

Farmsafe WA Alliance

Rural Injury Prevention: Child Safety on Farms

Community Safety & Injury Prevention Conference
Bunbury
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Farmsafe WA Alliance

Independent, not-for-profit, non-government organisation inspiring safe farming since 1994

‘Founded by farmers, for farmers’

“In partnership with the WA farming community, Farmsafe WA Alliance will identify health and safety issues, provide knowledge and motivation to develop strategies and help find solutions for improved work practices and lifestyles.”



Why Child Safety on Farms?

**One farm-related child death in Australia every 10 days.
One third of child fatalities were visitors to farms.**

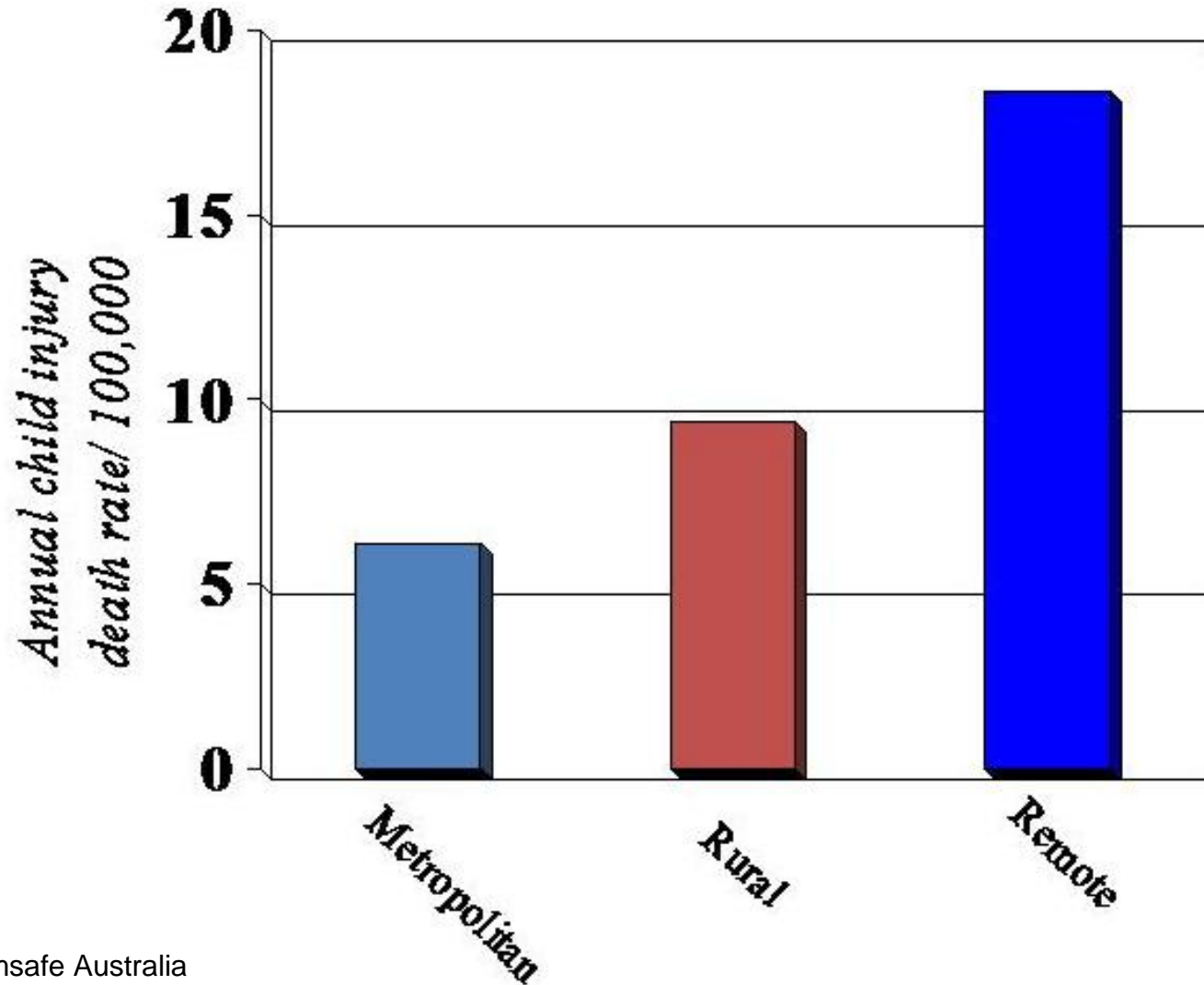
More than 10 children are hospitalised with farm-related injuries each week in Australia



Many more children with farm related injuries present at Emergency Departments of country hospitals and to General Practitioners

Unique environment – workplace and the home

Metropolitan vs Rural



Source: Farmsafe Australia

Main Causes of Child Injury

Drowning (0-5 years)

Farm machinery – (0-9yrs) and (10-15 yrs)

Two and four-wheeled motorcycles - (5-14 yrs)

Injury associated with other farm vehicles

Horse-related injury



The 0-4 year age group are at greatest risk on farms

Key Recommendations

- **Provide a safe place for children to play**
- **Put children in seatbelts and child restraints when in vehicles on the farm**
- **Don't ride on tractors, ATVs or on the back of utes**
- **Ensure that children wear helmets when riding bikes and horses**



Previous Child Safety Activities



- **Child safety workshops conducted in 2005**
- **Workshop feedback indicated that a demonstration site would be useful**

- **Kojonup Safe Play Area Demonstration Site Constructed in 2006**
- **Funding by Department of Health WA enabled production of DVD and activities to increase awareness of child safety on farms**

Safe Play Area Kojonup

**From
this.....**



Safe Play Area Kojonup

To this.....



Child Safe Play Area DVD

01.



PRACTICAL EXAMPLES

A safe play area built on John and Kirsten Carrington-Jones' farm in Kojonup WA is used to demonstrate what is possible.

02.



WHY SAFE PLAY AREAS ARE GREAT FOR FARMS

Shane Gould puts the case for safe play areas. Too many kids are being killed and seriously injured.

03.



WHAT DO KIDS WANT?

An area that keeps kids occupied and happy ... and looks great too! Practical design and landscape tips.

04.



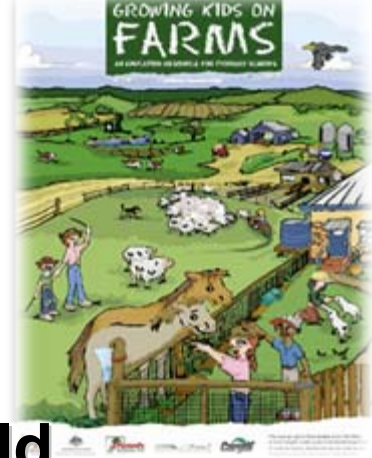
WHAT KINDS OF FENCING WORKS FOR KIDS?

Things to consider when making a fence to keep littlies from getting into hazardous areas of the farm.

Outlines the simple steps parents can take towards creating a safe play environment that provides children with a place to play that is so exciting and diverse that they are less inclined to go outside of that area.

RIPPER II Resource

RIPPER II. Growing kids on farms was developed to support educators to foster essential farm safety knowledge, skills and attitudes in primary school age children.



Provides ideas and activities that promote child safety on farms within the context of learning about Australian farming environments and production systems.

Content is consistent with the research on farm injury risks and key safety recommendations.

Geena and Harry's Farm
with JILL DEGENSKI
Illustrations: KIMBLIKEN

Most relevant curriculum outcomes for each year level are provided.



Current Child Safety Activities

Information and Resources Available:

Ripper II: Growing Kids on Farms – Primary School Education Resource Kit

Safe Play Area Demonstration Site & DVD

Child Safety on Farms Checklist

Child Safety on Farms Workshops

- **In partnership with Kidsafe WA and Royal Life Saving Society of WA**
- **With Partners in Grain and St John Ambulance Volunteers**



In Summary

- **Collaborative approach works well**
- **Combination of activities – media, activities etc**
- **Interactive workshops that engage participants**
- **Alliances and networks assist with effective distribution**
- **Focus on positive messages (not always negative)**
- **Behaviour change required in order to improve safety practices**
- **In-kind support can have as much value as monetary support**

Thank you!



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Farm Safety – It's an Attitude