

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2010-2011

Outcome 5–Workplace Relations

DEEWR Question No.EW0681_11

Senator Siewert provided in writing.

Question

ABCC - DEATHS

Since the establishment of the ABCC, how many deaths have occurred in the construction industry annually? How many deaths occurred in the construction industry in the ten years prior to the existence of the ABCC?

Answer

- The Australian Building and Construction Commission (ABCC) was established in October 2005. The ABCC does not perform functions in relation to occupational health and safety under the *Building and Construction Industry Improvement Act 2005*.
- The following tables provide fatality data for the construction industry.

Financial Year ^(a)	Number of notified fatalities in the Construction Industry
2008-09	27
2007-08	37
2006-07	29
2005-06	25
2004-05	18
2003-04	24

Source: National Data Set Statistics (NDS), Safe Work Australia.

(a) The compilation of work-related fatalities in each OHS jurisdiction into a national dataset only commenced in July 2003.

NOTE: Notified fatalities that occurred while commuting to or from work, and those resulting from suicide or natural causes (e.g. stroke or heart attack) are not included in this report.

While the above data set is only available from 2003-04 onwards earlier fatalities data is available on the number of compensated fatalities in the Construction industry and the relevant information from this data set between 1994-95 and 2002-03 is provided below. **Please note** that the tables above and below are reporting different measures and are therefore not directly comparable.

Financial Year	Number of compensated fatalities in the Construction industry
2002–03	48
2001–02	47
2000–01	49
1999–2000	45
1998–99 ^(a)	47
1997–98 ^(a)	37
1996–97 ^(a)	55
1995–96 ^{(a)(b)}	42
1994–95 ^{(a)(b)}	57

Source: National Data Set for Compensation-based Statistics (NDS), Safe Work Australia.

(a) Data excludes the Australian Capital Territory private sector.

(b) Data excludes diseases in Western Australia.

NOTE: Compensated fatalities include both injury and disease (i.e not just as a result of a workplace accident), and do not include fatalities where there is no next-of-kin to make a claim.