

National Safe Work Australia Week

Fact sheet

National Safe Work Australia Week (the Week) is a key initiative of Safe Work Australia and focuses attention on workplace safety issues around Australia. In its sixth year, the Week will be held from 24 to 30 October 2010.

The Week provides an opportunity for businesses, organisations and individuals to get involved in and concentrate on safety in their workplace to reduce death, injury and disease.

This year, thousands of organisations are planning to get involved and promote safety in their workplace. The key aim of the Week is to help organisations and businesses across Australia become safer

and significantly reduce the number of injuries, deaths and diseases that occur in the workplace.

Over 40 national Safety Ambassadors will be promoting safety during the Week in 2010. Safety Ambassadors include individuals and organisations from a broad range of industries across Australia who are passionate about safety in their workplace. They demonstrate safe work practices and are dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of a safe working environment for all employees.

You can view the full list of this year's national Safety Ambassadors on the website www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au

A third of compensated fatalities in the workplace during 2008–09 were caused by a vehicle accident.

Over 135 000 Australians are seriously injured at work every year and more than 200 die as a result of work-related injuries. It is estimated that many more die as a result of diseases with work-related factors.

The tragedy is work-related injury, illness and death can be prevented through the adoption of safer work practices.

Back injuries accounted for almost one-quarter of all serious claims in 2008–09.

Manual handling caused by lifting or moving objects was the cause of 41 per cent of all serious claims in 2008–09.

The Transport and Storage industry recorded the highest number of compensated fatalities in 2007–08 and 2008–09. There were 112 fatalities in this industry during this period.

Men accounted for 68 per cent of all serious workers' compensation claims in 2008–09.

The total economic cost of work-related injuries and illnesses to the Australian economy for the 2005–06 financial year is estimated at \$57.5 billion, representing 5.9 per cent of GDP.

Labourers made up the highest number of serious compensation claims in 2008–09. Labourers and related workers accounted for nearly 34 000 serious compensation claims.

A typical workers' compensation claim receives \$6000 in compensation payments and results in nearly four weeks of absence from work.

The likelihood of having a workers' compensation claim increases with age.



safe work
australia
week2010
24–30 october

