

Australian Farm Deaths & Injuries Media Monitors Snapshot January 1 – June 30, 2017

Background

Australian print and online 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 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 June 30th 2017. It also captures non-farm quad related fatality and injury over the same period.

Deaths

There were approximately 20,350 media articles received by the NFIDC from Meltwater during the period. A total of 32 on-farm deaths were reported:

- The overall number of fatal on-farm cases (n=32) is slightly higher than the corresponding period in 2016 (n=30).
- Three of the 32 deaths involved a child aged under 15 years.
- Quads (n=9), tractors (n=4) and mobile farm machinery/plant (n=4) were reported most frequently.
- Media monitoring also captures non-farm quad related fatality. There was one additional fatal injury event that occurred off-farm for this period (i.e. there were a total of 10 quad related deaths nationally including farm and non-farm cases).

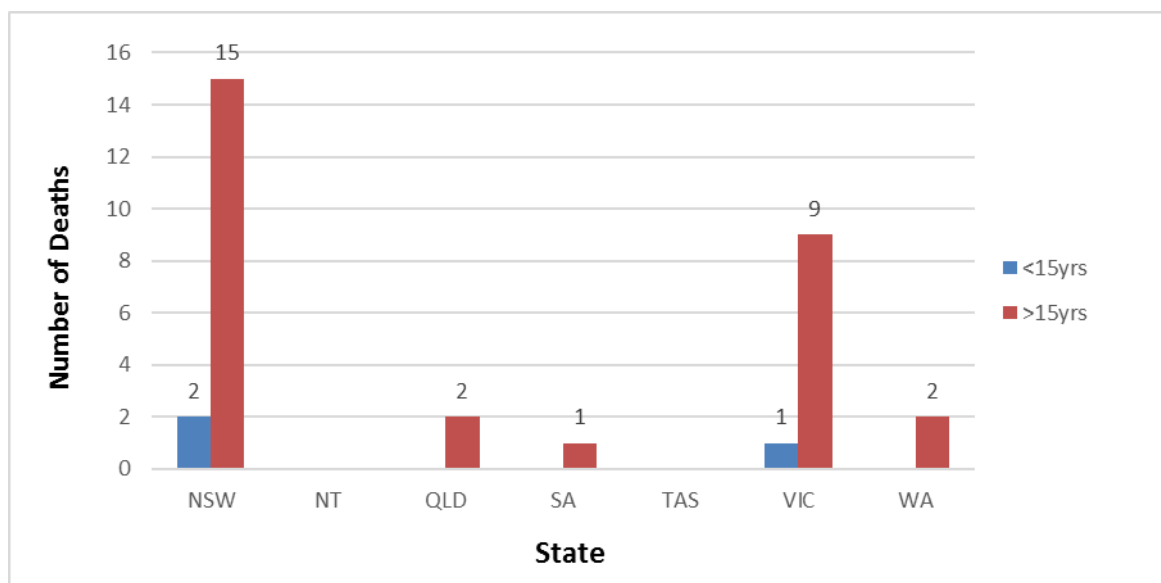


Figure 1: On-farm deaths reported in Australian media by age and state, 1st Jan- 30th Jun 2017.

Table 1: Agents of injury causing on-farm death as reported in Australian media by age, 1st Jan- 30th Jun 2017.

Category	Agent	2016			2017		
		<15yrs	≥15yrs	Total	<15yrs	≥15yrs	Total
Animal	Cattle		1	1		1	1
	Horse	1		1			
Farm Structure	Dam		1	1		1	1
	Irrigation Channel	1		1			
	Piggery	1		1			
	Powerline		1	1			
	Pump		1	1			
	Roof/Shed/Water Tank		1	1		3	3
Farm Vehicle	Aircraft						
	Farm Vehicle NEC*						
	Helicopter		1	1			
	Motorbike						
	Quad		3	3	2	7	9
	Side By Side Vehicle						
	Truck					3	3
	Trailer						
	Utility					1	1
Materials	Rope					1	1
	Materials NEC		1	1			
Mobile Farm Machinery / Plant	Fertiliser Spreader					1	1
	Forklift	1		1			
	Tractor		3	3		4	4
	Mobile Farm Machinery / Plant NEC *	3	4	7	1	3	4
Other	Burns		1	1			
	Firearm		1	1			
Working Environment	Fire/smoke/flame					2	2
	Lightning/storm					1	1
	Trees being fell		2	2		1	1
Workshop Equipment	Grinder NEC		1	1			
	Ladder		1	1			
TOTAL		7	23	30	3	29	32

*NEC: Not elsewhere classified

Non-fatal Injury

There were an additional 101 non-fatal on-farm injury events reported in the Australian media for the period 1st January – 30th June 2017.

- The overall number of non-fatal on-farm cases (n=101) is more than double the corresponding period in 2016 (n=44).
- Eleven (10.9%) of the 101 injury events involved children aged under 15 years.
- Quad related injury (n=23) accounted for over 23% of all incidents. This was closely followed by horse related incidents (n=18), motorcycle related incidents (n=10) and tractor related incidents (n=7).
- For quads, there were sixteen additional injuries that occurred off-farm (i.e. there were a total of 39 quad related non-fatal injuries nationally including farm and non-farm cases reported).

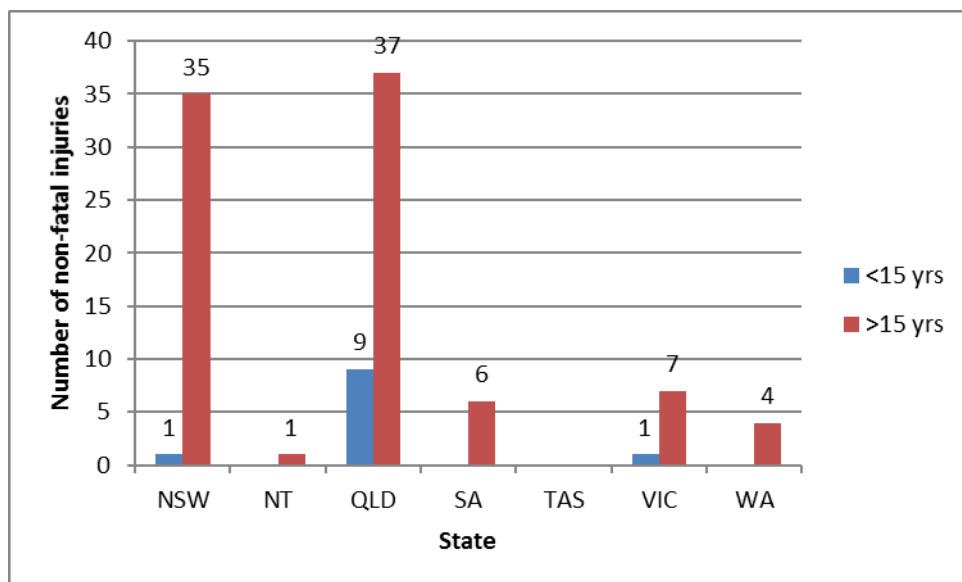


Figure 2: On-farm non-fatal injury events reported in Australian print media, 1st Jan- 30th Jun 2017.

Table 2: Agents of on-farm non-fatal injury as reported in Australian print media, 1st Jan- 30th Jun 2017.

Category	Agent	2017		
		<15yrs	≥15yrs	Total
Animal	Cattle		8	8
	Horse	3	15	18
Farm Chemical	Gases NEC		1	1
Farm Structure	Powerline		1	1
	Shed/roof/water tank		2	2
Farm Vehicle	Aircraft		1	1
	Motorbike	3	7	10
	Quad	5	18	23
	Side By Side Vehicle		1	1
	Utility		9	9
Materials	Hay Bale		3	3
Mobile Farm Machinery/Plant	Earth Moving Equipment		1	1
	Fertiliser Spreader		2	2
	Harvesting Machine		3	3
	Tractor		7	7
	Mobile Farm Machinery/Plant NEC*		3	3
Working Environment	Fire/Smoke/Flame		2	2
	Ground/rock/stump/hole		1	1
	Tree being felled		3	3
	Working Environment NEC*		1	1
Workshop Equipment	Ladders		1	1
TOTAL		11	90	101

*NEC: Not elsewhere classified