

How are we injuring ourselves at work?



HORTICULTURE

TOTAL DAYS LOST TO INJURY IN 2014:

55,364



COST TO BUSINESS FOR INJURY IN 2014:

\$13.8m+



NUMBER OF CLAIMS IN 2014:

5,562

23
145

COST OF ACTIVE CLAIMS TO ACC IN 2014:

\$8.2m+



Where it's hurting us

EAR

NUMBER OF CLAIMS: 825
INJURY COST: \$630,737
DAYS LOST: 0

"My hearing deteriorated because of work noise, for example fans going 24 hours a day, motors in the pump room etc."

SHOULDER/CLAVICLE

NUMBER OF CLAIMS: 414
INJURY COST: \$1,197,568
DAYS LOST: 8,017

"When I lifted a mushroom frame, I injured my right shoulder."

FINGER/THUMB

NUMBER OF CLAIMS: 441
INJURY COST: \$540,491
DAYS LOST: 4,875

"I was chopping cauliflower when I sliced my fingers with a knife."

LOWER BACK/SPINE

NUMBER OF CLAIMS: 906
INJURY COST: \$1,675,286
DAYS LOST: 14,460

"Driving the tractor under the kiwifruit canopy, I twisted awkwardly and felt my back go."

KNEE

NUMBER OF CLAIMS: 349
INJURY COST: \$480,109
DAYS LOST: 3,040

"I was working in a vineyard lifting wires and trod in a hole twisting my knee."

TOP 5 INJURY SITES BY NUMBER

- 1) Lower back/spine
- 2) Ear
- 3) Finger/thumb
- 4) Shoulder (incl clavicle/blade)
- 5) Knee

TOP 5 INJURY SITES BY COST

- 1) Lower back/spine
- 2) Shoulder (incl clavicle/blade)
- 3) Ear
- 4) Finger/thumb
- 5) Knee



How we calculated this information (using 2014 data)

Cost of active claims to ACC

The total includes the cost (excl GST) to ACC of all treatment and entitlements incurred for that claim.

Cost of injury claims to business

The total cost to business is based on the average salary of horticulture workers (derived from Occupation Outlook Report, MBIE 2013) by the number

of working days in 2014, this was used to calculate the average daily salary for the occupation. The number of days of productivity lost to injury was multiplied by this figure to identify the cost of injury claims to business.

How do you reduce your risk?

It's easy to reduce your risk of injury, just follow these simple tips to help keep yourself and your workmates safe on the job.

EAR

- Wear earmuffs with the appropriate grade for your noise exposure.
- Use a noise meter (smartphone app) to help identify noisy areas in pack house and isolate the source of excessive noise if possible.
- Constant exposure to noise above 85 decibels can cause permanent damage to your ears.



SHOULDER

- Don't over reach when using chainsaws or pruners.
- Choose lightweight tools and equipment where possible.



KNEE

- Take care when working on uneven ground (eg. hidden holes).
- Take care when dismounting machinery, don't jump.
- Make sure "tripping" hazards are clearly identified.



LOWER BACK/SPINE

- Make sure staff are trained in correct lifting techniques and know the weight of products manually stacked.
- Avoid twisting when lifting or carrying a heavy object.
- Use mechanical assistance where possible or get a mate to help.
- Take extra care if ducking when driving tractor under low canopy.



FINGER/THUMB

- Keep your hands well clear of moving machinery.
- Check and understand safety features on powered tools (eg. pneumatic pruning shears).
- Wear protective gloves if using sharp knives.
- Be aware of crush areas when using ladders.



Other ways to reduce the likelihood of risk

- Think of the 4x2 rule – take 4 steps back and think about the job for 2 minutes.
- Ensure the operator of vehicles and machinery has knowledge of the limitations of the equipment being used and follows manufacturer's recommendations.
- Use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) at all times where appropriate.