

SHEARING SHED SAFETY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

Australian Wool Innovation (AWI) is providing funding for the WA Shearing Industry Association (WASIA) to develop a National Shearing Shed Safety Assessment Program targeted at wool growers and shed owners. The Program will provide the knowledge, skills and tools for shed owners/operators to enhance and manage their duty-of-care and workplace obligations.



The wool producing and shearing industry is currently in a strong position, but there are important safety issues that need to be addressed. This Program is designed to assist wool producers assess their current working conditions, environment and equipment; understand their duty-of-care obligations and create an improvement program to comply with modern workplace standards.

The Program will provide materials; deliver workshops in Workplace Health and Safety and hazard and risk identification; undertake individual shed safety assessments; provide documented assessments with an action and improvement plan and undertake a further three follow-up assessments over 12-months.



This will also be a vital research project, gathering valuable data regarding the overall state of shearing sheds, risks & hazards and measured improvements. Key to the improvement program is understanding the barriers for wool producers to undertake required safety improvements. This will allow industry to work collaboratively to assisting farmers meet their workplace health and safety requirements.

Shearing is a high-risk occupation and therefore of critical importance to improve safety standards. The Wool Producing Industry is asking for this Shed Safety Program to reduce injuries - which are becoming an unsustainable cost burden and bring workers compensation costs down.

The latest statistics available from WorkSafe show that in WA on average 2009 to 2015 there were 90 claims a year for shearing activities, with 69 cases reporting more than 5 days of lost time and in the latest year 2014-15 there were 30 cases reporting more than 60 days of lost time due to injury. In 2014-15 Worksafe calculated this as a total estimated cost of \$3.5 million dollars in WA.

Program Developers



Program Partner



WA SHEARING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (INC)

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CGU are a Program Partner, providing funding for the program. As a leading rural insurer and a top three provider of workers compensation CGU are supporting this as part of their commitment to reduce workplace injuries and achieve sustainable return to work outcomes.

This program is also well supported by industry with Pastoralists and Graziers WA, Safe Farms WA, WA Farmers Federation and Wool Producers Australia all assisting with the program.

Project Objectives and Deliverables

The objectives of the program are to:

- develop tools for on-farm assessment of shearing shed risk
- improve conditions for shearing shed workers
- improve compliance with modern workplace standards
- reduce risk and injuries
- reduce insurance and worker's compensation claims and
- gather industry data regarding shearing safety, risk issues, monitor and track improvements and barriers to improvement.



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