

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR
**FARMER
HEALTH**

Gear Up™ for Ag Health & Safety

Empowering the next generation

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National Centre for Farmer Health

A partnership between Deakin University School of Medicine and Western District Health Service

Mission: *To make a difference to farmers' lives*

Focus on: Improvement of health, wellbeing and safety of:

- Farmers
- Farm employees
- Farm families across Australia

Through leadership, advocacy, service, research and education

Program Objectives

- Embedding health and safety awareness in the next generation of farmers and agricultural workers.
- Engaging students enrolled in agricultural studies through an interactive program.
- Using surveying, customised training and education to change attitudes and behaviours often learnt from family members

Method

- Recruitment of 3 schools/colleges from agricultural areas in Victoria
 - RIST – Hamilton
 - Longernong College – Horsham
 - Emmanuel College – Warrnambool
- All students were enrolled in agricultural studies
- Program delivered at each school/college

Method – part 1

- Pre Program survey link sent to participants via Survey Monkey
- Topics themes include:
 - Individual involvement in agriculture
 - Farming tasks performed
 - Eye, ear and respiratory health
 - Personal safety
 - Concern for family and friends working in agriculture
- Survey results analysed to formulate education

Method – part 2

- Delivery of Gear Up™ for Ag Health and Safety Program using Prezi
 - Prezi – provides a simple, intuitive interface in the cloud
 - Creates and collaborates wherever you have a connection.
- Kahoot Pre and Post survey
- Demonstrations
- Prizes
- Free PPE Tote Bag



Gear Up™ Pilot photos



Method – part 3

- Post Program
 - survey link sent to participants via Survey Monkey
 - 4 weeks after program
 - Request feedback - “since the program.....”
 - Same topics themes and questions
- Survey results analysed and comparisons made
- Rebooking of program for follow year of students

Gear Up™ pilot participants

Variable	Number of participants (n= 90)	Percentage of participants %
RIST College – Hamilton (n= 3)	3	3%
Longernong College – Horsham (n= 48)	48	54%
Emmanuel College – Warrnambool (n=39)	39	43%
Gender		
Male – mean age = 18.8 years	48	53%
Female – mean age = 18.4 years	42	47%

Health risk factors

Variable	Number of participants (n= 90)	Percentage of participants %
How many have participated in farming activities in the past 12 months (n=90)	79	88%
*Report shortness of breath, cough, fever or chills after being exposed to dusty environments (n=85)	31	36%
**Always wear respiratory protection when working in dusty environments n=76	7	9%
**Concerned about health of family their own family members (n=85)	52	61%

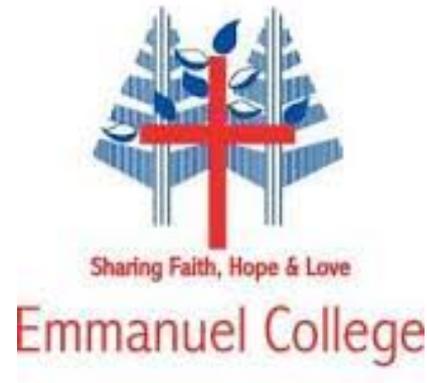
Safety risk factors

Variable	Number of participants (n= 90)	Percentage of participants %
Age started helping on farm * (n=81)		
4 years or younger (n=16)	16	20%
5 – 8 years (n=29)	29	36%
9 – 12 years (n=19)	19	23%
13 – 14 years (n=8)	8	10%
15 years or older (n=9)	9	11%
**Always wear helmet on Quad bike (n=73) *17 do not use bikes	21	29%
*Always or sometimes allow extra riders to passenger when operating bike (n= 73)	52	71%
**Have rolled a quadbike (n=73)	13	18%

Conclusion in empowering the next generation

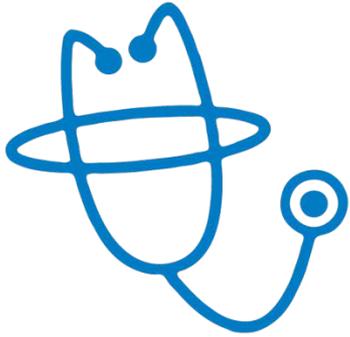
- Persuasive and compelling case to progress a wide targeted education program
- Health and safety is a serious matter needing attention at any age
- Interactive
 - surveys
 - demonstrations
 - prizes
 - free PPE
- creates meaning and assists with engagement.

Thank you to our partners



The success of the Australian Gear Up™ Pilot has contributed to the growth of the program. Currently as we speak the program is being rolled out in Denmark and Sweden. We look forward to continuing success in collaboration with NCFH and making a difference to the next generation of farmers and agricultural workers.

Carolyn Sheridan RN, BSN
Founder/President



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Thank you

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