



Making workplaces safer



safe work australia



“We want people to come to work, know that the systems are in place to keep them safe, and feel supported enough to always do the right thing.”

Diane Smith-Gander

Chair, Safe Work Australia

Who we are

Safe Work Australia works with government, industry and business to improve health and safety at work for all Australians.

We work to:

- develop and evaluate national policy and strategies
- develop and evaluate the model WHS legislative framework
- undertake research, and
- collect, analyse and report data.





“One of the main reasons I take work safety very seriously is to be able to get home to my wife and son each night.”

Matthew Sherwood

Farm manager

Why our work is important

All workers, regardless of their occupation or how they are engaged, have the right to healthy, safe and well-designed work.

A safe and healthy workplace is a positive and more productive workplace.

What we know



104,770

total number of claims
2015-16



182

fatalities

total number in 2016



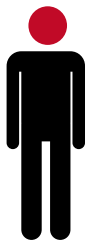
\$61.8 billion

the cost of work-related
injury and disease to the
Australian economy

Keeping track of work health and safety

Our statistics provide a national picture of work-related fatalities, injuries and workers' compensation claims.

Claims in 2015-16



men
accounted
for **64%**
of claims



Labourers
had the highest
percentage
of claims



Those aged
50 - 54
had the most
number of
claims

Understanding the common causes of injury and the industries most affected, helps reduce work-related fatalities, injury, illness and disease.

Causes of work health and safety injury 2015-16



39%
body
stressing



23%
falls,
trips and
slips



15%
being hit by
a moving
object

Industries with the most fatalities in 2016

50% were in two
of fatalities industries

47



transport, postal
and warehousing

44



agriculture, forestry
and fishing



“It’s really important that I go home to my family safely, both emotionally and physically.”

Rebecca Caulfield

Emergency nurse

We are making a difference

Our robust, flexible and durable work health and safety laws and policies mean that Australia continues to experience a decrease in workplace injuries and fatalities.

What the data says



Fatality rate has
decreased
by 50%
since 2007

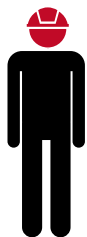


31%
decrease
in the frequency of
serious workers'
compensation
claims since
2006-07

Our work must continue

People are still dying and getting injured at work.

Worker fatalities 2016



182 workers
died in 2016



were aged
between
45 and 64



168
were
men



40 were
labourers



42%
fatalities
were caused by a
vehicle collision



“The real endgame here is making sure that workers can get home safely, they get home safely to their families and their loved ones.”

Michelle Baxter

Chief Executive Officer, Safe Work Australia



Safe Work Australia provides the information in this publication to raise awareness of work health and safety.
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All data relates to 2015-16 for serious claims and 2016 for fatalities.

For more information go to
www.swa.gov.au