

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Agency - Safe Work Australia

Department of Employment Question No. EM0113_14

Senator Lines asked on 21 November 2013, Hansard page 29

Question

SWA - Number of deaths in the construction industry

Senator LINES: Perhaps you can take this question as well: how many deaths occurred in the construction industry in the reportable period? Ms Grey: I can certainly tell you that. I should give you a bit of background about the way that we collect data and the different datasets that we use to report on data. There are a number of workers within the construction industry who are not covered by workers compensation. We do collect compensation based statistics from all of the jurisdictions; however, that underreports a number of fatalities for an industry such as construction or agriculture—industries where there are a large number of contractors. So I can provide you with the compensated fatalities, and I am more than happy to email you a fact sheet that we put out. But, during the five years between 2007-08 and 2011-12, 211 construction workers were killed. Senator LINES: Was that a 10-year low? Ms Grey: Actually the 10-year low was in 2012. If you would like us to take it on notice— Senator LINES: That would be good.

Answer

Data sourced from Safe Work Australia's Traumatic Injury Fatality Collection show there were 29 work-related fatalities in the Construction industry in 2012.

Safe Work Australia has published a fact sheet on fatalities and serious workers' compensation claims in the Construction industry for 2007-08 – 2011-12, which is attached.