

Stephen Palethorpe
Secretary
The Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Via Email: eec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Palethorpe,

**Inquiry into the prevention, investigation and prosecution of industrial deaths in
Australia: Answers to Questions on Notice**

At Safe Work Australia's appearance before the Committee on 7 August 2018 for the Inquiry into the prevention, investigation and prosecution of industrial deaths in Australia, Safe Work Australia undertook to provide answers to two questions taken on notice. Please find below the answers to these questions.

Changes to scope of Safe Work Australia's traumatic injury fatalities data (p34 of transcript)

Senator ABETZ: And the gathering of that data has remained consistent. You haven't expanded or reduced the parameters?

Ms Grey: The data was expanded slightly to capture fatalities on public roads. While that data has always been reported, we felt that it had been underreported, so we put in place different collection methods to obtain that information so that the collection was broader.

Senator ABETZ: When did that start?

Ms Grey: I'll have to take that on notice, sorry.

Answer: As advised, work-related public road fatalities have been included in the Traumatic Injury Fatalities (TIF) data set since it commenced in 2003. Safe Work Australia worked with jurisdictional authorities to make improvements to the reporting of fatalities in TIF, particularly in relation to the underreporting of work-related public road fatalities. These improvements were implemented from 1 January 2013.

Data on prosecutions and fines (p36 of transcript)

CHAIR: It would make it easier for the committee if you were able to put that data on the record, either now or on notice. That saves us trying to find it when we're finalising our report.

Ms Baxter: The data that Mr Garred referred to in the CPM?

CHAIR: Yes.

Ms Baxter: Yes, certainly. We're very happy to do that.

Answer: The data that was referenced by Safe Work Australia at the hearing relates to aggregate data provided by each of the jurisdictions on the number of work health and safety legal proceedings and the total amount of fines ordered by the court. This data is published in Safe Work Australia's annual *Comparative Performance Monitoring Report: Part 2 – Work Health and Safety Compliance and Enforcement Activities*. The latest report available is the 19th Edition which was published in December 2017 and includes data up to the 2015-16

financial year. The latest report, and previous editions, can be accessed from the Safe Work Australia website at: <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/collection/comparative-performance-monitoring-reports>.

I trust that the above information will be useful to the Committee. Safe Work Australia is willing to assist the Committee further should additional information be required or there are any further questions.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Baxter
Chief Executive Officer
Safe Work Australia

11 September 2018