

# Media Release

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## How Safe is Your Child?

It's a shocking statistic that one child dies every fortnight on Australian farms and one-third of those are visitors to farms. Worse still, 77% of children killed were playing in the workplace at the time of the incident.

As part of Farm Safety Week, Farmsafe WA Alliance is encouraging all farming families to consider the importance of child safety on farms.

The farm environment is unique in that it is the home place as well as the workplace. You can't 'child proof' a farm however there are some important steps you can take to ensure children are kept safe.

Key recommendations for ensuring child safety on farms include ensuring that children:

- Stay in a securely fenced safe play area unless an adult takes them and looks after them
- Always wear seatbelts in cars, utes and trucks
- Don't ride on tractors, four-wheel motorbikes or the back of utes
- Always wear helmets when riding bikes and horses

"Safe play areas don't have to be expensive – they can include materials from the property such as old logs and rocks to edge sandpits and can have open spaces for running and kicking a ball," said Michelle Taylor, Executive Officer of Farmsafe WA Alliance.

"Supervision and rules such as 'no-go zones' are also important safety measures for children on farms."

Farmsafe WA Alliance has a variety of resources available such as the Child Safety Checklist, Magnet and Safe Play Area DVD. For more information visit the Farmsafe WA Website [www.farmsafewa.org](http://www.farmsafewa.org) or contact the office on (08) 9359 4118.

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