



**MARCUS OLDHAM COLLEGE**  
"Developing Professionals In Agriculture & The Horse Industry"

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**RURAL AND REGIONAL SERVICES  
AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE  
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

**INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSE OF FATALITY  
AND INJURY ON VICTORIAN FARMS**

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**1. *The main causes of fatality and injury on Victorian farms and other primary industries compared to other jurisdictions.***

Although Marcus Oldham College does not have statistics to verify fatalities and injuries on Victorian farms, it certainly appears from information I have read that the main cause of fatalities on farms is through tractor accidents. Other injuries that people suffer are electrocution, manual handling injuries, injuries from handling animals, four wheel drive and motor bike use, to name but a few.

**2. *The matter and type of these injuries compared to other industries and jurisdictions.***

Marcus Oldham College has not researched the types of injuries sustained by people working on Victorian farms and we have not compared the farming industry with other industries.

**3. *Current programs and initiatives designed to improve occupational health and safety on Victorian farms.***

All students who study at Marcus Oldham College are educated in Occupational Health & Safety. Our final year students in the Bachelor of Business (Agricultural Management) program complete the accredited Managing Farm Safety Certificate. Occupational Health & Safety is reinforced by the lecturers at the College when they are teaching students how to handle and ride horses and carry out farming tasks. Students are also made aware of Occupational Health & Safety issues inherent in people carrying out administrative roles. Occupational Health & Safety is covered in the Human Resource Management Units of the Course Curriculum.

**4. *Any impediments to sustaining improvements in farm safety.***

It is my view that one of the impediments to sustaining improvements in farm safety is due to the average age of farmers. Statistics that I have seen indicate that the average age is well into the 50's and to many farmers Occupational Health & Safety is seen as a cost to the business with the education of young farmers to have training in OH&S. I believe in future years these impediments will be reduced. The nature of farming is that people are always busy however, they need to take some time to think about how they can carry out their duties in a safe manner. If farmers can see that farm safety management is important to their overall business management, then I think they will take farm safety more seriously.



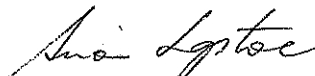
**5. *The financial and social cost of death and injury on Victorian farms.***

I am unable to comment on the financial cost of death and injury on Victorian farms, however, there is a major social cost and implications of injury on farmers. I have heard of situations where one of the partners has been killed or injured and therefore the family farm and business needs to be sold.

**6. *The need for further strategies to reduce the incidence of injury and fatality on Victorian farms, what form the strategy should take and whether they are best developed by government agencies, industry bodies, worker representatives or a combination of these. In particular the committee should consider the creation of further codes of practice or education and training programs.***

The creation of Codes of Practice in theory should reduce the number of deaths and injuries on Victorian farms. However, in reality farmers will be reluctant to follow practices that are forced upon them. I believe there should be incentives for older farmers to attend education and training programs in an endeavour to change their work practices. Educational Institutions such as Marcus Oldham College will continue to train all students in this important area.

Name:

  
Simon M Livingstone  
Principal