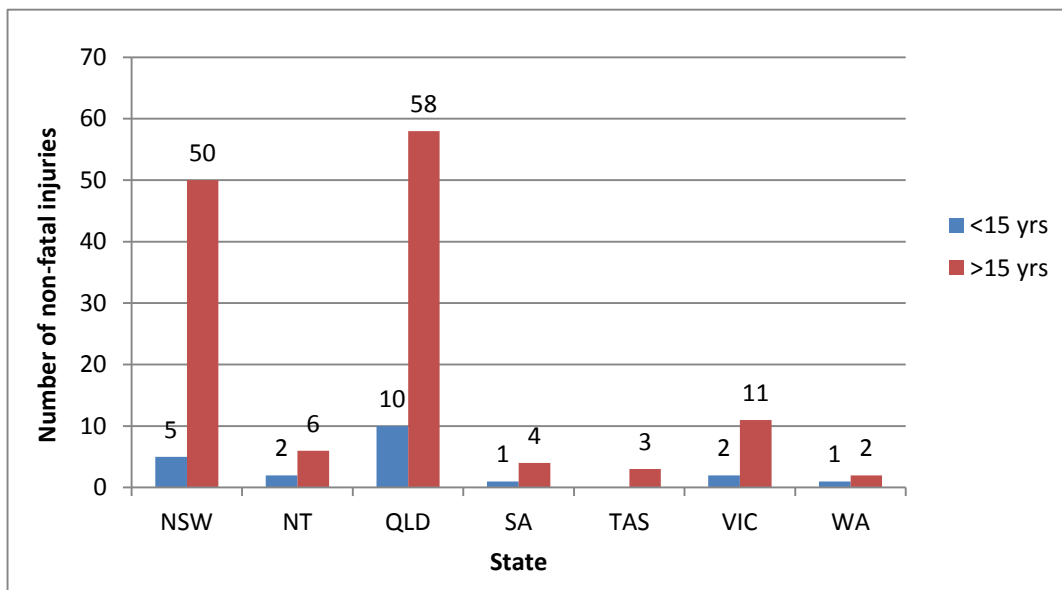


Figure 2: On-farm non-fatal injury events reported in Australian print media, 1st Jan- 31st Dec 2018.

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

Category	Agent	2018		
		<15yrs	≥15yrs	Total
Animal	Cattle		10	10
	Horse	4	15	19
Farm Structure	Powerline		3	3
	Shed/roof/water tank		1	1
Farm Vehicle	Aircraft		2	2
	Car		2	2
	Motorcycle	6	15	21
	Quad	2	24	26
	Side By Side Vehicle		3	3
	Tuck		3	3
	Utility	1	3	4
Fixed Plant/Equipment	Fixed Plant/Equipment NEC		1	1
Materials	Pipe		2	2
	Steel		2	2
	Wire	2		2
Mobile Farm Machinery/Plant	Auger		1	1
	Cherry Picker		1	1
	Forklift	1	1	2
	Harvesting Machine		3	3
	Mobile Stock Feed Equipment	2	2	4
	Tractor	2	19	21
	Mobile Farm Machinery/Plant NEC*		2	2
Powered Equipment	Chainsaw		3	3
Working Environment	Branch/Stick/Twig		2	2
	Fire/Smoke/Flame		2	2
	Ground/rock/stump/hole		1	1
	Tree being felled		2	2
Workshop Equipment	Grinder		1	1
Others	Firearm	2	5	7
	Other NEC		2	2
TOTAL		22	133	155

*NEC: Not elsewhere classified