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## MEDIA RELEASE

### Agriculture, forestry and fishing workers experienced the highest number of work-related injuries (19 October 2009)

Safe Work Australia Council Chair, Mr Tom Phillips AM, today announced the release of six reports based on an analysis of the 2005-06 Work-Related Injuries Survey (WRIS) on the construction, health and community services, manufacturing, agriculture, forestry and fishing, transport and storage and retail trade industries.

The WRIS is conducted every four years by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) as a supplement to the Labour Force Survey. Safe Work Australia partially funds the survey to complement its collection of workers' compensation data.

The WRIS reports explore the types and causes of work-related injury and provides information on those workers who are not covered by workers' compensation such as self-employed workers. Some of the main findings of the report include:

- Part-time workers in the retail trade industry recorded a frequency rate of injury nearly double that of full-time workers
- Agriculture, forestry and fishing workers experienced the highest rate of injuries, with 109 injuries per 1000 workers
- Employees in the construction industry recorded a similar rate of injury to self-employed workers. Similarly there was little difference in the rates of injury between those working on a contract and those not working on a contract
- Young workers (15 to 24 year olds) in the manufacturing industry recorded an injury rate 44% higher than the corresponding rate for young workers in the Australian workforce as a whole, and
- Transport and storage workers aged 35 to 44 years recorded an injury rate 75% higher than the rate recorded by all Australian workers of this age.

Speaking on the release, Mr Phillips said that these reports add significantly to our understanding of work-related injuries and provide information on the extent and frequency of work-related injuries that is not available using workers' compensation data alone. "By publishing data from a range of data sources, Safe Work Australia demonstrates a commitment to providing the best possible information to improve workplace safety", said Mr Phillips.

The next WRIS covering the period 2009-10 is currently being conducted and Safe Work Australia will publish the results of this analysis in 2011.

Full reports are available for download at the [Safe Work Australia website](#).

The ABS report on the WRIS is available on its website at: <http://www.abs.gov.au>

*Note from the editor:*

*The second point in the above statistics "agriculture, forestry and fishing workers experienced the highest rate of injuries, with 109 injuries per 1000 workers" should be a warning and reminder to all of us who work with livestock and farm machinery.*

*Regrettably, only very recently, a friend of mine was involved in a tractor accident. He broke both collar bones, numerous ribs, received a punctured lung and had to be air-lifted to Melbourne for emergency treatment. There is often very little margin for error in our business.*

*Our works enemy is complacency. We may have done the job 1000 times before but we must still be wary of the potential dangers involved with its completion.*