

National OHS Strategy 2002–2012

Progress against targets

The National OHS Strategy 2002–2012 (the Strategy) provides the framework for collective efforts to improve Australia's work health and safety performance. The Strategy sets national targets to reduce the incidence of work-related injury fatalities by at least 20% and to reduce the incidence of workplace injury (including musculoskeletal disorders) by at least 40% by 30 June 2012. Interim targets to be achieved by 30 June 2007 were to reduce work related fatalities by 10% and to reduce workplace injury by 20%.

A standard definition of 'serious claims due to injury or musculoskeletal disorders' has been used for

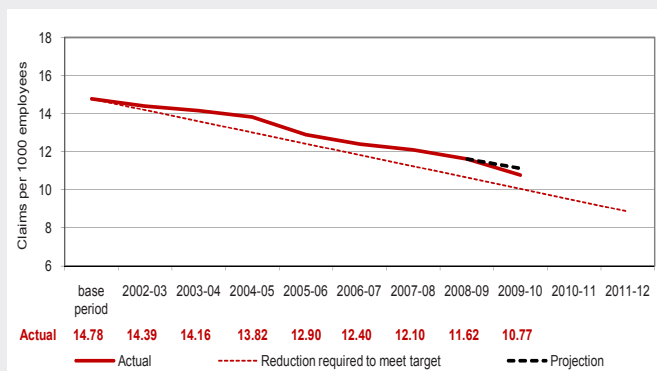
this analysis. Serious claims include all fatalities, all permanent incapacity claims and temporary incapacity claims for which one or more weeks of time lost from work has been recorded.

Achievements against the national targets for injury and fatality are measured using the *National Data Set for Compensation-based Statistics* (NDS). The baseline for measuring progress towards the targets is taken from the data for the three-year period 2000–01 to 2002–03. A three-year base period has been chosen to smooth much of the volatility that could result from selecting only one year. As data supplied for the latest year are preliminary and are expected to rise they have been adjusted to reflect likely final numbers.

Injury target

There was a 25% decrease in the incidence of injury and musculoskeletal claims between the base period and 2009–10. This is below the rate required to meet the Strategy long term target of a 40% improvement by June 2012. It is unlikely that Australia will meet this target.

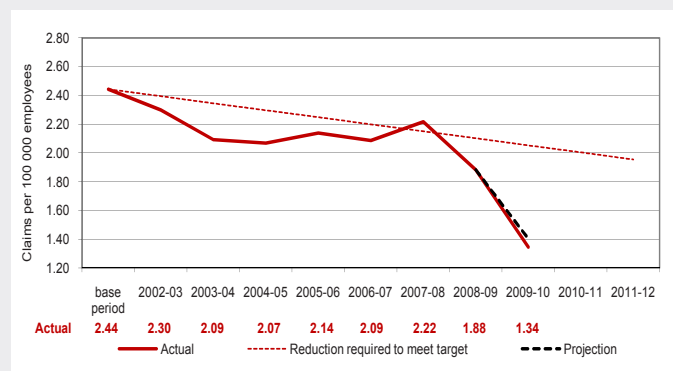
Incidence rate of serious injury and musculoskeletal claims, Australia, base period to 2009–10



Fatalities target

The fatality rate due to injuries and musculoskeletal disorders decreased by 42% from the base period to 2009–10. This is greater than the 20% reduction target required by 2012, however, as can be seen in the graph below, there is a considerable amount of volatility in this measure and consistent improvement is required to ensure the target is achieved.

Incidence rate of compensated injury & musculoskeletal fatalities, Australia, base period to 2009–10





International fatality comparison

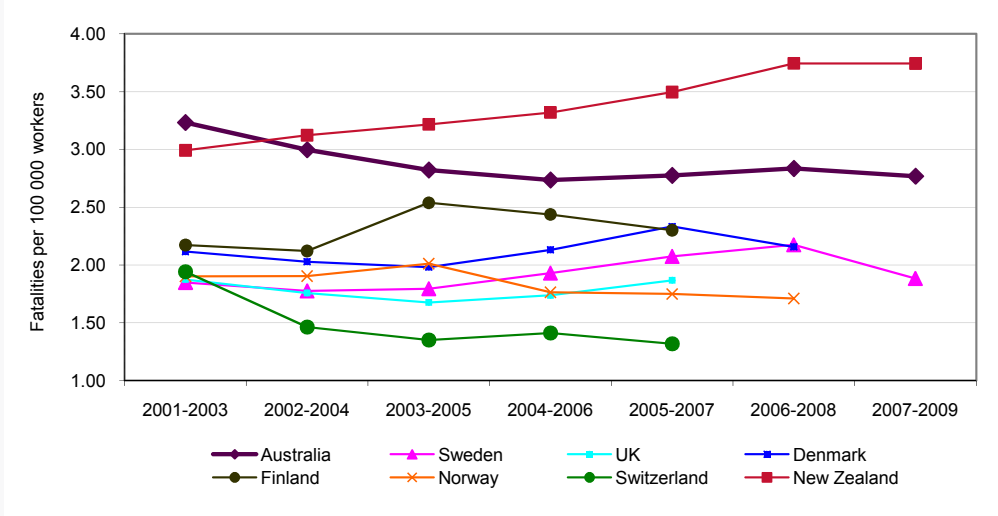
Following the first triennial review of the National OHS Strategy, the Workplace Relations Ministers' Council adopted an additional aspirational goal of having the lowest rate of traumatic fatalities in the world by June 2009.

To undertake this type of comparison, fatalities data are required on a consistent basis. Data from the International Labour Organisation were used as a base, from which only the better performing countries, in terms of fatality incidence rates, were selected for comparison. Australian data were taken from the Traumatic Injury Fatalities Dataset, sourced from the National Dataset for Compensation-based Statistics, the Notified Fatalities Collection and the National Coroners Information System. A three-year moving average approach was also adopted to reduce the volatility in the measure.

The figure below shows that while Australia's work-related injury fatality rate consistently decreased from 2000–02 to 2004–06 it has increased slightly since this time. In comparison, the best performing countries in the world have experienced greater fluctuations in their rates of work-related fatality.

While the gap between Australia and the better performing countries has reduced, Australia remains in seventh place and did not meet this aspirational goal.

Comparison of Australia's work-related injury fatality rate with the best performing countries



These data were extracted from the 13th Comparative Performance Monitoring report. More information on these indicators, including information on jurisdictional performance and information on the National OHS Strategy can be found at www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au.