

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015

Agency - Safe Work Australia

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000040

Senator Lines asked on 26 February 2015 on proof Hansard page 83

Question

SWA - Breakdown of stats regarding workplace deaths

Ms Grey: I can tell you in just a second. I can tell you injuries, which I have got right here. Over that 11-year period, from 2003 to 2013, 28 per cent of the fatalities involved falls from a height. Vehicle crashes accounted for 17 per cent of fatalities, and electrocutions accounted for 15 per cent.

Senator LINES: How do vehicle deaths come into construction? Is that on a site?

Ms Grey: It may well be on a site, or it might be a worker who is moving between sites. It is not commuting, it is actually a worker who is considered to be at work. It is not infrequently being hit by a vehicle.

Senator LINES: Yes, I understand that. Would you presume that falls are from high rise construction?

Ms Grey: No, not necessarily. There has in fact been quite a debate over what height that should be in guidance material. If you wanted more details, Mr Wagner could provide you with them. That has been quite a debate because the research actually shows that it does not have to be from that great a height.

Senator LINES: Does age figure at all? Is it something that stands out in the stats?

Ms Grey: No, that is more in agriculture. I can certainly provide a breakdown for you. I just do not have it with me.

Senator LINES: Thank you. I do not think I have any further questions.

Answer

Table 1 shows the number and proportion of worker fatalities in the construction industry by age group for the combined years 2003 to 2013.

Table 1: Worker fatalities, 2003 to 2013

Age Group	Construction		All industries	
	Number	%	Number	%
14 & under	0	0%	3	0%
15-24	66	16%	279	10%
25-34	67	17%	471	17%
35-44	62	15%	577	21%
45-54	86	21%	617	22%
55-64	78	19%	539	19%
65 & over	45	11%	324	12%
Total	404	100%	2810	100%

Source: Traumatic Injury Fatalities