

Child Safety on Farms



*A framework
for a national
strategy*

Farmsafe Australia

- Working to improve the well being
and productivity of Australian Agriculture
through enhanced health and safety
awareness and practices



**CHILD SAFETY ON FARMS:
A FRAMEWORK FOR A NATIONAL
STRATEGY IN AUSTRALIA**

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FOREWORD

Farmsafe Australia is a partnership of industry and government agencies with a common goal to improve the well being and productivity of Australian Agriculture through enhanced health and safety awareness. The National Strategy for Child Safety on Farms has been developed within this context.

The strategic framework is deliberately directional and not directive in nature. While Farmsafe Australia's philosophy is that the key responsibility for farm safety rests with the individual farmers, farm families and farm workers, it also has an important role in providing direction and support through pursuing unified and multidisciplinary strategies to ensure child safety interests are optimally served on Australian farms. The National Strategy for Child Safety on Farms has been developed through a consultative process and has drawn on various areas of expertise to ensure that it is of direct benefit to the farming community as well as a success intersectorally. Farmsafe Australia will endeavour to facilitate the program of action outlined in the current strategy to ensure that farm parents will be provided with advice and guidance about practical and effective ways to protect the safety of children growing up in the farm environment.

This strategic framework will provide the platform from which a range of action programs will be launched to ensure this long term vision.

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CHILD SAFETY ON FARMS: A FRAMEWORK FOR A NATIONAL STRATEGY IN AUSTRALIA

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Introduction

Children's motor and cognitive skills develop rapidly throughout their early years and exposure to a wide range of environments and social experiences will enhance the child's development.

Meeting children's needs for growth and development is important to all parents. However, a balance is required between a 'safe' environment and one which is stimulating and supportive of child development. In the rural context, the issue of child safety needs to be considered in a much broader dimension as parents must consider the safety of the child in the home, in the workplace and often in the context of geographical isolation.

Injury is a major cause of morbidity and mortality in Australian children. Studies overseas and in Australia suggest that farm children are over-represented in both fatal and non-fatal work related accidents.

Government and farm safety organisations in a number of other countries including the United States, Canada, Great Britain and New Zealand have identified child safety as a priority issue. Resources are being allocated to the development of programs and resource material for education and promotion in an effort to reduce the problem.

In Australia, a Farmsafe Australia paper entitled *Child Safety on Farms: Preliminary Issues* was prepared in March 1997 in response to increased community concern over the unacceptably high rate of accidental injury occurring to children, aged 0-14 years, on farms. The paper aimed to identify key issues and stakeholders for the development of an agreed approach to reducing the risk of injury, disability and death for children on Australian farms.

The aim of this paper is to report on the key issues that were identified in the preliminary paper and to provide a framework for the development of an Australian National Strategy for Child Safety on Farms. It is clear that a concerted effort on the part of industry, government and educational institutions, in consultation with farming families, is needed to address these issues.

NATURE AND SIZE OF THE PROBLEM

Recent estimates of the farming population report that there are approximately 39 050 males and 33 787 females aged between 0-19 years who reside on farms.¹ These estimates are based on census data pertaining to the demographics of owner manager households and other farm households on farms (which include employees, relatives, etc). Both males and females of this age group account for approximately 12% and 10% respectively of the wider farming population. The estimates reported by Garnaut and Lim-Applegate (1998) for this age group are provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Estimated on-farm resident population of children and adolescents 1990/91 and 1994/95.

Age group	1990/91		1994/1995	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0-4	12107	11076	10247	7500
5-14	17038	18569	18543	17046
15-19	8302	8562	10260	9241

The above data are population estimates based survey responses of a proportion of all farm establishments. Estimates were based on weighted data that took into account the numbers of farms in geographic regions and the particular commodity groups represented.¹

Mortality data to define the nature of child injuries on farms and develop a national strategy was provided by the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission for the period 1989-1992.² There were 117 child fatalities on farms between 1 January 1989 and 31 December 1992. Of these, 89 (75.4%) were male and 29 (24.6%) were female. The average age for males was 5.16 years and the average age for females was 2.9 years. Bodies of water were the most common agent of injury for children aged 0-4 years, for older children the most common agents were vehicles and tractors.

¹ Garnaut, J. and Lim-Applegate, H. (1998). *People in farming*. Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics Research Report 98.6: Canberra.

² Franklin, R., Mitchell, R., Driscoll, T., and Fragar, L. (1999). *Farm related fatalities 1989-1992*. Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety: Moree (Draft).

Table 2: Agent of Injury, child fatalities, 1989 – 1992

Agent	0-4 years	5-9 years	10-14 years	Total
Vehicle	12	7	12	31
Tractor	7	2	2	11
Other machinery	4	1	1	6
Body of water	43	5	1	49
Horse	1	3	1	5
Other animal	1	0	0	1
Other	6	7	1	14
Total	74	25	18	117

Overall, there were approximately 30 childhood fatalities per annum, with deaths being recorded in all states. Table 3 presents child farm fatalities by state in terms of a rate per 10 000 farms. This rate highlights the variability of child deaths per year across states. The number of agricultural establishments used as the denominator data for this table was taken from Agstats 1993-1994.³

Table 3: Number of child fatalities on farms by state, 1989 - 1992 (N=118).

State	No. of child deaths, 1989-1992	Child deaths per 10 000 farms per annum (95% CI)
Queensland	29	2.1 (0.58 – 3.66)
New South Wales	32	1.9 (0.57 – 3.16)
Victoria	34	2.3 (0.75 – 3.81)
Tasmania	3	1.6 (-2.03 – 5.25)
South Australia	5	0.8 (-0.58 – 2.11)
Western Australia	16	2.2 (-0.19 – 4.66)
Northern Territory	1	7.9 (-23.09 – 38.91)
Australia	117	1.9 (1.24 – 2.65)

Figures 1 and 2 present child injuries based on presentations to hospital emergency departments in the North West Plains of NSW and coastal NSW. This data is provided to demonstrate how the agents of injury change with the geographic area. As noted earlier the commodity produced is predominantly a function of the geography. Of note is horse related injury which in the North west was responsible for 8.3 percent of emergency department presentations, whereas horse related injury accounted for 31.3 percent of injuries in coastal areas. Also of note is motorcycle related injury which for the North West and coastal areas account for 27.1 percent and 6.3 percent of emergency department presentations respectively.

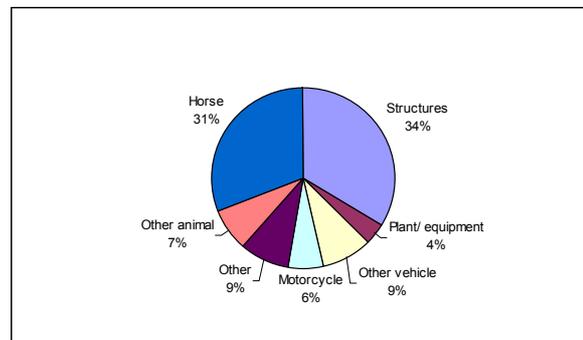
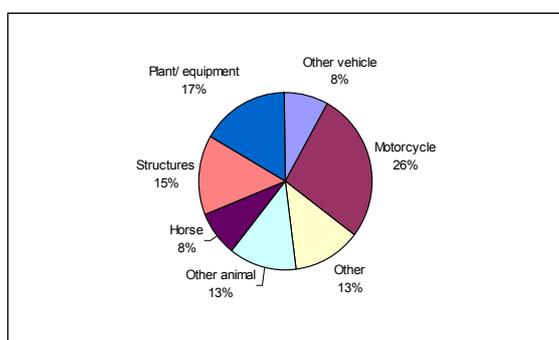


Figure 1: Agent of child on-farm injury presenting to hospital EDs – North West Plains

Figure 2: Agent of child on-farm injury presenting to hospital EDs - Coast

³ Australian Bureau of Statistics (1995). *Agstats 1993-94*. Australian Bureau of Statistics Catalogue No. 7119.0: Canberra

Differences between state exist also. Figures 3 and 4 enable a comparison between Victorian and NSW hospital admissions data. As can be observed, motorcycle injuries account for 31 and 33 percent of separations respectively. Horse related injuries (comprised within 'animal ridden') present a different pattern. While accounting for 30 percent of hospital separations for children in NSW, horse related injury is more modestly represented with 8 percent in Victoria. This data suggests that the nature and underlying mechanisms of child injury on farms are not homogeneous and reflect the diversity of agricultural commodities produced in Australia and the differences between the various production processes that exist.

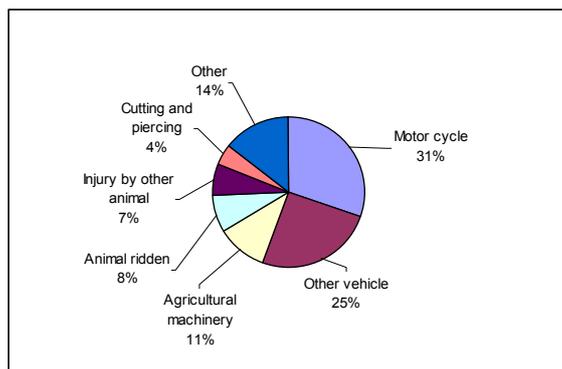


Figure 3: Agent of child on farm injury – Victorian hospital separations 1993-1998

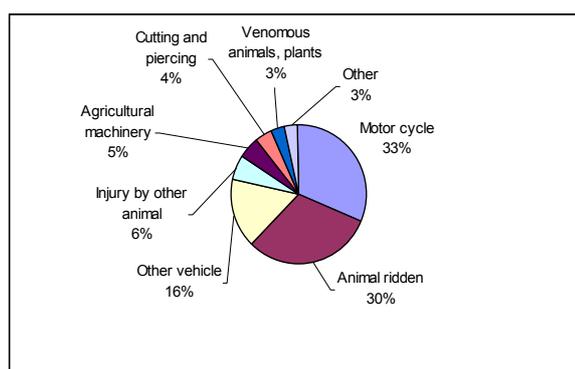


Figure 4: Agent of child on farm injury – NSW hospital separations 1993-1996

The agricultural context of child farm injury is more explicitly presented in Table 4. As can be observed the agricultural activity is a significant factor in the number of child farm injuries. A large proportion of injuries were apparent in older children where horse riding or ag-bike riding was the activity. Of particular relevance however are the injuries occurring whilst engaging in specific agricultural work. These injuries account for approximately 13 percent of all injuries presented here.

Table 4: Agricultural context of child farm injury presenting to hospital EDs in 2 NSW zones Dec 1990 - Nov 1991

Context/activity	0-4 years	5-14 years	Total
Cattle work		3	3
Dairy work			
Sheep work		2	2
Grain production			
Cotton work		1	1
Farm maintenance		7	7
Other work		4	4
Horse riding		24	24
Agbike riding		16	16
Driving/riding other		9	9
Leisure	19	35	54
Household activity		2	2
Unknown	2	3	5
Total	21	106	127

DIMENSIONS OF THE PROBLEM

The dimensions of the problems of child safety on farms and the issues, which must be addressed, have been identified and include:

Child growth and development

Traditionally, the farm environment has been able to provide the child with valuable experiences that have enabled children to develop both socially and physically, even though they are in an isolated setting.

Children are extremely curious but lack adult judgement. They are small enough to get past protective barriers and shields that would stop most adults, so there is a strong need to identify hazards from a child's perspective. For each age group, the child's developmental characteristics, data on the cause of death or injury, preventive strategies and developmentally appropriate work tasks need to be considered.

As children mature they may begin to participate in farming activities. This is an important issue that requires acknowledgment. It is important that children of this age become actively involved in developing an understanding of the benefits of safe practices on farms.

Farm family needs and aspirations

Raising children on a farm offers many advantages. Children and adolescents can increase their sense of independence and responsibility through working on the farm at an early age, and have an opportunity to develop strong family relationships through life and work on the farm.

However, the fact that farmers' work and social life are so closely interconnected can put children at an increased risk of injury for a number of different reasons.

- A farm is both a home and a workplace, with no child minding facilities nearby. Often for social/economic reasons, both parents must work either on-farm or off-farm and simultaneously look after their children. Provision of suitable child care is difficult under these circumstances.
- Pressure to 'get jobs done' on the farm may result in the perceived need for children to work with dangerous equipment and vehicles at an early age.
- There may be times when the stress of living in rural conditions (eg. drought, economic pressures, social isolation and suicide) may affect family dynamics and the mental health of both parents and children.

Many farms are businesses that have been successfully run by families for several generations. Whilst farm parents strive to provide a successful business that can be maintained in the future, traditional practices may affect the safety of the child. These include that fact that;

- Most farm parents experienced hard work as a child
- Children are accepted as part of the farm workforce, particularly as they grow older
- Previously many farmers may have accepted injury as being inevitable

- Parents are role models and whilst their work practices may be safe for an adult, they may need to be modified for children.

Maintenance of the family unit is important and there is a need for a family based program that explains risks to farmers and suggests how simple preventive actions can be incorporated into farm practices.

Rural economy and farm business management

In Australia, the agricultural industry has been undergoing continuous restructuring in order to positively meet changing technologies, products, markets and prices. The process of rural restructuring has impacted on farms and farming communities in several ways.

- The number of farming establishments has decreased while the size of farms has increased allowing farmers to increase productivity.
- Farming methods have changed in response to new technologies enabling farms to be managed more intensively.
- Migration of younger people to areas with greater employment opportunities means that the structure of farm families and labour requirements have changed.
- Downsizing of rural communities may result in the closure of schools and other services such as child-care and health services.

These changes may impact both directly and indirectly on child safety.

Occupational Health and Safety Management in the agricultural sector

The needs of children under 15 years are not usually considered under occupational health and safety legislative arrangements. However, children on farms are at high risk of injury because farming is one of the occupations where children less than 15 years of age not only comprise a significant part of the workforce but live and play at the work-site.

- The risks for children are similar to those faced by all people on farms. However the nature and degree of the risks will change according to the commodity being produced and the age of the child.
- Children aged 10-14 within this context are at high risk because this is the age when they begin to participate in farm activities that require the use of powered machinery and equipment.

There is a pressing need to communicate the preventability of workplace injury. People need to understand that something so tragic and apparently random has known causes and controls. There is a need to manage risks on farms using known hazard identification, risk assessment, and risk control principles to ensure that appropriate control hierarchies are implemented;

- Where possible, elimination of the hazard for all those at risk (eg. separate children from the workplace on farms)

- Substitution for a lesser hazard (eg. the use of small concrete troughs for watering stock rather than a dam)
- Work practices and family rules to ensure safety (eg. not asking the child to do too much, anticipating lapses in the child's judgment and obedience, educating the child about the dangers on the farm)

Child Care

Child care is an important issue for both children and parents. Child care provides opportunities for children to develop social skills and assists parents who can work without worrying about the adequacy of supervision for their children.

Concerns have been expressed about access and equity to child care services. The need for child care services may vary according to farming activities. There is a need for responsive child care programs that will assist rural and isolated families with child care. Consideration should be given to the following;

- Safe play environments
- Consideration of what can be done without additional cost
- Available support mechanisms and networks of small children's service centres
- Development of rural/isolated child care networks with paid outreach workers
- Provision of support and training to children's service providers
- In home care service

Education and training of children and young people for farm work

The education and training of young people for farm work requires a collaborative effort on the part of farm families, schools, colleges and health workers. The needs of farm families, children and teachers must be met.

Children must be able to :

- Identify hazards
- Perform their own assessment of risk
- Know how to act if they find something 'unsafe'.

Parents are important role models for children. Parents need to be aware of their children's developmental ability before asking them to perform tasks, and to ensure that their children know the rules about safety on their own farm. It is important that parents set a good example and provide support for other educators.

Any educational strategy needs to take into account the nationally developed curriculum frameworks. A variety of educational activities and material should be used to ensure that they are appropriate for children in all stages of development. Educational activities should address a wide variety of problems that children may be confronted with, particularly emphasising local and commodity specific 'high risk' issues. This education should include the emergency response as appropriate for different age groups.

Many teachers and health educators working in rural areas may lack training in farm safety or not understand how injuries are prevented. It is important that they have an opportunity to develop these skills if required. In addition, teachers require access to suitable resource materials for all age groups.

Child protection

Community values change over time. In recent years, there has been community support and concern for the rights of children. The issues of child protection for children on farms is a special case that needs careful consideration.

The safety of the child is the most important issue. Practically applying this notion in some cases can become difficult for farm parents. Leaving a child unattended for any length of time is now seen by some of the wider community as constituting child abuse and neglect. However the concept of neglect becomes distorted and inaccurate when applied to the farm environment.

Various states have developed Child Care and Protection Acts, many of which are currently under review. However, there is no uniformity between the states and there are no specific awards or legislation to cover children working on farms. Regulations that relate to child work conditions not only need to consider the work environment, but also the importance of the child participating in family activities.

Farm family access to information

An important issue for farm families is that of access to current and accurate information. Geographic and social isolation from the wider community is something that can limit access to relevant and current information. To date good information has not been readily available to guide parents in ensuring that they are aware of the risks and the relevant risk control mechanisms for children on farms. The best networks to communicate this type of information need to be identified.

FRAMEWORK FOR THE STRATEGY

Farmsafe Australia and its member agencies are committed to the development and implementation of a national strategy. Farmsafe Australia also acknowledge existing related strategies such as the National Water Safety Plan, the National Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy, the National Strategic Plan for Injury Prevention and Control, and the Managing Farm Safety Program. Where appropriate commonalities between these strategic approaches will be utilised to ensure that the issue of child safety on farms is addressed efficiently. It is noted that there is a very large gap between developing a strategy at national or state level and the practicalities of implementing it at a local level. Resources at the ground level are minimal and local groups often demand that their issues be addressed without any long term commitment to resource development - both financial and human. If prevention is to be achieved, long term commitment from government agencies and other sectors to shift resources into areas of prevention is required. It is planned that this strategy will provide the platform from which a range of action programs will be launched to ensure this long term vision.

Policy Statement

The maintenance and protection of the health, well being and safety of children on Australian farms is a priority for Farmsafe Australia and its member organisations. Farmsafe Australia accepts the relevance and importance of developing and implementing a broad ranging strategy aimed at reducing the incidence of injury and death of children aged 0-14 years on Australian farms.

Commitment to action

The member organisations of Farmsafe Australia and the organisations represented in the development of this strategic plan are committed to enacting processes and programs which seek to improve child safety on farms. Each organisation will be responsible for the on-going activities that are relevant for their members, however, cooperation between organisation will be encouraged to ensure the best use of resources and knowledge.

Structure of the strategy

The remainder of this document is divided into eight components which are based on the issues papers previously presented. These components are:

1. Establish a national framework for action
2. Identification of key hazards for children on farms
3. Identification of effective strategies to control key injury risks
4. Identification of educational needs and development of resources for children, parents and teachers
5. Identification and development of flexible child care options
6. Promotion of strategies to farm parents, farm managers, schools, service providers and others
7. Identification of further research needs
8. Evaluation of the national strategic plan

Each of these components will now be addressed separately, however it is acknowledged that there is considerable overlap between them and that action in all components will be necessary to significantly improve child safety on farms. It is envisaged that the following plan will be based on a timeframe of five years.

1. Establish a national framework for action – *Involving the stakeholders.*

Aim:

To develop a nationally coordinated framework of key stakeholders to achieve the goal of reducing the incidence of injury and deaths of children on Australian farms and rural properties.

Rationale:

The problem of child safety on farms is multi-dimensional, consequently the solutions will require input from a wide range of interested parties. The development of a national strategy should use a multi-layered approach, based on consultation with farm parents, rural communities, peak organisations, government and professionals. There needs to be a long-term commitment to the development and resourcing of a strategy for child safety on farms that can be effectively initiated or incorporated into existing/ongoing programs.

A communication system needs to be established that allows information to flow between all stakeholders and establishment of relevant partnerships for action.

Objectives:

1. Establishment of a National Reference Group under the auspices of Farmsafe Australia with state representation to:
 - Determine the goals and objectives for the strategic plan
 - Develop strategies to achieve the goals and objectives
 - Prepare or review resource materials as required
 - Distribute draft material to the wider reference group
 - Pilot and evaluate proposed programs
 - Monitor the implementation and evaluation of the strategy
2. Establishment of a wider Advisory Group representing the key stakeholders. The role of the Advisory Group will be to:
 - Assist the Reference Group by defining problems and proposing solutions
 - Review resources developed by the Reference Group.
 - Receive information from the Reference Group and feed back relevant information
 - Act as advocates for the programs, projects and resource material included in the strategy
3. Commitment of key agencies to work within the National Child Safety on Farms strategic framework.
4. Development of functional communication mechanisms to ensure the free flow of information and input into the strategy from all key stakeholders

2. Identification of key hazards for children on farms – *Defining the problem.*

Aim

To develop and maintain a child injury profile defining key agents of injury and risk factors that are associated with child injury on farms.

Rationale

Currently available data show that the mortality and morbidity rates differ between states and the causes of death differ between age groups. Further work is required to define the key causes of injury, and to define the associated risk factors. Further work is required to define the key causes of injury, to define the associated risk factors and points of intervention, and to standardise the collection and collation of relevant injury data.

Objectives

1. A formal review of data and published reports
2. Development and implementation of a systematic approach to the collection and dissemination of injury /illness data about child safety on farms applying a minimum data set.
3. Institution of the National Child Deaths on Farms Register, with regular reports (Appendix 1).
4. Definition of agents of injury and death of children determined by age group, state and industry
5. Definition of associated risk factors associated with child injury and death determined and reported
6. Dissemination of reports to key networks

3. Identification of effective solutions, and strategies to prevent injury – *Gathering the evidence*

Aim

To identify effective solutions and strategies for parents and farm managers to address key hazards and to disseminate information in a positive way to assist parents in preventing injury to children on farms.

To identify the most effective methods to disseminate information on these strategies.

To identify effective solutions for the protection of children at risk of intentional injury in the rural setting

Rationale

Injury prevention models in occupational road safety and other arenas use strategies that include a mix of environmental and engineering modification, regulation or enforcement, and education and training.

While technical solutions may appear obvious for the commonly occurring causes of child death and injury on farms, there is little evidence available of the effectiveness of these solutions in reducing the incidence of injury and death.

Further, there is inadequate information regarding options to address the other causal factors that may be important – age at which children can safely undertake farm tasks, flexible child care etc

More work is required to:

- Identify and define effective solutions to reduce child injury problems on farms
- Define the most appropriate promotion of these solutions – education and training, community promotion, legislation etc.

Immediate attention to the following issues is required:

- Drowning of children aged 0-4 years
- Farm machinery injury and death of children aged 0-4 years
- Farm machinery injury and death of children aged 5-14 years
- Farm motorcycle injury and death of children aged 5-14 years
- Other farm vehicle injury and death of children aged 0-4 years
- Other farm vehicle injury and death of children aged 5-14 years

Objectives

1. A catalogue of currently available evidence based solutions to the common causes of child injury problems on farms, starting with those listed above
2. A review report from other sectors eg road safety
3. Development of a resource which defines the cognitive and physical skills required by children to perform a range of activities
4. Identification and examination of rural child protection issues and strategies.
5. Investigation of options for government support by way of tax concessions and provision of subsidies

4. Identification of educational needs and resources required for children, parents and teachers – *Providing educational tools.*

Aim

To develop and deliver information aimed at children and adults to develop the necessary knowledge, attitudes, and skills to identify hazards on the farm and take the appropriate safety action.

Such information should be linked with the outcomes of programs to identify key hazards and their solutions outlined in the preceding components 2 and 3.

Rationale

A range of educational programs and resources for children, parents and teachers have been developed in Australia, and overseas. These need to be evaluated from the perspective of:

- Child safety on farms needs in Australia
- Identified effective solutions
- The National Curriculum framework
- Suitability for use in other educational settings
- Best practice principles of education and injury prevention

Objectives

1. Collation and review of all available educational material addressing child safety on farms – to include evaluation against agreed criteria of effectiveness
2. Development of suitable educational resources targeting children for use:
 - In schools
 - At promotions
 - In the media etc
3. Production of a professional development package to be used in conjunction with child safety resources.
4. Incorporation of existing curricula in schools – this may involve inservice training for teachers and others.
5. Promotion of existing resources
6. Inclusion of child safety on farms education in the Managing Farm Safety course

5. Identification and development of flexible child care options – *Helping parents make practical arrangements*

Aim

To provide parents of children on farms with a range of flexible childcare suggestions to reduce the risk of injury associated with child supervision problems.

Rationale

Supervision of children may be difficult in many instances where parents are occupied with farming or off-farm employment. Parents of small children on farms in some industries have developed their own practical solutions. For example some dairies have been modified to include a play room where children can be supervised without exposure to risks in the milking area.

Moves are being made by government agencies to define the range of options which might include mobile home based care, travel on school buses, and the provision of occasional child care during peak activity. More flexible child care services need to be identified and be available for farm parents.

Objectives

1. Definition of child care needs of farm parents defined by state and industry
2. Collation of information on existing family solutions
3. Research to investigate flexible models for delivering child care
4. Review of and/or research into the relationship between child injury and access to child care and supervision
5. Mobilisation of a group to advocate for research and provision of child care services

6. Promotion of solutions and strategies to farm parents, farm managers, and others – *Getting the message out*

Aim

To promote the adoption of ‘best practice’ with regard to child safety on farms by farm families and farm managers

Rationale

Parents and farm managers need to be informed about the size and nature of the child injury problem on farms, and about effective control measures to reduce risk.

The promotion of such must involve community education, use of the media, formal education and training strategies, and enforcement of legislation where appropriate.

Objectives

1. Implementation of a national child safety on farms promotion strategy, with agreed action by participating agencies. Criteria to be achieved include:
 - Target audience is clearly identified and addressed.
 - Relevant message and media used for the target group
 - Uniformity of the messages presented – conflicting messages will be counterproductive
 - Lack of duplication of effort
 - Effective utilisation of key networks of communication

7. Identification of further research needs – *Filling the information gaps.*

Aim

To define a program of research to address information gaps and needs in the area of child injury on farms.

Rationale

There are many areas where there are gaps in information to effectively reduce child injury on farms. These include:

- Determination and testing of the stages of development at which children can safely undertake tasks on farms
- Definition of other associated risk factors leading to child injury deaths on farms
- Evaluation of untested strategies
- Investigation of current safety designs to determine their effectiveness. For example the size of machinery guards

Objectives

1. Definition of a program of research
2. Funding of a program of research

8. Evaluation of the national strategy – *Is it working?*

Aim

To ensure that child safety on farms programs implemented are effective in achieving their goals

Rationale

Governments and industry are committed to support programs based on evidence of their effectiveness.

Evaluation of the National Child Safety on Farms Strategy should be planned at the outset, and should include evaluation of all component programs. The experiences of overseas programs should be taken into account.

Objectives

1. A program evaluation strategy
2. All programs implemented as part of this strategy should have an evaluation component and regular reporting of outcomes.
3. A report pertaining to the progress of implementation of the National Strategy on an annual basis.

Child deaths on farm register

The National Farm Injury Data Centre at the Australian Agricultural Health Unit has established a “Child Deaths on Farms Register” for Farmsafe Australia to assist in improving child safety on farms.

The aims of the register are to:

- Determine the nature and scale of the problem of child deaths on farms in Australia.
- Inform farming community, governments, health workers and others, about the problem of child fatalities on farms, to ensure that programs and strategies are relevant and effective.
- Provide guidance to programs aimed at reducing child death and injury
- Monitor progress of programs.

Information will be collected from all available sources in Australia including coroners’ data, workplace health authorities and child death review teams. Data items that are contained in the register are listed on the following page.

Injury and illness data

Injury and illness data can be derived from a number of different sources including;

- Emergency Department data
- Hospitals separation data
- Sentinel survey of General Practitioners
- National coronial database
- Occupational Health and Safety authorities
- Newspaper monitoring
- Emergency / ambulance services
- Royal Flying Doctors Service

The National Farm Injury Data Centre will have a key role in coordinating this data and liaising with relevant organisations to ensure that the ‘optimal data base’ is used.

Child death on farm register - items included in the data set

1. Reporting organisation
2. Sex
3. Date of birth
4. Age
5. Country of birth
6. Preferred language
7. Aboriginality
8. Location (SLA)?
9. Location postcode
10. Farming enterprise
11. Relationship of child to owner or manager of property
11. Time of injury
12. Date of injury
13. Day of the week
14. Location of incident
15. Date of death
16. Main external
17. Intent
18. General activity
19. Agent
20. What was the deceased doing at the time of injury?
21. What went wrong?
22. Nature of main injury
23. Body region of main injury
24. Mechanism of injury classification
25. Tractor flag
26. Relationship to person driving operating equipment
27. Drowning flag
28. Type of water body
29. In who's company was the child?
30. Location where the child was being cared for - (to be completed for children 7 years and under but is optional for others)
31. Distance from homestead where accident occurred
32. Other relevant information

Advisory Group for the national strategy for child safety on farms

1. Farming families, Isolated Children and Parents Association
2. Education
 - Departments of Education
 - Association of Independent Schools
 - Early childhood professionals - development and behaviour
 - TAFE
 - Kidsafe, Farm safety just 4 kids
 - Departments of Agriculture
 - Department of Rural Health
 - State Rural Industry Training and Advisory Boards
3. Health
 - DHFS - National Prevention Advisory Group
 - General Practitioners
 - Community Nurses / Health Promotion personnel
 - Community services / child welfare
 - Ambulance and First Aid services
4. OH&S authorities
5. Industry representatives/ farming organisations/ includes farming peak bodies?
6. Trades and Labour Councils/Union+
7. Engineers / machinery dealers
8. Child protection agencies
9. Researchers
10. Women on Farms

Farmsafe Australia

Farmsafe Australia is an organisation, which is incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory. The following are the member agencies of Farmsafe Australia:

- National Farmers Federation
- Country Womens Association of Australia
- Australian Workers Union
- Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry – Australia
- National Occupational Health and Safety Commission
- Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation
- Rural Training Council of Australia
- Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety
- Farmsafe Western Australia Inc
- Farmsafe New South Wales
- Farmsafe Queensland
- Tasmanian Rural Industry Training Board
- Farmsafe Victoria
- Farmsafe South Australia
- Tractor and Machinery Association of Australia

The member agencies act as a coalition with a common **Mission** – *“To improve the well-being and productivity of Australian Agriculture through enhanced health and safety awareness and practices”*