



Project Title: How can we estimate the burden of occupational injury and disease in a rural town?		Code: SRH1
Host School / Institute: School of Rural Health (Dubbo/Orange)	Address: School of Rural Health, 11 Moran Drive, Dubbo NSW	
Certificates & Clearances required: No		
Primary Supervisor: A/Prof Anthony Brown		
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Co-Supervisor/team: Consultations with some local health care providers eg ED at Dubbo Base Hospital		
Project Type: Literature Review; Design		
Project Category: Public Health; Occupational Health and Safety		
Skills / Attributes of a successful student: The successful scholar should have an interest in occupational health and safety of workplace health and safety and in epidemiology. They should be enthusiastic and self motivated but willing to seek advice and ask lots of questions.		
Project Keywords: Occupational injury; Occupational Disease; Burden of disease		
<p>Project Description: Occupational injuries and diseases occur throughout the country. The types of injuries and disease are likely to be different in rural locations reflecting different types of work and working arrangement. Data on the burden of disease in rural locations are not readily available.</p> <p>Acute injuries present to emergency departments and to general practice. Longer term management is largely done in general practice. Workers Compensation data may give an indication of some injuries but only where a claim is made. Occupational diseases are much harder to identify and are often overlooked.</p> <p>This project will involve a review of the literature about the occurrence of occupational injury in Australia and rural Australia. From there the aim is to consider how the issue could be measured locally. Would ED injury presentation data be useful? What about GP presentations? Would it be possible to identify occupational diseases? What would be the barriers to getting occupational injury and disease information?</p> <p>It is hoped that this summer project will be able to develop a protocol for a study to assess the burden of disease from occupational injury and or disease (eg by reviewing ED presentation data). From the protocol the next step would be the development of an ethics application. This would then mean there is a project that could be done another summer or by another student.</p>		