

# Western Australia OSH Industry Trends (2009)

## Cultural & Recreational Services Industry: Increases in lost time injuries and diseases among aged workers

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The following research data was initiated for policy and education purposes for the WorkSafe Division of the Department of Commerce. In the process, the data highlighted trends among workers in WA in different industries. The findings are based on the most recent data available at the time of publication. Consistent trends over a significant period of time were considered to be of value and have been published as part of WorkSafe's commitment to distribute information to interested members of Government, industry and community. The trends in these papers are focused on occupational safety and health issues in specific industry groups.

### Data

The data used in this report is derived from workers' compensation claims lodged in accordance with the *Workers' Compensation and Injury Management Act 1981* (the Act). Claims may be lodged by any person who is a 'worker', as defined by section 5 of the Act. This includes working directors who are deemed 'workers' under the Act and have some ownership of the company, as well as employed family members and private household workers (for whom workers' compensation cover is optional). Self employed persons, Commonwealth Government workers (including defence service personnel), workers covered by Comcare, police officers (except for work-related fatalities), unpaid volunteers and students on work experience are excluded from workers' compensation data.

Data in this report is based on the period from 2002/03 to 2006/07. 2006/07 is currently the latest data available due to a one year time lag.

The industry classification codes are in accordance with the *Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification 1993 Edition 1292.0 (ANZSIC)* published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. The classification codes are based on a hierarchical structure consisting of one digit codes (broadest level) down to four digit codes (finest level). For more information visit [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

The occupation classifications are in accordance with the *Australian Standard Classification of Occupations 2nd Edition 1220.0 (ASCO)* published by the Australian Bureau of Statistics. For more information visit [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au)

The injury and disease classification groupings and descriptions are the standard terms taken from the National Occupational Health & Safety Commission publication: *Type of Occurrence Classification System Second Edition July 1999 (TOOCS)*. For more information visit [www.ascc.gov.au](http://www.ascc.gov.au)



Considering the nature of this industry division, the number of incidences is likely to be understated given the proportion of unpaid volunteers and self-employed workers etc, who are not covered by the Act.

The Cultural and Recreational Services division consists of 21 industry classes aggregated into 10 industry groups which are aggregated further into three sub-industries. A hierarchical breakdown is provided for the Cultural and Recreational Services division in Appendix 1.

### Summary

- Aged worker (45+ years) lost time injuries and diseases in the Cultural and Recreational Services division increased 108 per cent during 2002/03 to 2006/07p.
- This is the greatest increase in aged worker LTI/Ds of all the industry divisions in WA during the five year period.
- More than half of the 156 incidences in 2006/07p were in the sub-industry of Sports and Recreation.
- A Gardener is the most common occupation in terms of injuries among aged workers.

### Overview

The number of work-related lost time injuries and diseases (LTI/Ds) in the Cultural and Recreational Services division has increased 52.8 per cent overall during the five year period from 2002/03 to 2006/07p.

Five work-related fatalities have been recorded during the same period.

In relation to 2006/07p, frequency and incidence rates and the number of LTI/Ds are all above the five year average with the exception of the incidence rate for LTI/Ds where one day/shift or more is lost, which is on par.

Cases where 60 days or more are lost as a result of a work-related LTI/D are also increasing and account for around 18 per cent of the total LTI/Ds in this industry.

Cultural and Recreational Services (All ages)							
Year	LTIDs 1+ days lost	Frequency rate 1+ days lost	Incidence rate 1+ days lost	60 days cases	Frequency rate 60+ days lost	Incidence rate 60+ days lost	Avg Duration
2002/03	307	11.9	1.5	48	1.9	0.2	41.9
2003/04	380	16.5	1.9	63	2.7	0.3	68.4
2004/05	375	14.4	1.7	67	2.6	0.3	49.6
2005/06	448	14.7	1.8	90	2.9	0.4	66.5
2006/07p	469	15.6	1.7	96	3.2	0.4	*
<b>Total</b>	<b>1979</b>	<b>73.1</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>1.6</b>	
<b>5yr Avg</b>	<b>395.8</b>	<b>14.6</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>72.8</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>0.3</b>	

\*data is not provided for 2006/07 due to the amount of unfinalised claims  
p provisional data

As a result of the 1979 work-related incidences, a total of 113,245 days were lost during the five years from 2002/03 to 2006/07p. 36 per cent of days lost were attributable to aged workers.

### So what is behind this upward trend?

One explanation could be the fact the number of workers covered by the Act in the Cultural and Recreational Services division in WA increased more than 29 per cent over the five year period. As such, there is perhaps a reasonable expectation to record more LTI/Ds.

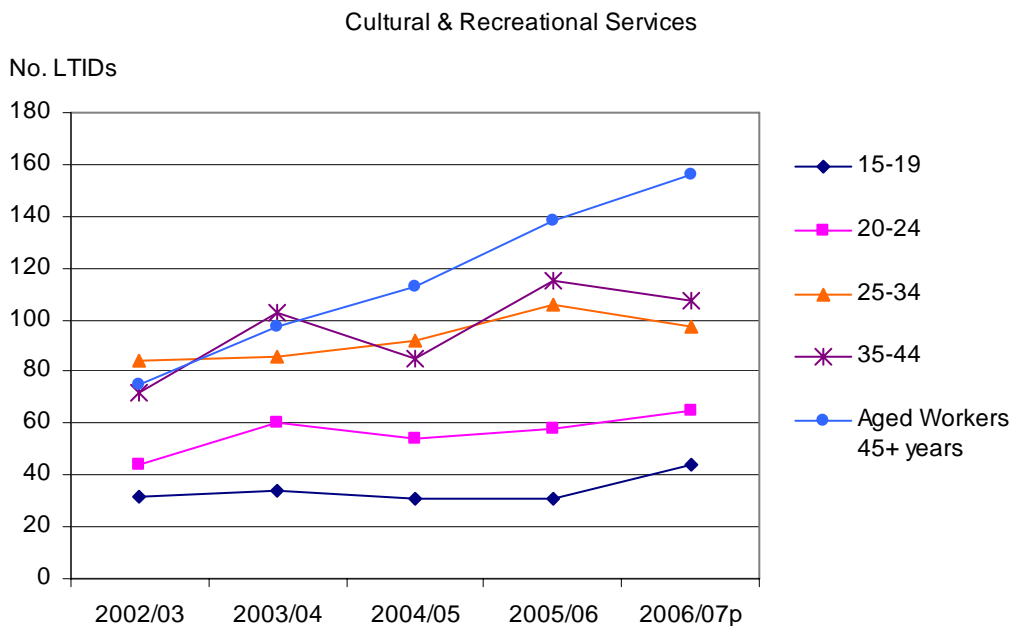
On a national level, there has been an influx of new workers in the Cultural and Recreational Services industry for all age groups over the past decade. Aged workers have significantly contributed to the job growth in the industry, experiencing the strongest employment growth in the 10 years to 2007 (based on ABS Labour Force Survey)<sup>1</sup>.

### Aged Workers (45+ years)

In WA, incidences across all age groups in this industry division have increased during the period. However, incidences involving aged workers (aged 45+ yrs) have more than doubled from 75 to 156 LTI/Ds during 2002/03 to 2006/07p; an increase of 108 per cent.

This is the greatest increase in aged worker LTI/Ds of all the industry divisions in WA during the five year period.

In 2002/03 aged workers accounted for the second greatest proportion of LTI/Ds in the Cultural & Recreational Services division at 24% (the greatest was workers aged 25-34 years with 27%). In 2006/07p, the aged worker accounted for the greatest proportion of LTI/Ds at 33% (or a third) followed by workers aged 35-44 (23%).



Largely, work-related lost time injuries and diseases in the Cultural & Recreational Services division are associated with male workers. This is also reflected in the incidences regarding aged workers. During 2002/03 to 2006/07 male and female aged worker incidences increased by 157 and 45 per cent respectively.

<sup>1</sup> Australian Government [www.skillsinfo.gov.au](http://www.skillsinfo.gov.au) : Employment Outlook for Cultural and Recreation Services July 2008

The ratio gap between male and female LTI/Ds widened markedly during the five year period. However, 2006/07p data shows this gap is narrowing.

Aged worker (45+ yrs) gender breakdown lost time injuries and diseases (1+ days lost)				
Year	Male	Female	Total	Ratio: Male:Female LTI/Ds
2002/03	42	33	75	56:44
2003/04	78	19	97	80:20
2004/05	84	29	113	74:26
2005/06	107	31	138	78:22
2006/07p	108	48	156	69:31
<b>Average</b>	<b>83.8</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>144.8</b>	-

p provisional data

In the Cultural & Recreational Services division, a total of 40,943 days were lost as a result of aged worker incidences during 2002/03 to 2006/07p. This equates to an average of 8,189 per year.

The total number of days lost due to aged worker incidences increased 95 per cent over the five year period (from 5,361 in 2002/03 to 10,584 in 2006/07p).

The largest proportion of the 156 aged worker incidences in 2006/07p are in the sub-industry of Sports and Recreation at 53.8 per cent, followed by Libraries, Museums and the Arts (45.5%) and Motion Picture, Radio and Television Services (0.6%).

What industry classes are accountable for the 108 per cent increase (2002/03 compared to 2006/07p) in aged worker LTI/Ds?

Drilling down further into the divisional structure reveals a significant increase during the five year period in the industry class of 9239 Recreational Parks and Gardens, from 9 aged worker incidences in 2002/03 to 52 in 2006/07p.

Why is this?

The table below shows the top three industry classes within the Cultural & Recreational Services division (from a total of 21 industry classes) in regards to aged worker LTI/Ds (one or more days/shifts lost) and total days lost.

	4 digit ANZSIC industry classes					
	9239 Recreational Parks and Gardens*		9312 Sports Gardens and Facilities nec**		9322 Casinos**	
	LTI/Ds	Total Days Lost	LTI/Ds	Total Days Lost	LTI/Ds	Total Days Lost
2002/03	9	404	14	1830	11	587
2003/04	32	1041	18	716	8	635
2004/05	39	673	19	980	14	650
2005/06	52	2131	20	1148	23	4679
2006/07p	52	1176	25	1833	21	2608
<b>5yr Total</b>	<b>184</b>	<b>5425</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>6507</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>9159</b>
<b>5yr Avg</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>1085</b>	<b>19.2</b>	<b>1301.4</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>1831.8</b>

\*falls under 2 digit ANZSIC sub-industry of 92 Libraries, Museums and the Arts

\*\* falls under 2 digit ANZSIC sub-industry of 93 Sports and Recreation

\*\*\*data at this fine level of detail (4 digit ANZSIC code) should be treated with caution

p provisional data

Although these three industry classes do not total the 156 incidences recorded in 2006/07p in their entirety, they account for the industry classes of most statistical significance accounting for almost two thirds of the total. All industry classes across the division contributed to the total in 2006/07p (156) with the exception of Music and Theatre Productions and Gambling services n.e.c. However, due to the relatively small numbers and to maintain confidentiality, the remaining data has not been included.

Which occupations, if any, is cause for concern?

In terms of occupation, the highest number of aged worker incidences for the above industry classes during the period are Gardeners (65) and Nursery and Garden Labourers (33) in the Recreational Parks and Gardens industry; Cleaners (12 LTI/Ds) and Gaming workers (11) in the Casino industry; and Greenkeepers (14) and Bar Attendants (11) in the Sports Gardens and Facilities nec industry.

Although unpaid volunteers are not covered by the Act, consideration must be given to the amount of volunteer involvement in the Cultural and Recreational Services division and the potential number of unrecorded LTI/Ds in addition to those covered in this report.

Sport and physical recreation was among the four most common types of organisation for which people volunteered in Australia; the other three being education and training, community/welfare and religious groups, accounting for three-quarters (74%) of volunteering involvements<sup>2</sup>.

In 2006 there were 541.8 (000) volunteers throughout WA industries (persons aged 18 years and over). 13.9 per cent of volunteers in WA were involved in sport/physical recreation organisations, 1.6 per cent in other recreation/interest organisations and 1.4 per cent in arts/heritage organisations<sup>3</sup>.

What type of injuries are they?

The most common mechanisms of injury for aged workers are muscular stress while handling or lifting and falls on the same level. This is the case for all three of the above industry classes, though not all in the same order of magnitude.

More than half of all incidences in each industry class (Casino, Recreational Parks and Gardens and Sports Gardens and Facilities nec) resulted in sprain and strain injuries. Sprains and strains is also the most prevalent nature of injury in the Cultural & Recreational Services division overall.

In relation to the industry class 9239 Recreational Parks and Gardens in particular, the greatest increases for natures of injury are sprains and strains, contusion and crushing injuries and hernia.

Commonly affected areas of the body are the lower back, shoulder and knee.

<sup>2</sup> ABS – Voluntary Work Australia 2006 – 4441.0

<sup>3</sup> ABS – Voluntary Work Australia 2006 – 4441.0 Table 20

## Appendix 1

### Division P Cultural and Recreational Services Structure (ANZSIC 1993)

<b>Sub-industry (2 digit ANZSIC)</b>	<b>91 Motion Picture, Radio and Television Services</b>
Group (3 digit ANZSIC)	911 Film and Video Services
Class (4 digit ANZSIC)	9111 Film and Video Production
	9112 Film and Video Distribution
	9113 Motion Picture Exhibition
	912 Radio and Television Services
	9121 Radio Services
	9122 Television Services

<b>Sub-industry (2 digit ANZSIC)</b>	<b>92 Libraries, Museums and the Arts</b>
Group (3 digit ANZSIC)	921 Libraries
Class (4 digit ANZSIC)	9210 Libraries
	922 Museums
	9220 Museums
	923 Parks and Gardens
	9231 Zoological and Botanic Gardens
	9239 Recreational Parks and Gardens
	924 Arts
	9241 Music and Theatre Production
	9242 Creative Arts
	925 Services to the Arts
	9251 Sound Recording Studios
	9252 Performing Arts Venues
	9259 Services to the Arts n.e.c.

<b>Sub-industry (2 digit ANZSIC)</b>	<b>93 Sports and Recreation</b>
Group (3 digit ANZSIC)	931 Sport
Class (4 digit ANZSIC)	9311 Horse and Dog Racing
	9312 Sports Grounds and Facilities n.e.c.
	9319 Sports and Services to Sports n.e.c.
	932 Gambling Services
	9321 Lotteries
	9322 Casinos
	9329 Gambling Services n.e.c.
	933 Other Recreation Services
	9330 Other Recreation Services

Version 1 February 2009

#### Further information

Further information is available from:

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