



49

RURAL AND REGIONAL SERVICES
AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

TERMS OF REFERENCE

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INQUIRY INTO THE CAUSE
OF FATALITY AND INJURY ON VICTORIAN FARMS

1. Education of at least one day per term should be provided for all primary and secondary school children in Victoria.
2. Farmers should be encouraged to get a certificate in "Farm Safety" which would then provide them with reduced insurance premiums. This could be done through the farm safety management days and through farm safety action groups. This should also be co-ordinated so that they can get the licenses and certificates that they require, such as chemical handling, forklift and tractor safety.
3. Workcover should be extended to cover all Victorian farmers and their families who are living and working on their farms.
4. There should be funding of research into farm safety and in particular the Murray Plains Division of General Practice should be funded to re-visit their

survey dated 1999/2000 with a view to:

- (a) surveying if there has been a change of attitude to farm safety in the subsequent years.
 - (b) to include farm illnesses and farm caused illnesses and farm effected illnesses.
 - (c) to extend the survey to other Divisions of General Practice in Victoria.
5. Victoria should establish its own "Institute of Farm Safety and Agricultural Health" immediately.
6. Whole farm plans should compulsorily include the provision of farm safety areas on every farm. This should not be just a concentration of the safety of children.
- There needs to be an area on every farm that has people living on it that is not part of the workplace.
- All farmers in Australia need to realise that when they live on the farm they live in a primary production food factory.
- As far as I am aware no other groups live in their factory and I am sure in industrial areas living inside a factory would not be allowed.
7. Head injuries are a considerable problem on farms and there should be a method to design and develop headgear for Australian farmers that does not have to comply to every conceivable design

regulation.

In other words there should not necessarily be one hat for all purposes.

G. V. Kioch

23. March 2004