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**For immediate release**

## **Farms a high-risk setting for childhood injury**

Childhood farm injuries are a significant issue across Australia. Recent data showed that approximately 400 children are hospitalised per year for injuries that occurred on Australian farms.

The leading causes of farming injury and death are drowning in dams, quad bike accidents as well as injuries from farm machinery and farm animals.

“A large number of Western Australian farms are family owned and operated. It can therefore be difficult to distinguish between a farm environment as a workplace or as a family home,” said Kidsafe WA Chief Executive Officer, Scott Phillips.

[New data released](#) by Kidsafe WA, with the support of the Western Australian Department of Health shows 226 farm injury presentations were made to the PMH ED between July 2005 and June 2015. Although PMH has the potential to provide medical assistance to the whole of Western Australia, often children are treated at local medical facilities. This report therefore provides a snapshot of farm injuries across the state. Other key findings from the Western Australian Childhood Injury Surveillance Research Report: Farm Injuries show:

- Males are at greater risk of sustaining a farm injury.
- Older children aged between 10-14 years of age are at greater risk of sustaining a farm injury, followed by children aged 5-9 years.
- Farm injury trends throughout the year coincide with seasonal increases in farming activities such as sowing and harvesting, as well as school holiday periods.
- Almost half of all children presenting to the PMH ED with a farm related injury were required to be admitted to hospital for further treatment.

“Many farms are located in rural or remote settings, often with limited telephone coverage. This may lead to delays in first aid and necessary treatment, emphasising the need for injury prevention on farms,” said Mr Phillips.

Active supervision is a vital component of preventing injuries on farms for all children. For younger children this should be combined with the development of a safe play area that restricts a child’s access to potential hazards through the use of fences and barriers. Older children should only be allocated age appropriate jobs and chores on the farm, restricting their involvement in hazardous tasks.

“Kidsafe WA is committed to ensuring West Australian children become healthy adults and are working hard to promote safety and prevent childhood injuries via education, research and advocacy,” said Mr Phillips.

For more information on how to keep your children safe visit: [www.kidsafewa.com.au](http://www.kidsafewa.com.au)

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### **Media Contact:**

Scott Phillips  
Chief Executive Officer, Kidsafe WA  
0400 828 011

### **Supported by**



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