



NATIONAL CENTRE FOR  
**FARMER  
HEALTH**

**GearUp**  
for Ag Health & Safety™



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

**Did you know...**

**85%**

of students first started working/helping on farm before 15 years of age

**69%**

of students currently assist or work in a farming or agricultural environment

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

The Gear Up for Ag Health & Safety™ program recognises young people are central to an innovative and sustainable future for agriculture. Our program engages with secondary school students in a fun and practical way to build understanding and knowledge of common agricultural hazards and promote safe farm practices to positively change farm safety culture.

As a significant portion of on farm deaths and injuries in Australia occur among young people working on the farm, embedding health and safety awareness is critical to maintaining the health and wellbeing of our current and next generation of farmers.

Facilitated by trained professionals including health and industry representatives, Gear Up for Ag™ is unique in bringing together health, wellbeing and safety and making the connection between students' current exposures and their potential impact on their health. Students are engaged in learning with interactive demonstrations and activities with practical advice given on ways to work safely to minimise risk of injury and illness on farms.

**78%**

of students reported working with large animal before 15 years of age

**31%**

of quad bike riders never wear a helmet



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in partnership with

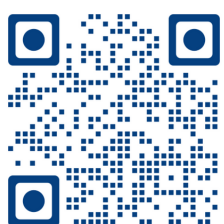


**wdhs**  
Western District  
Health Service



## PROGRAM SUMMARY

TARGET AUDIENCE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Secondary School Students from Year 9 - 12 (including VCAL)</li> <li>• Agricultural College Students (VET Studies)</li> </ul>
DURATION & LOCATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally 3-4 hours</li> <li>• On school premises</li> </ul>
FACILITATORS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agricultural Health &amp; Medicine trained facilitators (through Deakin University and National Centre for Farmer Health)</li> <li>• Current Working with Children Check</li> </ul>
WHAT'S INCLUDED?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A pre-program student survey is used to customise training to provide key health and safety education relevant to student's attitudes, behaviour, knowledge and exposures, at home and on the farm.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• A post-program student survey to gauge learning and effectiveness of the program and report back to the participating school.</li> </ul>
PPE KIT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>
RESOURCES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managing Health on the Farm</li> <li>• Managing Stress on the Farm</li> <li>• Farmer Support Guide</li> </ul>
REQUIREMENTS	<p>Schools will be responsible to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students complete the pre and post program surveys</li> <li>• Facilitators and students have access to WI-FI</li> </ul>



Read our publication

“The program provided an opportunity for students to reflect on their current practices and think about the inherent hazards that they're exposed to. Understanding that these hazards are a risk and their impact, we hope will influence their decision making next time they are helping out on the farm.”

Warracknabeal Secondary College

Teachers rated the program



4.7  
stars out of 5