

Australian Farm Deaths & Injuries Media Monitors Snapshot January 1 – September 30, 2018

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 September 30th 2018. It also captures non-farm quad related fatality and injury over the same period.

Deaths

There were approximately 70,500 print and media articles received by the NFIDC from Meltwater during the period. A total of 49 on-farm deaths were reported:

- The overall number of fatal on-farm cases (n=49) is higher than the corresponding period in 2017 (n=45).
- Tractors (n=8), utilities (n=5), quads (n=4) and motorbikes (n=4) were reported most frequently.

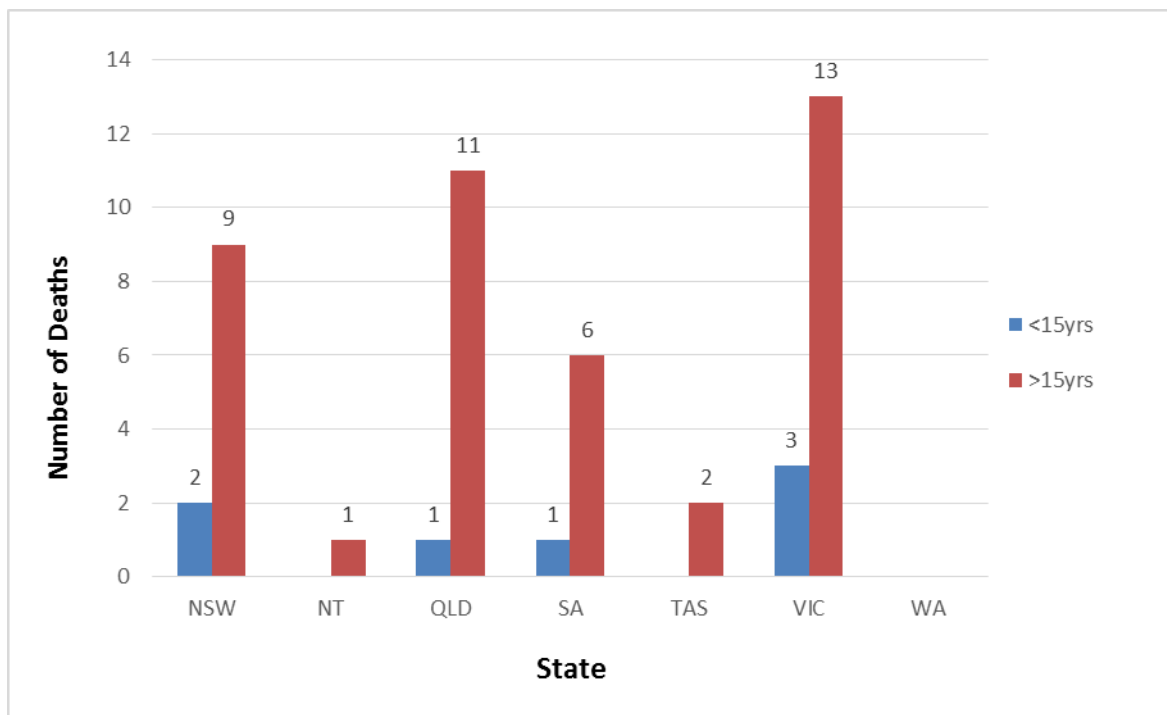


Figure 1: On-farm deaths reported in Australian media by age group and state, Jan 1 - Sept 30, 2018.

Table 1: Agents of injury causing on-farm death as reported in Australian media by age group, Jan 1 – sept 30, 2018.

| Category | Agent | 2017 | | | 2018 | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| | | <15yrs | ≥15yrs | Total | <15yrs | ≥15yrs | Total |
| Animal | Cattle | | 3 | 3 | | 2 | 2 |
| | Dog | | | | 1 | | 1 |
| | Horse | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 1 |
| | Animal NEC* | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| Farm Structure | Dam | | 1 | 1 | | 2 | 2 |
| | Powerline | | | | | 2 | 2 |
| | Water Storage | 1 | 3 | 4 | | 1 | 1 |
| Farm Vehicle | Aircraft | | 1 | 1 | | | |
| | Car | | | | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| | Motorbike | | | | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| | Quad | 2 | 8 | 10 | | 4 | 4 |
| | Side By Side | 1 | | 1 | | 1 | 1 |
| | Trailer | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| | Truck | 1 | 3 | 4 | | 3 | 3 |
| | Utility | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 5 |
| Materials | Hay Bale | | | | | 3 | 3 |
| | Rope | | 1 | 1 | | | |
| Mobile Farm Machinery | Earthmoving Equipment | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| | Fertiliser Spreader | | 1 | 1 | | | |
| | Tractor | | 8 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| | Mobile Farm Machinery NEC* | 1 | 3 | 4 | | | |
| Working Environment | Fire/Flame/Smoke | | 2 | 2 | | 3 | 3 |
| | Lightning/storm | | 1 | 1 | | | |
| | Log | | | | | 1 | 1 |
| | Trees being felled | | 2 | 2 | | 2 | 2 |
| TOTAL | | 6 | 39 | 45 | 7 | 42 | 49 |

*NEC: Not elsewhere classified

Non-fatal Injury

There were an additional 120 non-fatal on-farm injury events reported in the Australian media for the period January 1 - September 30, 2018.

- Sixteen (12.5%) of the 120 injury events involved children aged under 15 years.
- Quad related injury (n=22) and motorbike related incidents (n=18) accounted for over 30% of all incidents. These incidents were closely followed by horse related injury (n=14) and tractor related injury (n=13).
- For quads, there were twenty-six additional injuries that occurred off-farm (i.e. there were a total of 48 quad related non-fatal injuries nationally including farm and non-farm cases reported).

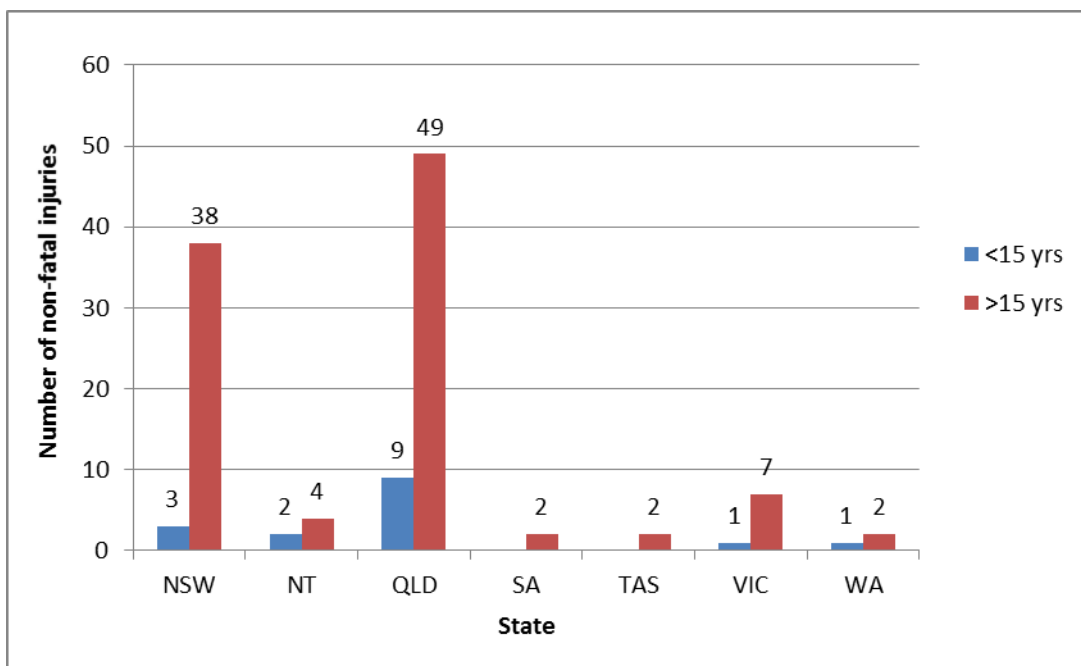


Figure 2: On-farm non-fatal injury events reported in Australian print media, Jan 1 – Sept 30, 2018.

Table 2: Agents of on-farm non-fatal injury as reported in Australian print media, Jan 1 - Sept 30, 2018.

| | | 2018 | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|------------|------------|
| Category | Agent | <15yrs | ≥15yrs | Total |
| Animal | Cattle | | 9 | 9 |
| | Horse | 3 | 11 | 14 |
| Farm Vehicle | Aircraft | | 1 | 1 |
| | Car | | 2 | 2 |
| | Motorbike | 6 | 12 | 18 |
| | Quad | 1 | 21 | 22 |
| | Side By Side Vehicle | | 2 | 2 |
| | Truck | | 3 | 3 |
| | Utility | | 3 | 3 |
| Farm Structure | Powerlines | | 1 | 1 |
| | Shed | | 1 | 1 |
| Fixed Plant/Equipment | Fixed Plant/Equipment NEC* | | 1 | 1 |
| Materials | Pipe | | 2 | 2 |
| | Steel | | 1 | 1 |
| | Wire | 2 | | 2 |
| Mobile Farm Machinery/Plant | Auger | | 1 | 1 |
| | Forklift | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| | Harvesting Machine | | 3 | 3 |
| | Mobile Stock Feeding Equipment | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | Tractor | | 13 | 13 |
| | Mobile Farm Machinery/Plant NEC* | | 1 | 1 |
| Other | Firearms | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| | Other NEC* | | 2 | 2 |
| Powered Equipment | Chainsaw | | 3 | 3 |
| Working Environment | Branch/Stick/Twig | | 1 | 1 |
| | Fire/Flame/Smoke | | 1 | 1 |
| | Ground/rock/stump/hole | | 1 | 1 |
| | Tree/Tree being Felled | | 1 | 1 |
| TOTAL | | 16 | 104 | 120 |

*NEC: Not elsewhere classified

The media monitoring project for non-intentional farm related incidents is funded by AgriFutures Australia.