

Appendix 3

Revisions since the first release of data

The main results from this study were first presented in detail in a major publication by the National Occupational Health and Safety Commission (NOHSC)³¹⁷. That report was released in December 1998. The entire text of that report was written by this author, and much of it is repeated in some form in aspects of this thesis, although this thesis contains many chapters and sections that were not included in the original NOHSC report. Subsequent to the NOHSC report being released, detailed analysis of various aspects of the data continued, and this resulted in some minor errors being identified and corrected. Although these changes were minor and did not result in any meaningful change to the main results or the conclusions arising from them, all analyses have been repeated using the revised data, and all presented results, including the tables and figures, have been revised to incorporate the revised data.

The most significant change was that some cases were reclassified, resulting in a small change to the total number of cases (from 3,627 to 3,630) and a small increase in the total number of work-related cases of workers (from 1,761 to 1,787). This did not change the overall rate of work-related fatalities of workers (5.5 deaths per 100,000 workers per year). There was also a small increase in the total number of workplace bystanders, and a significant proportional decrease in the number of cases classified as “Other on-farm”. Most of the changes to the “Other on-farm” cases involved reclassification to bystander cases. These changes arose following discussion with staff at the Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety, which resulted in a subsequent modification of the approach to determining when an exposure on a farm was related to

the work of the farm. A smaller number of “Other on-farm” cases, most of which involved hunting, we re-classified as working cases for the same reasons.

Overall, 86 deaths were re-classified. These re-classification changes are summarised in Tables A3.1 and A3.2.

Table A3.1 Changes made to case classifications after the first major NOHSC publication. Overall changes to and from each category

Case category (code)	Changed from	Changed to	Balance	Initial	Final
Working (11)					
110 (non-farm)	-1	+6	+5		
111 (on-farm)	-2	+23	+21		
Total working	-3	+29	+26	1,761	1,787
Commuting (12)	-2	0	-2	628	626
Volunteer (13)	0	0	0	20	20
Student (14)	0	0	0	39	39
Home duties (15)					
150 (non-farm)	-1	+9	+8		
151 (on-farm)	-5	0	-5		
152 (not known)	-12	0	-12		
Total home duties	-18	+9	-9	307	298
Workplace bystander (16)					
160 (non-farm)	-9	+8	-1		
161 (on-farm)	-4	+31	27		
162 (not known)	-3	0	-3		
Total workplace bystander	-16	+39	+23	302	325
Road bystander (171)	-5	+6	+1	476	477
Other on-farm (181)	-39	+1	-38	87	49
Home duties bystanders (163)	0	+2	+2	7	9
Non-case	-3	0	-3	17,808	17,805
Total changed	-86	+86	0		

Table A3.2 Changes made to case classifications after the first major NOHSC publication. Original versus final classification

Initial case classification	Final case classification										
	Working non-farm	Working on-farm	Working total	Home dut non-farm	Work bys non-farm	Work bys on-farm	Work bys total	Road bystander	Other on-farm	Home dut bystander	All cases
Working											
110 (non-farm)		1	1								1
111 (on-farm)	2		2								2
Commuting (12)	2		2								2
Home duties											
150 (non-farm)		1	1								1
151 (on-farm)		4	4							1	5
152 (not known)		3	3	9							12
Work bystander											
160 (non-farm)	2		2					6		1	9
161 (on-farm)		4	4								4
162 (not known)					3		3				3
Road bystander					5		5				5
Other on-farm		9	9			30	30				39
Non-case	1		1			1	1		1		3
Total changed	6	23	29	9	8	31	39	6	1	2	86