



Keeping all workers safe

Older workers

Australians are increasingly working to older ages. In 2020-21, Australians aged 65 and over had a workforce participation rate of 14.8% compared with 6.0% in 2000-01.

As the composition of workplaces changes so too can the safety risks and hazards. Have you reviewed your control measures lately to keep your workers' safe?

By the year 2060-61 it is predicted that:

1 in 5

people in Australia will be aged 65 years and over.

Older workers are not any more likely to experience an injury or illness at work but when they do it is more likely to be serious or result in a fatality.

353

workers aged 55 years and over lost their lives at work in the last 5 years.

There are a number of steps you can take to ensure safety for older people in the workplace:

- It is important not to stereotype or make assumptions. Consulting with all workers, including older workers, is the best way to identify safety risks in the workplace and possible controls.
- Keep in mind that many older workers may work part time, so consider the best times and days to arrange a safety chat.
- Review health and safety management practices and think about how you can design safe work to meet the changing needs of workers.
- Remember to think about older people who may visit your workplace in addition to workers. It is important to keep older customers and visitors safe too.

