
Quad Related Deaths and Injuries in Australia 2014 - Media Monitors Report

Australian Centre for Agricultural Health and Safety

Tony Lower

Teresa Munro

January 14, 2015

Background

Australian print media provides an avenue to highlight the prevalence of farm related deaths and injuries. The process of media monitoring has been used by the National Farm Injury Data Centre (NFIDC) since 2005 to assist in the collection of information on farm injury events (fatal and nonfatal). This report focuses specifically on data involving quads (both on and off farms).

Method

iSENTIA (formerly Media Monitors Australia) is a privately owned company contracted by the NFIDC to scan approximately 2,500 daily, weekly and monthly publications Australia wide. Publications are scanned for various search terms nominated by the NFIDC. In relation to the monitoring of quad related injury events, the following search terms are used: *“ATV re accidents, injuries or safety on farms or rural properties”, “Quad Bike” and/or “Quad bike in re to accidents, injuries or safety on farms or rural properties”*.

Each day’s articles are received via email in PDF format, are viewed for relevance and then entered into a *Microsoft Excel* database. Any quad related death that has been reported in the media is added to the Quad Related Deaths Register. The Access Liaison Officer at the National Coroners’ Information System (NCIS) is notified of the fatal injury event and the NFIDC is then informed of the matching NCIS case number. This process allows for timely reporting of quad related fatality cases in Australia, as cases are added to the register regardless of their closure status i.e. open cases are included within the register. Once sufficient information is available from NCIS so that cause of death, mechanism of injury and intent can be accurately defined, these events can then be reported on more comprehensively.

Results

Deaths

There were approximately 1,800 print media articles received by the NFIDC from iSENTIA in 2014. A total of 15 quad related deaths were reported for this period. Table 1 provides a summary of the quad related fatal injury events:

- Of the 15 reported deaths, 12 (80%) occurred on a farm, with two further cases involving quads entering / exiting a farm onto a public road.
- Of the 15 reported deaths, 9 (60%) were rollovers.

Table 1: Quad related deaths as reported in the Australian media 2014

Age	Sex	State	Description of Event	Rollover Yes or No	Farm Yes or No
9	M	QLD	The accident occurred when the pair had driven the quad bike on to a dry creek bed.	Yes	Yes
12	M	QLD	The boy, believed to be from Gympie, was found on the property at 1.30pm on Tuesday, and died on the scene as a result of the crash.	Yes	Yes
12	M	VIC	Boy was killed after coming off a bike at a private property. The boy was bringing in a herd of dairy cows when the incident occurred at about 3:40 pm.	Yes	Yes
23	M	NSW	23 year old Helensburg man had been riding the bike alone on the property about 6.30am when it's believed he lost control of the vehicle.	No	Yes
25	M	NSW	A 25 year old man was riding a quad bike on Stacy Road at Willbriggie when he was involved in a collision with another quad bike.	No	No
26	M	QLD	While mustering XXXX has fallen/was thrown clear from the quad bike and sustained fatal injuries. He was not wearing a helmet at the time, it does not appear that the bike has landed on him.	No	Yes
27	M	VIC	Investigators believe a truck was travelling west on the Colac-Timboon Road around 11am when a quad bike pulled out of a nearby driveway and into its path.	No	No
40	M	QLD	The accident occurred when the pair had driven the quad bike on to a dry creek bed.	Yes	Yes
49	M	NSW	Police say he was under the quad bike that had rolled over.	Yes	Yes
52	M	QLD	52 year old male rider was located near the upturned quad bike with head injuries that were not survivable.	Yes	Yes
54	M	VIC	Police reported a rollover incident.	Yes	Yes
59	F	VIC	A 59 year old woman died when the quad bike she was riding rolled down an embankment on a cattle farm in Devon North.	Yes	Yes
64	F	TAS	A collision between Mrs XXXX ATV and two motorcycles.	No	No

Age	Sex	State	Description of Event	Rollover Yes or No	Farm Yes or No
67	M	NSW	On Thursday 3rd July 2014 the deceased rode his quad bike towards his neighbour's property to speak about some fencing matters. He was not wearing a helmet or protective clothing. While riding along he swerved to avoid some barbed wire lying on the ground, however drove into an unseen barbed wire fence.	No	Yes
69	M	NSW	It is believed the man had been riding his quad bike on the property when he hit a stump, lost control and flipped through the air with the bike landing on top of him.	Yes	Yes

Non-fatal Injury

There were an additional 86 non-fatal quad related injury events reported in the Australian print media in 2014. Table 2 provides a summary of the quad related non-fatal injury events:

- There were 13 children under the age of 16 years involved in quad related injury events, representing 15.1% of all injury cases. The majority of these children required hospitalisation or medical treatment for their injuries.
- Of the 86 reported injury events, location was unable to be determined for 14 cases. Of the remaining cases, 49 (57 %) occurred on-farm and 23 (27%) in a non-farming setting.
- Of the 86 cases, the mechanism of injury could not be determined for seven cases. Of the remaining cases, rollovers accounted for 35 (41%) of the reported non-fatal injury cases and non-rollovers for 44 (51%) of the cases.

Table 2: Quad related non-fatal injury events as reported in the Australian media 2014.

Age	Sex	State	Description of Event	Rollover Yes or No	Farm Yes or No
2	M	NSW	A quad bike fell three metres down an embankment and then rolled a further eight metres.	Yes	Yes
3	M	NSW	Doctor said the boy was riding beside family members when he hit the tree and was initially left semi conscious.	No	No
5	M	QLD	Emergency services are racing to a Wandal property where a five-year-old has fallen off a quad bike.	No	Yes
7	F	QLD	Airlifted a child from Beaudesert after she came off a quad bike and fell approximately 1m onto the ground.	No	Unknown
7	M	NSW	A Curlwaa man, 50, was travelling west along Delta Road about noon in a Toyota Hilux, when a seven year old boy riding a quad runner drove out from a nearby property in front of the car, and the two collided. The boy was thrown from the bike onto the road.	No	No
8	F	NSW	Ignoring her dad's calls to slow down, she sped up and lost control, falling off the 90cc bike around a downward bend.	No	Yes
8	F	QLD	Queensland Ambulance Service was called to the Cherbourg area at 12.30pm to a quad bike accident involving a young female.	No	Unknown
8	M	VIC	An eight-year-old boy was in a stable condition after falling off a quad bike in Moe.	No	No
13	M	VIC	Teenager was riding on private property when he came off.	No	Yes
14	M	NSW	A 14 year old boy suffered a suspected spinal injury in a quad bike crash.	No	Unknown
15	F	QLD	A 15 year old girl also was injured in a separate quad bike accident at Biloela on Tuesday	No	Unknown
15	M	QLD	A Kingaroy teen rolled his quad bike on a private property.	Yes	Yes
15	M	QLD	A teenage boy was last night in a critical condition after a quad bike accident on a dirt track at the Tableland yesterday.	No	No
Teenage	M	QLD	A teenager has been airlifted to hospital with suspected head and spinal injuries after a quad bike crash.	No	Unknown
18	M	QLD	An 18 year old male collided with a car on a property.	No	Yes

Age	Sex	State	Description of Event	Rollover Yes or No	Farm Yes or No
18	M	WA	Began riding the quad bike aggressively, and in the process rolled the bike on Edward Rd and was injured as a result.	Yes	No
20	M	QLD	An all-terrain vehicle accident that left a 20 year old Mount Isa man with a broken arm and suspected neck and spinal injuries.	No	No
23	M	NSW	He lost control of the Yamaha quad bike, veering sharply to the right, and was flung from the vehicle before it rolled over him.	Yes	Yes
26	F	NSW	26 yearold woman who suffered chest and internal injuries after the bike landed on top of her.	Yes	No
26	M	NSW	26 year old man sustained serious leg injuries.	Yes	No
28	F	VIC	The bike was being driven slowly along the road when the 28 year old woman fell off.	No	No
28	M	WA	The man was riding the blue Yamaha bike on Farmaner Parkway when he lost control turning into Birkett Circle, rolling the quad bike several times and sustaining serious injuries.	Yes	No
20's	M	Vic	A man in his 20's suffered neck and chest injuries when he rolled a quad bike near Dunkeld.	Yes	No
20's	M	QLD	A reported quad bike accident. The male patient in his twenties who had suffered possible fractured ribs, a broken collar bone and possible injuries to his spleen.	Unknown	Yes
20's	M	QLD	Two young men who have suffered horrific injuries in a quad bike crash.	No	No
20's	M	QLD	Two young men who have suffered horrific injuries in a quad bike crash.	No	No
30	M	QLD	A Queensland man has been taken to hospital with serious neck injuries after a quad bike crash. A 44 year old man is in Townsville Hospital, while a 30 year old man has facial injuries.	No	No
31	F	NT	The 31 year old was mustering cattle when she hit a ditch and rolled her bike shortly after 9am.	Yes	Yes
32	M	QLD	Mr Craven lost control of the quad bike which caused it to roll several times.	Yes	Yes
35	M	QLD	Fractured ankle after he came off a quad bike.	No	Yes
30's	M	QLD	The man in his thirties sustained a suspected head injury and chest pain after falling off a quad bike.	No	Yes

Age	Sex	State	Description of Event	Rollover Yes or No	Farm Yes or No
30's	F	QLD	A woman in her 30s has sustained a suspected spinal injury after falling off a quad bike north-east of Warwick.	No	Yes
40	M	TAS	Man injured in a quad bike crash near Chain Of Lagoons on the East Coast was in a stable condition in the Royal Hobart Hospital last night.	No	No
41	F	QLD	She was working in the paddock with a group of cattle when she fell from her quad bike.	No	Yes
41	M	NSW	A 41 year old man was flown by Westpac Rescue Helicopter to Tamworth Hospital on Friday night, 29 August, following a quad bike accident.	No	Yes
42	M	NSW	Rescue helicopter has been called to a quad bike accident near Young.	Yes	Yes
42	M	NSW	Emergency services were called just before 12.30 this afternoon after the man failed to navigate the quad over a log.	Yes	Yes
44	M	QLD	A Queensland man has been taken to hospital with serious neck injuries after a quad bike crash. A 44 year old man is in Townsville Hospital, while a 30-year-old man has facial injuries.	No	No
45	F	QLD	A woman, 45 with multiple fractures and possible spinal injuries after she fell from a quad bike.	No	Yes
45	M	QLD	The man had been involved in a quad bike accident earlier that morning.	Unknown	Unknown
48	M	NSW	A 48 year old male was transported to Lismore Base Hospital on Tuesday after an incident involving a quad bike. At approximately 4.20pm where the man had suffered a suspected fractured pelvis and serious leg and facial injuries.	No	Yes
49	M	NSW	49 year old male has suffered chest and neck injuries after the quad bike he was on has gone through a fence.	No	Yes
40's	M	QLD	RACQ CareFlight Rescue flew to the aid of an injured quad bike rider. The man, aged in his 40s, lost control of the bike causing it to crash and roll at around 5pm.	Yes	Yes
50	M	NSW	A 50 year old man was airlifted to Orange after he rolled his quad bike.	Yes	Unknown
52	F	QLD	She was injured in a quad bike rollover.	Yes	Unknown

Age	Sex	State	Description of Event	Rollover Yes or No	Farm Yes or No
52	M	QLD	A 52 year old man suffered multiple fractures to his right arm, ribs and leg after a quad bike accident.	No	Yes
55	F	NSW	A 55 year old woman was airlifted to Canberra Hospital yesterday after crashing into a fence on a quad bike.	No	Yes
55	F	QLD	A 55 year old woman from Brisbane after she fell from a quad bike at low speed on Facing Island.	No	No
56	M	NSW	The man was riding a quad bike on a property when the bike rolled.	Yes	Yes
50's	F	QLD	A woman in her 50s was taken to Mackay base Hospital with head injuries after a quad bike rollover.	Yes	Yes
50's	M	NSW	A man in his mid-50s is in a stable condition in Orange hospital following a quad bike accident at a farm south of Blayney yesterday afternoon.	Unknown	Yes
50's	M	NSW	A male believed to be in his 50's has suffered a serious scalp injury after he went through a fence on his Quad bike.	No	Yes
60	Unknown	NSW	A 60 year old suffered serious head injuries in a quad bike rollover, west of Coffs Harbour.	Yes	Yes
61	M	QLD	61 year old man involved in a quad bike accident at a private property.	No	Yes
61	M	NSW	The farm hand was riding the bike up a steep incline on the Bowmans Creek Road property when it flipped and fell on top of him, crushing his abdomen and chest.	Yes	Yes
61	M	QLD	A 61 year old male rolled quad whilst mustering.	Yes	Yes
61	M	NSW	A quad bike fell three metres down an embankment and then rolled a further eight metres.	Yes	Yes
62	M	QLD	A 62 year old to Nambour Hospital with a suspected spinal injury, after his quad bike rolled over on private property.	Yes	Yes
64	M	NSW	A 64 year old male had been flown to Tamworth Hospital after coming off his Quad bike.	Unknown	Unknown
65	M	NSW	The man's bike tipped onto its side on a sloping hill.	Yes	Yes
65	F	VIC	Police said she had been riding through long grass on a West Wodonga property when she struck a concealed object.	No	Yes
66	M	NSW	He had fallen from the quad-bike and the bike had rolled onto the patient.	Yes	Yes

Age	Sex	State	Description of Event	Rollover Yes or No	Farm Yes or No
68	M	NSW	The 68 year old man was attending to his stock when his quad bike rolled sideways down the hill, trapping him underneath.	Yes	Yes
69	M	QLD	The 69 year old suffered serious pelvic, abdominal and head injuries when he fell off the bike down an embankment.	Yes	Unknown
60's	M	VIC	A quad bike had rolled and a man in his 60s had suffered shoulder, leg and rib injuries.	Yes	Yes
60's	F	QLD	A woman in her 60s has been airlifted by RACQ CareFlight Rescue after sustaining serious injuries in a quad bike rollover.	Yes	Yes
73	M	NSW	A 73 year old man was airlifted to Sydney on Monday afternoon following a quad bike accident earlier that morning. The man was mustering sheep when he swerved the bike to dodge a kangaroo. The bike rolled and came to rest on top of the man.	Yes	Yes
74	F	VIC	74 year old was cycling on the Darebin Creek Trail in Heidelberg West when she rounded a bend and became startled by the four-wheel Polaris quad bike about 3.45pm on Thursday. The woman applied her brakes when she saw the quad, causing her to lose control of her bike, slide and hit the front of the police vehicle.	No	No
70's	M	QLD	A man in his 70s who was injured in a quad bike crash.	No	Yes
83	M	NSW	The man was riding on his Spa Rd, Windellama property when the bike rolled.	Yes	Yes
80+	M	QLD	He sustained injuries in a quad bike roll over.	Yes	Unknown
Unknown	M	QLD	The man came off his quad bike near Dingo.	No	Yes
Unknown	M	QLD	A man was airlifted to Mackay Base Hospital after the quad bike he was riding crashed through a wire fence.	No	Yes
Unknown	M	QLD	A man was transported to Rockhampton Hospital on Friday night with multiple injuries after being involved in a quad bike accident at Keppel Sands.	No	No
Unknown	Unknown	QLD	The three people were riding the quad bike at 2.30am yesterday when it hit a water pipe on the Bruce Highway at Bluewater.	No	No
Unknown	Unknown	QLD	The three people were riding the quad bike at 2.30am yesterday when it hit a water pipe on the Bruce Highway at Bluewater.	No	No

Age	Sex	State	Description of Event	Rollover Yes or No	Farm Yes or No
Unknown	Unknown	QLD	The three people were riding the quad bike at 2.30am yesterday when it hit a water pipe on the Bruce Highway at Bluewater.	No	No
Unknown	M	QLD	A fourth man was hospitalised in a separate quad bike accident at Clermont on Saturday night.	Unknown	Unknown
Unknown	F	NSW	She rolled the quad bike on the steep slope.	Yes	Yes
Unknown	F	WA	A woman has been flown to hospital after a quad bike rollover in Brunswick.	Yes	No
Unknown	F	QLD	A woman was taken to Charters Towers Hospital with minor injuries after she rolled her quad bike last Tuesday afternoon.	Yes	Yes
Unknown	Unknown	QLD	Paramedics took a person to hospital after they fell from a quad bike in the Lockyer Valley.	No	Unknown
Unknown	M	NSW	The man was believed to be spraying thistles on a steep incline at an Emu Swamp Road property when the mishap occurred.	Yes	Yes
Unknown	F	QLD	She was involved in a quad bike accident. Suspected spinal injury.	Unknown	Unknown
Unknown	F	NT	The woman was travelling at about 40km/hr when the incident happened.	Unknown	Yes
Unknown	M	VIC	He lost control of his bike and ran into a barb wire fence.	No	Yes