Horticulture industry snap shot

Horticulture serious injury claim rate (per 1,000 employees)

In 2013-2014, the serious injury claim rate for the horticulture industry (34.3) was 20 per cent higher than the agriculture, forestry and fisheries serious injury claim rate (28.5) and was almost three times higher than the all industries claim rate (12.6).

Average serious injury claim cost (for the 2011-2012 financial year)

$47,783 Workers’ compensation costs

$71,132 Other costs

Total costs $88,915

1 in 2 serious injury claims in horticulture were for musculoskeletal injuries.

Queensland horticulture industry
Action plan – 2014-2017

Common injuries and causes

Traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injuries

Body stressing
• Handling vegetation
• Lifting and carrying crates, cartons and boxes

Cuts and lacerations

Striking or being hit by moving objects
• Metal edges
• Trade tools, knives and blades

Fractures

Slips, trips and falls
• Uneven ground
• Falls from ladders

Focus areas

• Harvesting and packing fruit and vegetables
• Agricultural chemicals
• Quad bikes
• Transient, young and older workers

• Working with tractors and equipment
• Supply chains
• UV sun radiation
• Zoonotic diseases
• Exposure to noise
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| Healthy and safe by design   | • Structures, plant and substances are designed to eliminate or minimise hazards and risks before they are introduced into the workplace.  
• Work, work processes and systems of work are designed and managed to eliminate or minimise hazards and risks.  
• Industry and researchers help identify and solve specific problems.                                                                                                                                           | • Work with industry to develop and implement higher order design controls for high risk activities, including:  
  – on farm transport of workers  
  – loading and unloading produce and equipment.  
• Establish partnerships with research institutions to investigate and influence improved safety outcomes in the horticulture industry.  
• Benchmark compliance and build the capacity of the designers and manufacturers of equipment for the agricultural industry.  
• Develop and publish case studies on innovative solutions in the horticulture industry.                                                                                                      |
| Supply chains and networks   | • Supply chain and network participants understand their cumulative impact and actively improve the health and safety of the supply chain.  
• Commercial relationships within supply chains and networks are used to improve work health and safety.  
• Industry leaders champion work health and safety in supply chains and networks.  
• Industry imports plant, materials and equipment that is safe.                                                                                                                                              | • Establish safety networks in major horticultural growing regions.  
• Establish and support interagency groups for quad bikes and travelling workers in the horticulture industry.  
• Attend key horticulture related field days and events.  
• Increase the number of agricultural businesses involved in Safe Work Month and Safe Work and Return to Work Awards.  
• Develop short films on agricultural chemicals and quad bikes to improve the capacity of workers’ health and safety.                                                                 |
| Health and safety capabilities| • Everyone in a workplace has the work health and safety capabilities they require.  
• Those providing work health and safety education, training and advice have the appropriate capabilities.  
• Inspectors and other staff of work health and safety regulators have the work health and safety capabilities to effectively perform their role.  
• Work health and safety skills development is integrated effectively into relevant education and training programs.  
• Industry increasingly uses resources and tools such as the Organisational Systems Benchmarking Tool.                                                                                                             | • Continue projects focusing on the cane and horticulture industries targeting:  
  – agricultural chemical use  
  – plant  
  – musculoskeletal disorders  
  – consultative arrangements  
  – safer work environments for young workers, backpackers and seasonal workers.  
• Design and deliver a campaign on the farm transportation of workers in the horticulture sector.  
• Partner with industry organisations to deliver the Serious about farm safety resource to the horticulture sector.  
• Encourage good work design for young workers by engaging with supervisors and managers.  
• Produce guidance material on high priority issues.  
• Increase uptake of the Injury Prevention and Management Program in agriculture.                                                                                                                                 |
| Leadership and culture       | • Effective consultation, cooperation and coordination exists through all levels of the industry.  
• The Safety Leadership at Work program is embedded and leaders drive improved work health and safety.  
• Organisational leaders foster a culture of consultation and collaboration which actively improves work health and safety.  
• Health and safety is given priority in all work processes and decisions.                                                                                                                                                  | • Facilitate effective consultation, cooperation and coordination through all levels of the industry.  
• Hold Safety and Leadership at Work mini-forums.  
• Hold industry webinars.  
• Produce short films about safety leadership and identified issues.  
• Develop partnerships with the Queensland Rural, Regional and Remote Women’s Network and other interest groups to facilitate consistent messages through community networks.  
• Link like businesses and leaders to facilitate mentoring opportunities.                                                                                                                                             |
| Worker health and wellbeing  | • Industry adopts a holistic approach to work health and safety and has increased awareness, knowledge and skills for the prevention and management of musculoskeletal disorder and psychosocial risks.  
• Best practice health promotion principles are supported in workplaces with a focus on chronic disease risks such as smoking, nutrition, physical inactivity, alcohol consumption, obesity and mental wellbeing.  
• Industry’s capacity to holistically manage health and safety injuries, and health and wellbeing is increased.  
• WorkCover Queensland is supported in promoting early intervention and injury management.                                                                                                                        | • Continue to develop initiatives and resources to raise awareness and build industry capacity to manage musculoskeletal disorder, psychosocial and chronic disease risks.  
• Improve integration of health and safety, injury management, and health and wellbeing.  
• Increase the number of, and improved support for health and wellbeing programs.  
• Develop resource materials for the control of health and hygiene risks.                                                                                                                                              |