

Australian Farm Deaths & Injuries Media Monitors Snapshot January 1 – March 31, 2019

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, 2019. It also captures non-farm quad related fatality and injury over the same period.

Deaths

There were approximately 21,500 print and media articles received by the NFIDC from Meltwater during the period. A total of 15 on-farm deaths were reported:

- The overall number of fatal on-farm cases (n=15) is slightly higher than the corresponding period in 2018 (n=13).
- Two of the 15 deaths involved a child aged under 15 years.
- Quads (n=3) were reported most frequently.

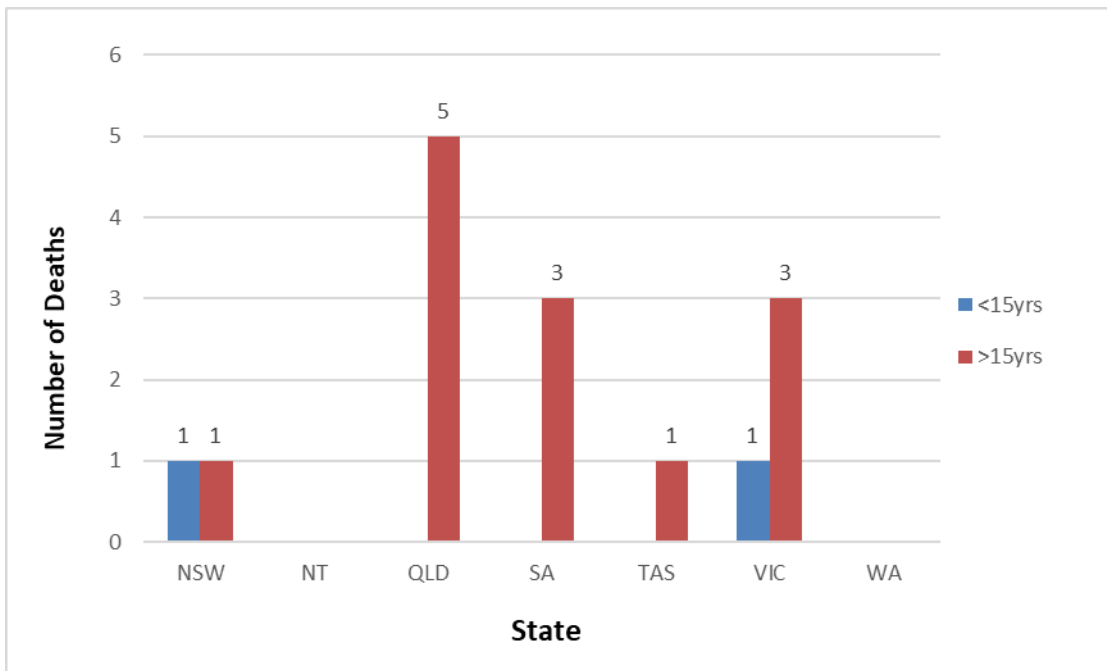


Figure 1: On-farm deaths reported in Australian media by age and state, 1st Jan- 31st Mar 2019.

Table 1: Agents of injury causing on-farm death as reported in Australian media by age, 1st Jan- 31st Mar 2018 and 1st Jan- 31st Mar 2019.

Category	Agent	2018			2019		
		<15yrs	≥15yrs	Total	<15yrs	≥15yrs	Total
Animal	Cattle		1	1			
	Horse		1	1			
Farm Structure	Dam		2	2			
	Farm Structure NEC *					1	1
Farm Vehicle	Aircraft						
	Car					1	1
	Helicopter						
	Motorbike		1	1		2	2
	Quad					3	3
	Side By Side Vehicle				1		1
	Truck		2	2			
	Trailer						
	Utility		1	1		1	1
Materials	Rope						
Mobile Farm Machinery / Plant	Earth Moving Equipment					1	1
	Fertiliser Spreader				1		1
	Field Bin					1	1
	Planter/Seeder					1	1
	Tractor					1	1
	Mobile Farm Machinery / Plant NEC *					1	1
Other	Powerline		1	1			
Working Environment	Fire/smoke/flame		1	1			
	Lightning/storm						
	Log		1	1			
	Trees being felled		2	2			
TOTAL		0	13	13	2	13	15

*NEC: Not elsewhere classified

Non-fatal Injury

There were an additional 42 non-fatal on-farm injury events reported in the Australian media for the period 1st January – 31st March 2019.

- Six (14.3%) of the 42 injury events involved children aged under 15 years.
- Quad related injury (n=8) accounted for almost 20% of all incidents. This was followed by ute related incidents (n=7), horse related incidents (n=6) tractor related incidents (n=5).
- For quads, there were thirteen additional injuries that occurred off-farm (i.e. there were a total of 21 quad related non-fatal injuries nationally including farm and non-farm cases reported).

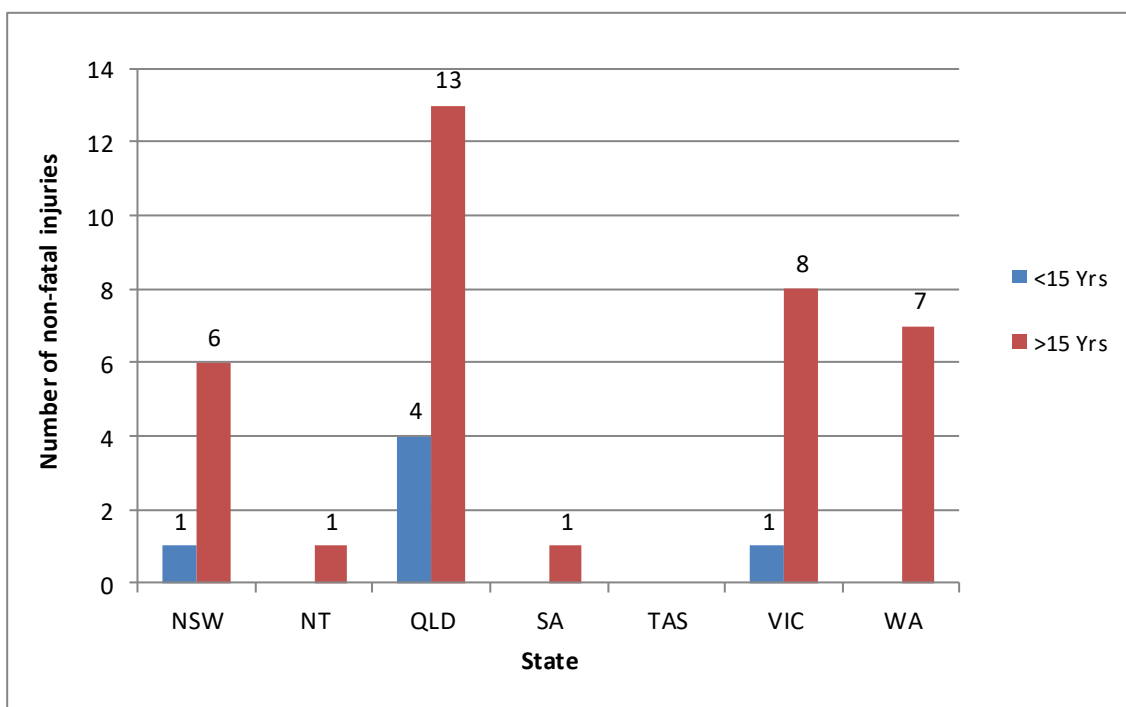


Figure 2: On-farm non-fatal injury events reported in Australian print media, 1st Jan- 31st Mar 2019.

Table 2: Agents of on-farm non-fatal injury as reported in Australian print media, 1st Jan- 31st Mar 2019.

Category	Agent	2018		
		<15yrs	≥15yrs	Total
Animal	Cattle		3	3
	Horse	1	5	6
Farm Vehicle	Car	1		1
	Motorbike		1	1
	Quad	2	6	8
	Side By Side Vehicle	1	1	2
	Truck		1	1
	Utility	1	6	7
Fixed Plant Equipment	Pump		1	1
Materials	Steel		2	2
Mobile Farm Machinery/Plant	Earth Moving Equipment		2	2
	Slasher/Mower/Conditioner		1	1
	Tractor		5	5
Other	Firearms		1	1
Workshop Equipment	Ladder		1	1
TOTAL		6	36	42

*NEC: Not elsewhere classified