

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Agency - Safe Work Australia

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-001000

Senator Marshall provided in writing.

Question

SWA - Workplace Deaths and Injuries

- How many people have been killed at work in 2016? How is that comparing to the year before?
- How many people have been injured at work this year compared to last?

Answer

Worker fatalities

As at 2 November 2016, there have been 145 worker fatalities to date in 2016. This compares with 153 fatalities over the same period in 2015.

- Note: worker fatality data for 2016 are preliminary and are derived from initial media reports. These data therefore may be revised as new information becomes available following investigation from relevant authorities.

Overall, there were 195 worker fatalities in 2015.

Work-related injuries

Safe Work Australia compiles the National Data Set for Compensation-based Statistics (NDS) based on workers' compensation data provided by each jurisdiction. This data includes, among other things, the number of serious workers' compensation claims.

A serious claim is an accepted workers' compensation claim for an incapacity that results in a total absence from work of one working week or more. It therefore does not include minor injuries or illness.

Safe Work Australia does not yet have data for 2016. The latest available data in the NDS is for 2014–15 – this data, however, is considered preliminary and is subject to revision as additional workers' compensation claims are finalised. Preliminary data show that there were 107,355 serious claims in 2014–15, compared with 112,800 in 2013–14.