

16 February, 2017

## Working on farm safety

SafeWork SA has joined forces with Primary Producers SA (PPSA) to deliver practical work health and safety workshops for farmers, who have the highest work fatality rate in Australia.

SafeWork SA and PPSA will run 23 workshops across the state over the next four months for livestock, crop and dairy farmers and grape, fruit and nut growers.

The workshops will promote safe work practices and support farmers to develop practical solutions for key safety issues at their workplaces, which pose the highest risk of injury or death.

SafeWork SA Acting Executive Director Mr Chris McKie said people working in the agriculture sector also had the highest rate of serious workers' compensation claims.

"Of 149 fatalities across all industries in South Australia since 2005, almost 19 per cent have occurred on farms, yet only 4.5 per cent of our total workforce works in agriculture," Mr McKie said.

In addition, on average every week nine South Australian primary producers are injured seriously enough to lodge a work injury claim.

"What's most concerning is that these fatalities and serious injuries are preventable."

Work injury claims data from ReturnToWorkSA shows people working in these sectors are at the greatest risk of serious injury when working with sheep, beef and dairy cattle, in a vineyard or in grain and crop production.

The most common causes of injuries are being hit by a moving object (mostly animals), muscle stress through manual handling and lifting, falls and vehicle incidents.

"Through these workshops we can help farmers eliminate or minimise workplace risks with practical solutions and increase their knowledge on how to create safe work environments," Mr McKie said.

PPSA Executive Chairman Rob Kerin encouraged as many farmers as possible to attend the workshops.

"We have been a high-risk industry, and we need to not only educate ourselves on better practices, but substantially improve our record," he said.

TAFE SA has recognised the material being presented, and attendees will be able to enrol free with TAFE SA to gain accredited recognition for a work health and safety subject within a nationally accredited qualification from the Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management training package.

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The first workshop will be held at Cummins on 28 February with other workshops being held across the state and wrapping up at McLaren Vale on 28 June. Places are limited so booking early is recommended.

For more information on the workshops and to register to attend one in your region visit the information page at [https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/show\\_page.jsp?id=116174](https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/show_page.jsp?id=116174)

For information about SafeWork SA's new free mobile work health and safety advisory service that can visit you at your workplace, contact 1300 365 255 or visit [safework.sa.gov.au/freeadvice](https://www.safework.sa.gov.au/freeadvice).