

# STATISTICAL REPORT NOTIFIED FATALITIES

JULY 2006 TO DECEMBER 2006



Australian Government

Australian Safety and Compensation Council

## SUMMARY

This report provides an analysis of data on work-related deaths notified to OHS jurisdictions under their OHS legislation that occurred during the six month period 1 July 2006 to 31 December 2006.

During this period:

- > There were 76 notified work-related fatalities — 72 workers and 4 bystanders (see Table 1).
- > The majority of fatalities were male — 69 in total (including 1 bystander). There were 7 female fatalities — 4 workers and 3 bystanders.
- > Just under one-quarter (24%) of all fatalities of known age were 55 years or older, although workers in this age group comprised 14% of the Australian labour force in 2007 (see Figure 1).
- > Four industries accounted for slightly over two-thirds of all notified work-related fatalities — 22% of fatalities occurred at a workplace primarily engaged in Construction; 16% in Agriculture, forestry and fishing; 16% in Transport and storage; and 13% in Manufacturing (see Table 2).
- > The most prevalent causes of work-related fatalities were *Falls from a height* (17 fatalities); *Being hit by falling objects* (14 fatalities); *Being hit by moving objects* (12 fatalities); *Vehicle accident* (8 fatalities); and *Being trapped between stationary and moving objects* (7 fatalities) (see Figure 2).
- > Of the 8 fatalities caused by *Vehicle accidents*, 3 occurred on public roads and 5 occurred either on other types of roads or at other sites (see Table 1). Since work-related road traffic fatalities and work-related aircraft crash fatalities are not notified to some OHS jurisdictions, the figures presented in this report are likely to under-report their occurrence.

**Table 1 Notified fatalities — July 2006 to December 2006, Australia**

Place of fatality	Worker	Bystander	Total
At workplace	65	3	<b>68</b>
Vehicle accident			
on public road	2	1	<b>3</b>
on other roads/sites	5	0	<b>5</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>76</b>

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

OHS legislation in each Australian state and territory requires work-related deaths to be notified to the state or territory OHS authority. Notifications cover workers (both employees and self-employed) and bystanders who suffered a fatal injury at work or as the result of work activity.

The Australian Safety and Compensation Council (ASCC, formerly NOHSC) began collecting details of these notifications from each OHS authority on 1 July 2003, with the aim of providing timely national information on work-related fatalities in Australia. However, the compilation of notifications at the national level is complicated by differences across jurisdictions in the definition of a work-related death. In particular:

- > Several jurisdictions do not include work-related deaths caused by vehicle accidents on public roads in their notification systems. These fatalities are instead notified to and investigated by the police.
- > Aircraft crash fatalities are not notified to all jurisdictions. These fatalities are notified to the relevant transport authority.

This report analyses the work-related fatality notifications received for deaths that occurred between 1 July 2006 and 31 December 2006. This analysis examines the age and industry of the employee and the mechanism of the fatality.



**Table 2 Number of notified fatalities by industry, July 2006 to December 2006**

Industry	Industry of workplace <sup>a</sup>			Industry of employer <sup>a, b</sup>
	Worker	Bystander	Total	Worker
Construction	17	0	<b>17</b>	18
Agriculture, forestry and fishing	12	0	<b>12</b>	9
Transport and storage	11	1	<b>12</b>	15
Manufacturing	10	0	<b>10</b>	8
Mining	5	1	<b>6</b>	5
Personal and other services	4	1	<b>5</b>	4
Cultural and recreational services	4	0	<b>4</b>	3
Accommodation, cafes and restaurants	2	0	<b>2</b>	0
Wholesale trade	2	0	<b>2</b>	2
Education	0	1	<b>1</b>	1
Electricity, gas and water supply	1	0	<b>1</b>	1
Property and business services	1	0	<b>1</b>	1
Retail trade	1	0	<b>1</b>	1
Government administration and defence	0	0	<b>0</b>	2
Communication services	0	0	<b>0</b>	0
Finance and insurance	0	0	<b>0</b>	0
Health & community services	0	0	<b>0</b>	0
Industry unknown	0	0	<b>0</b>	2
Private residence	2	0	<b>2</b>	na
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>72</b>

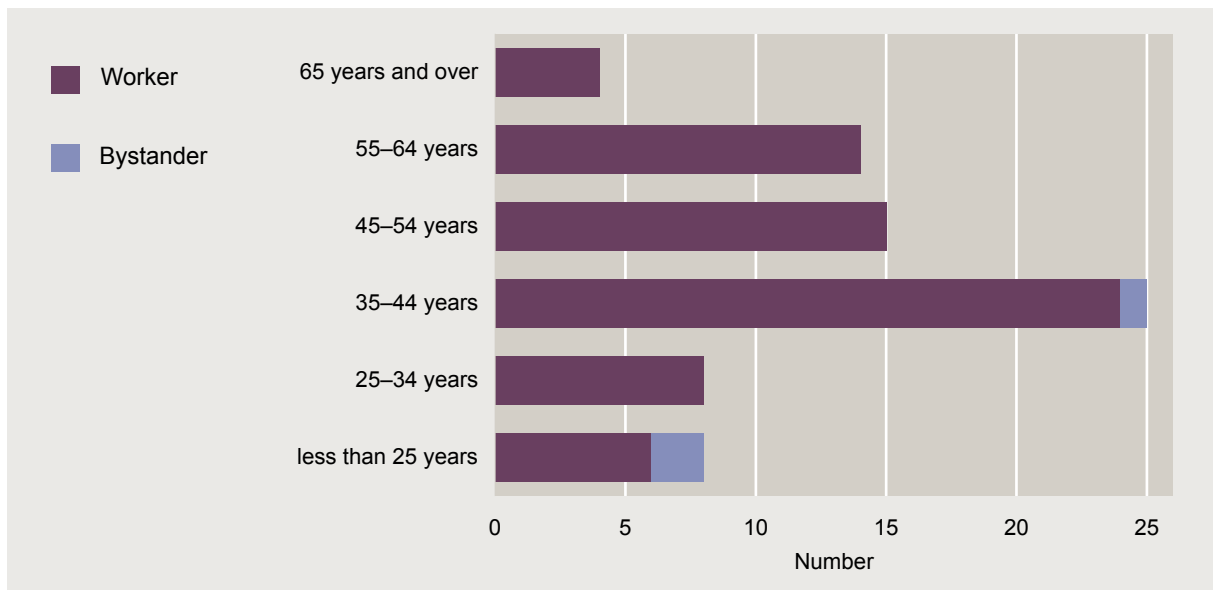
na denotes 'not applicable'.

a: *Industry of workplace* identifies the main industry conducted at the workplace where the fatal incident occurred. *Industry of employer* identifies the main industry conducted by the employer of the fatally-injured worker, which will sometimes differ from the *Industry of workplace* — for example, where a worker is employed under a labour hire arrangement to provide services at a workplace. *Industry of workplace* would therefore more accurately reflect the actual work tasks and circumstances associated with a fatal workplace incident.

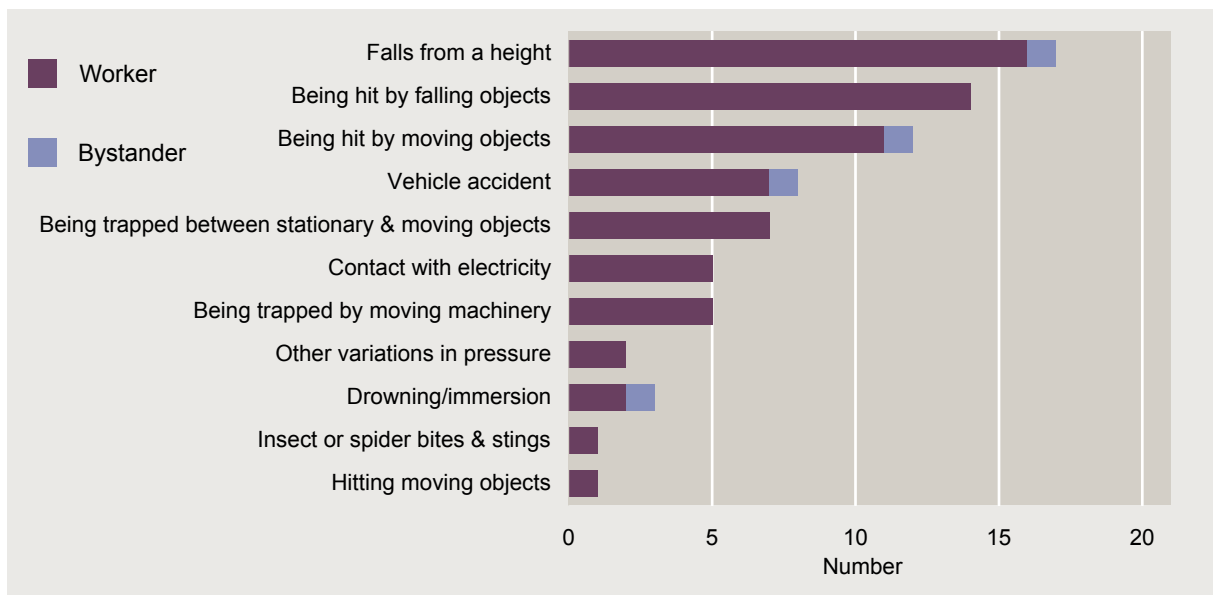
b: Industry of employer is not applicable for bystanders.



**Figure 1** Number of notified fatalities of known age by age group, July 2006 to December 2006



**Figure 2** Number of notified fatalities by mechanism, July 2006 to December 2006



## INQUIRES

For further information regarding the contents of this publication contact:

**Office of the Australian Safety and Compensation Council**

**Department of Employment and Workplace Relations**

**(02) 6121 9152**

