



Focusing on the health and safety of the next generation of agriculture

Did you know

Agriculture and farming is widely recognised as one of the most dangerous industries in Australia.

77%

of students first started working/helping on farm before 15 years of age and 20% before the age of 5 years

In 2017, Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing employed approximately 325,600 persons full time and part time, which is around 2.6% of the total workforce, yet accounted for 27% of the total worker fatalities. Worker fatality rates were as high at 16.5 fatalities per 100,000 workers[1].

Young people aged 15-34 years are increasingly involved in agriculture, either through paid or unpaid work [2]. Exposure to farm related health and safety hazards continues to significantly increase the risk of our young people experiencing short or long term illness associated with agriculture exposures or being killed, injured or permanently disabled.

32%

of students report shortness of breath, cough, fever or chills after being exposed to dusty environments on farm

The Gear Up for Ag Health & Safety program recognises young people are central to an innovative and sustainable future for agriculture. The program engages with students in a practical, fun and interactive way to build their understanding of common agricultural hazards, promote health and wellbeing and empower them to improve their farm safety practices.

83%



of students reported riding a motorbike and/or quadbike with 66% of them before 15 years of age

27%

of riders never wear a helmet



PROGRAM SUMMARY	
TARGET AUDIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary School Students from Year 9 - 12 (including VCAL) • Agricultural College Students (VET, Tertiary)
DURATION & LOCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally 3 hours • On school premises
FACILITATOR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural Health & Medicine trained facilitators (through Deakin University and National Centre for Farmer Health) • Current Working with Children Check
WHAT'S INCLUDED?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A pre-program student survey to develop customised training to provide key health and safety education relevant to student's attitudes, behaviour, knowledge and exposures, at home and on the farm. • An education session that promotes health, wellbeing and safety in agriculture including interactive demonstrations and class activities. This includes identification of local agricultural hazards, how working on farms and in agriculture can impact physical and mental wellbeing and ways to minimise risk of fatality, injury and illness on farms. • A post-program student survey to gauge learning and effectiveness of the program and report back to the participating school.
PPE KIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each student is provided with a Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) start-up kit including discussion on where and when to wear appropriate AS/NZS approved PPE and interactive demonstration of correct usage.
RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing Health on the Farm • Managing Stress on the Farm • Managing Safety on the Farm • Farmer Support Guide
REQUIREMENTS	<p>Schools will be responsible to ensure that students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • complete the pre and post program surveys • have access to WI-FI electronic device (phone, tablet, computer) to participate in online quizzes during session

 The Gear Up™ program allows students to have meaningful discussions about health and safety to build their knowledge and confidence around hazard minimisation and risk control, empowering them to ask questions about health and safety practices with their family members or employers. 

Tam Phillips - AgriSafe™ Clinician National Centre for Farmer Health

[1] Source: Safe Work Australia, Key work health and safety statistic Australia 2018

[2] Source: Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Snap of Australia's Agricultural workforce 2016