

# 2020

## Annual Apprentice and Trainee Workplace Health and Safety Statistics

July 2021



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# Introduction

This is the fifth annual report representing the workplace health and safety (WHS) performance for the Group Training industry covering 2020. This year we had an increase in participation from interstate Group Training Organisations (GTOs) and we would like to thank them for their ongoing contributions to the data collection.

The Group Training industry is the largest employer network of apprentices and trainees. Collectively in 2020 they employed nearly 5,000 apprentices and trainees in a wide range of industry sectors across Victoria.

In late 2012, the Apprenticeship Employment Network, with support of the member OH&S network established an online database to collate quarterly statistics on apprentice and trainee WHS performance.

## Summary of the 2020 WHS GTO Benchmarking Statistics

- 2019 January – December statistical entries – totalled **9782**
- Quarter 1 statistics covered **3575** apprentices/trainees
- Quarter 2 statistics covered **3216** apprentices/trainees
- Quarter 3 statistics covered **1385** apprentices/trainees
- Quarter 4 statistics covered **1606** apprentices/trainees
- Industry with the most reportable accidents – **Automotive** (37.3% of all accidents reported for 2020)
- Industry with most days off work – **Furnishing** (33 avg days off work per accident)
- Industries with most days on restricted duties – **Community Services and Health & Building and Construction** (3.5 avg days on restricted duties per accident)
- Most frequent body part injured / reported – **Hand** (50.87%)
- Most frequent type of injury occurring – **Laceration** (38.15%)
- Age group with the most accidents – **15-19** (49.71%)
- Apprenticeship year level with the most accidents - **1<sup>st</sup> Year** (35.84%)

The methodology used in this report is a collective result of GTOs that provided quarterly results on their apprentices and trainees that were involved in a workplace health and safety accident (reportable incident) each quarter, against the total number employed during the same period.

The terminology used throughout this report is consistent with Safe Work Australia. Accidents collated for this report represent – “notifiable incidents” as described under the WHS Act 2012.

This report has been developed for the sole purpose of providing AEN members who participated in the quarterly WHS benchmarking surveys the ability to compare their individual results with the collective industry wide results.

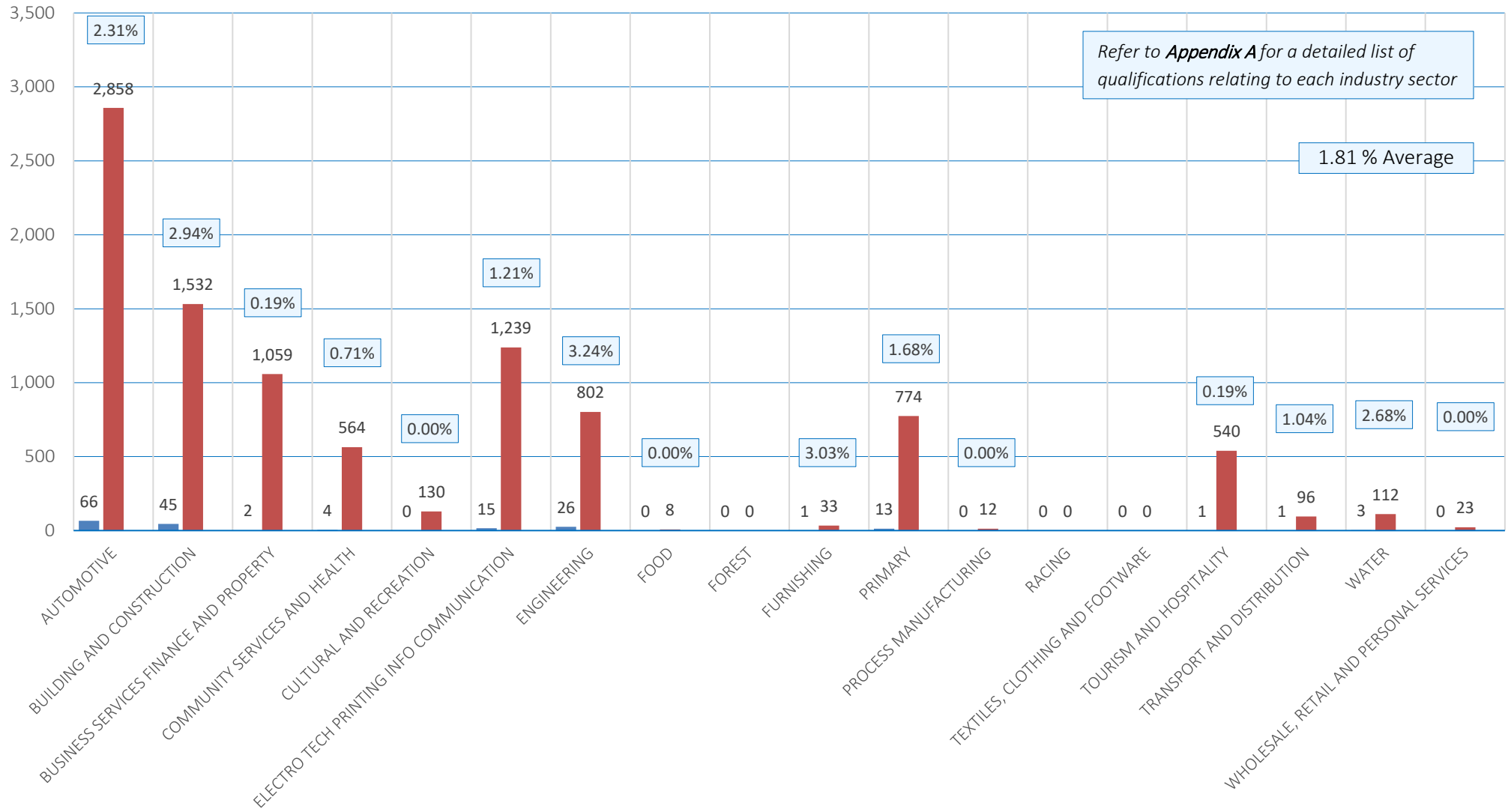
**These statistics Copyright of AEN and are not to be used by any other party without the written consent of AEN.**



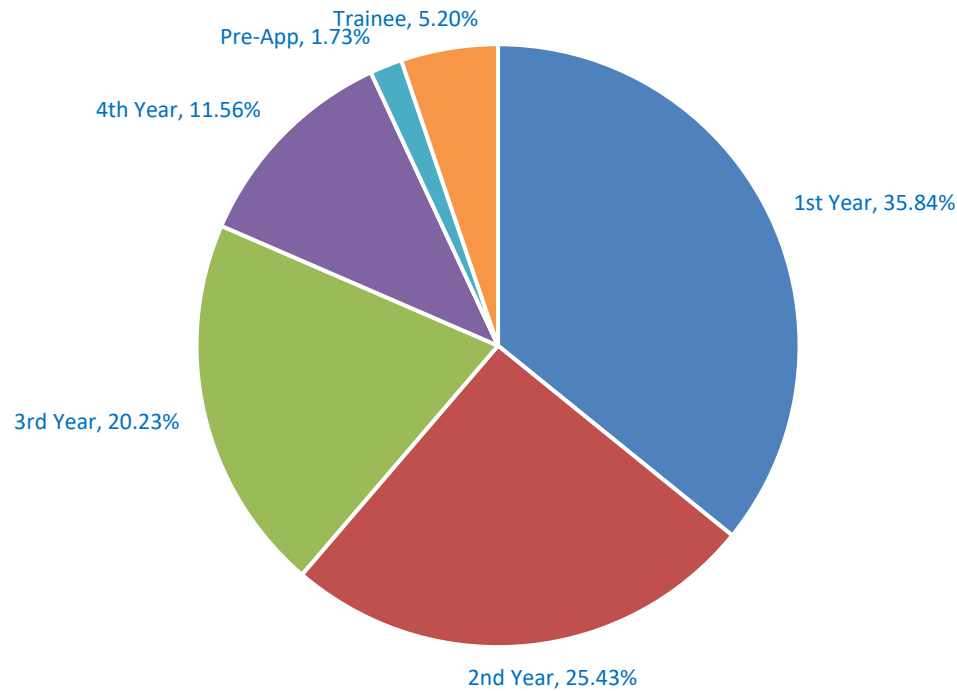


# Reportable Injuries Against Total Workers in Each Industry

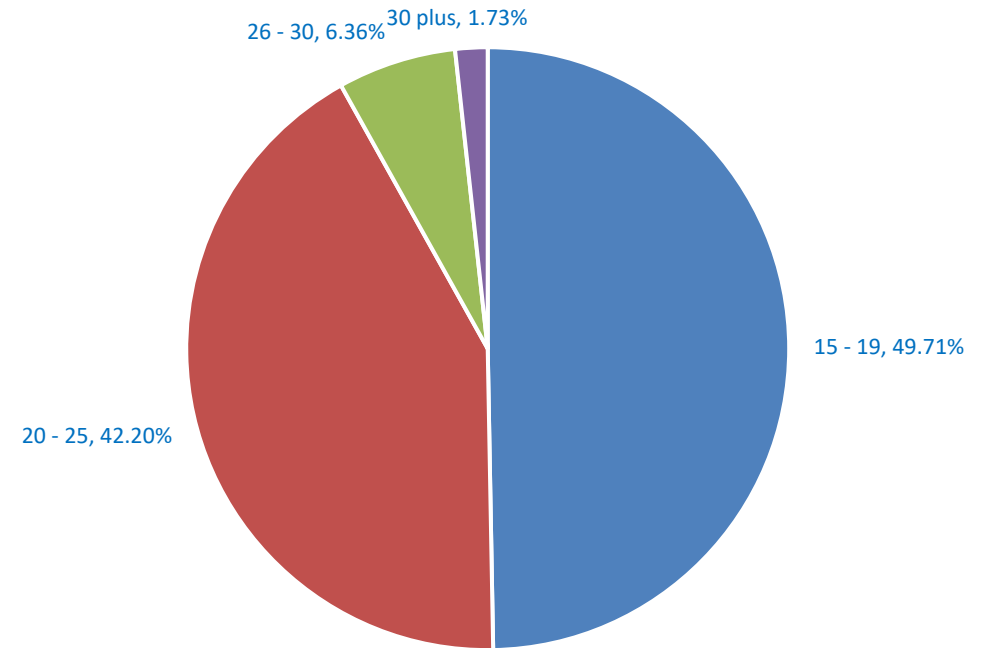
Total number of reportable accidents per industry  
 Total number of apprentices/trainees per industry



## Reportable Incidents by Year Level



## Reportable Incidents by Age



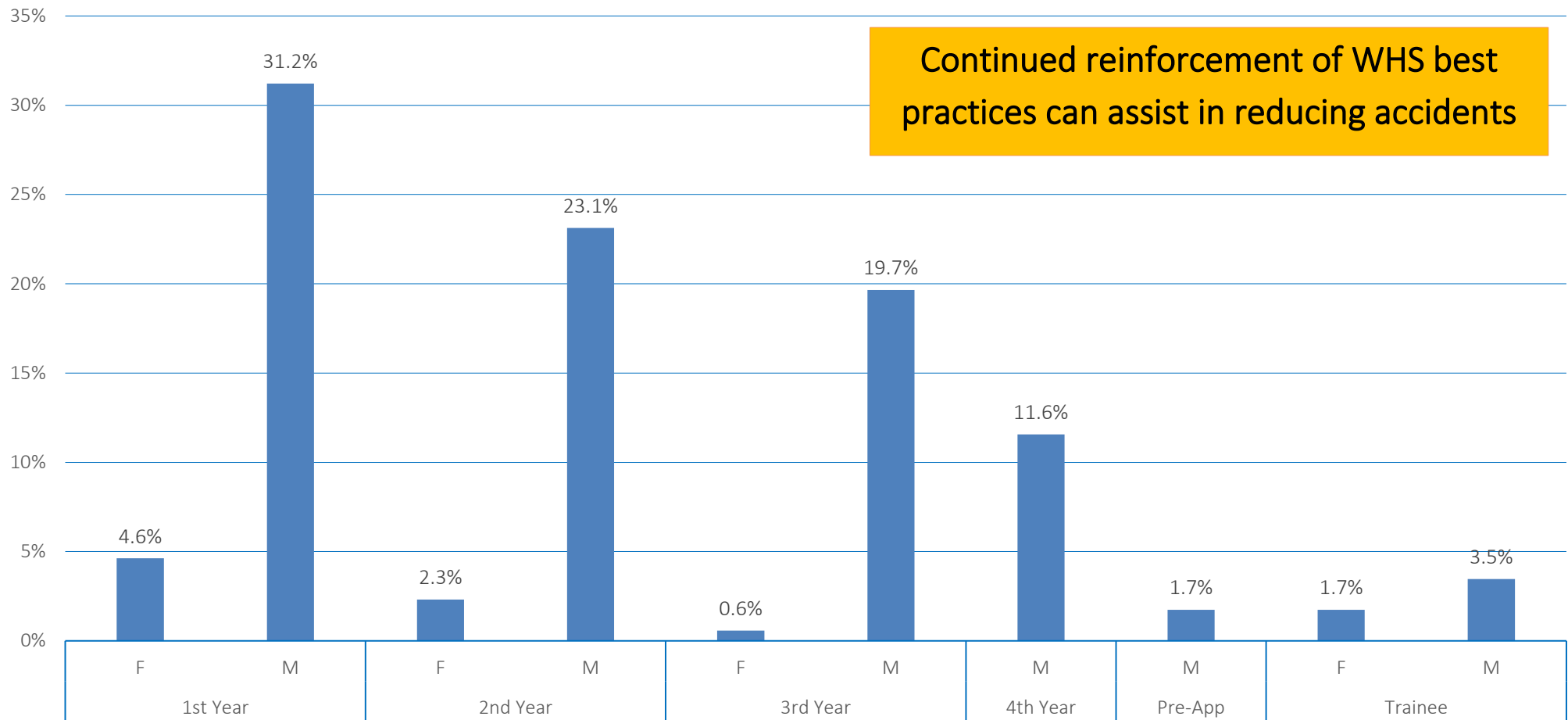
Similar to previous reports, 1<sup>st</sup> year apprentices accounted for the largest number of accidents in our survey in 2020. The number of accidents declines for apprentices in the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> year.

When we look at the age group of the apprentices and trainees we can see from the figures for the two youngest groups that they are the greatest at risk.

[Safe Work Australia, in its 2020 Key WHS Statistics](#) reported that in 2018-19 of all the serious claims, **3.3%** were from workers aged **15-19** and **9.07%** were from workers aged **20-24**.

**Greatest “at risk” in the survey results are 1<sup>st</sup> year apprentices aged between 15 - 25**

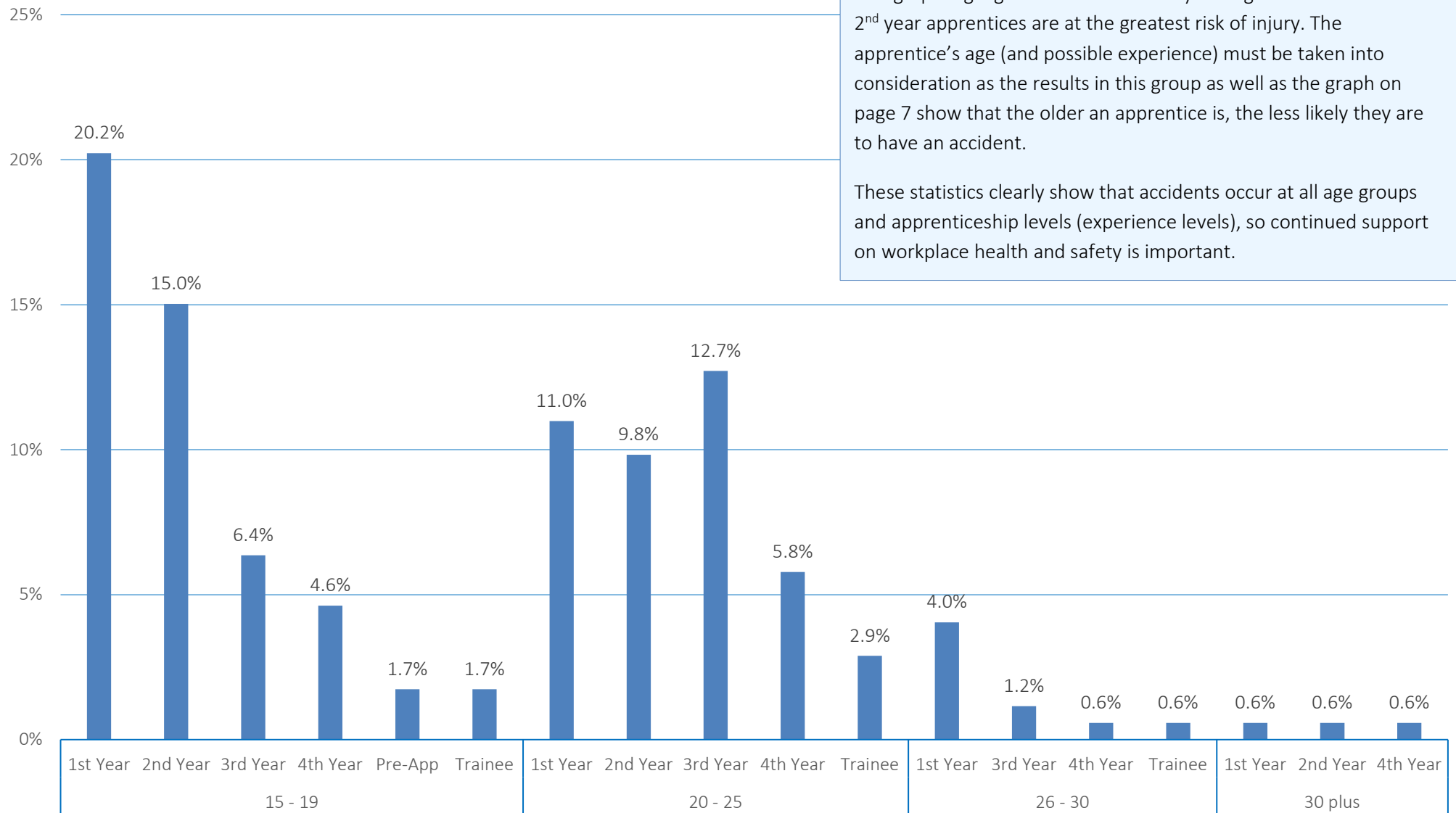
## Reportable accidents by apprenticeship year level cont.



*Note: The results shown on this page need to be read carefully. Traditionally the GTO industry has a very high proportion of male apprentices and apprentices aged between 15-25 years of age. These results reflect the percentage of accidents that occurred to that category not a percentage against a total number in employment.*

*It is worth noting that overall the number of accidents decreases significantly as the apprentices progress through their program/year levels.*

## Reportable accidents by apprenticeship year level cont.

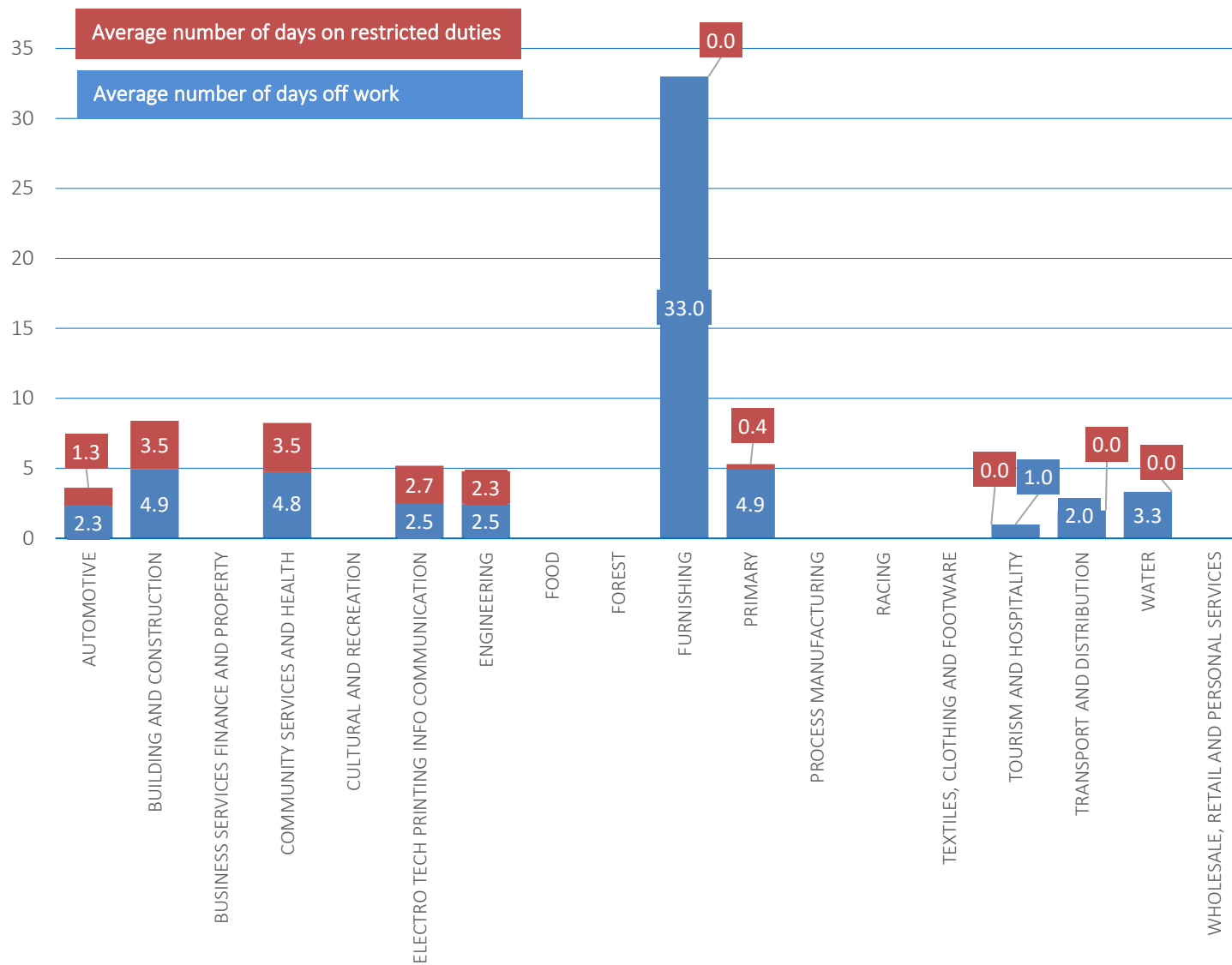


This graph highlights that in the 15-25 years age bracket the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year apprentices are at the greatest risk of injury. The apprentice's age (and possible experience) must be taken into consideration as the results in this group as well as the graph on page 7 show that the older an apprentice is, the less likely they are to have an accident.

These statistics clearly show that accidents occur at all age groups and apprenticeship levels (experience levels), so continued support on workplace health and safety is important.



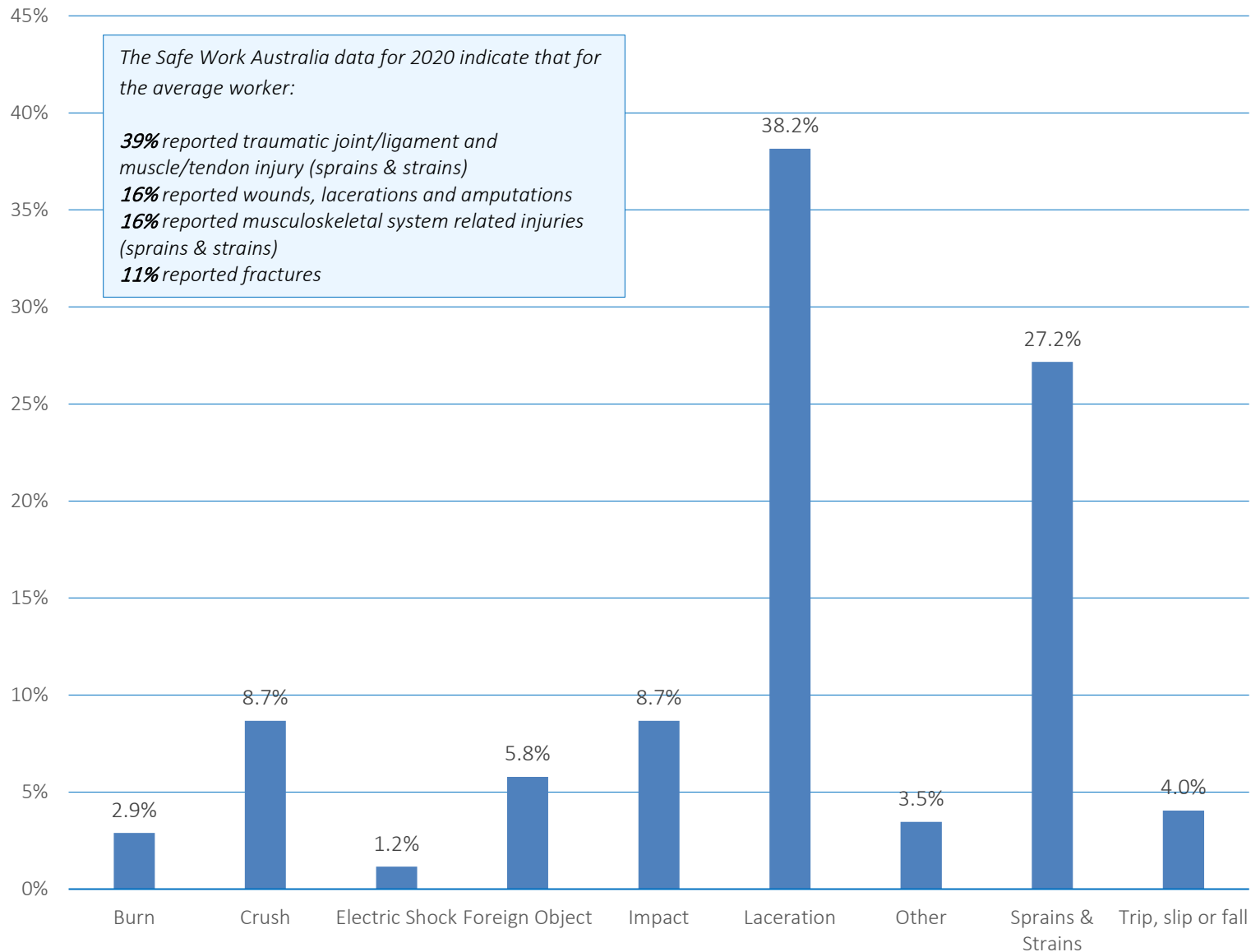
## Days Off Work and Days on Restricted Duties per Injury per Industry Sector



For 2020, the average time off work per injury was 1.9 days, and a further 1.1 days on restricted duties. This is a 42% reduction in days off work and 62% increase in days on restricted duties compared to 2019.

The furnishing sector reported a single serious injury resulting in 33 days of work. The building and construction sector had a marginal increase in days on restricted duties though lower days off work from 2019 and the community services and health sectors had an increase in both days off work and on restricted duties.

## Frequency of Injury Type



The Safe Work Australia data for 2020 indicate that for the average worker:

- 39%** reported traumatic joint/ligament and muscle/tendon injury (sprains & strains)
- 16%** reported wounds, lacerations and amputations
- 16%** reported musculoskeletal system related injuries (sprains & strains)
- 11%** reported fractures

As in previous years, lacerations and sprains & strains have the highest frequency of injury types for apprentices in 2020.

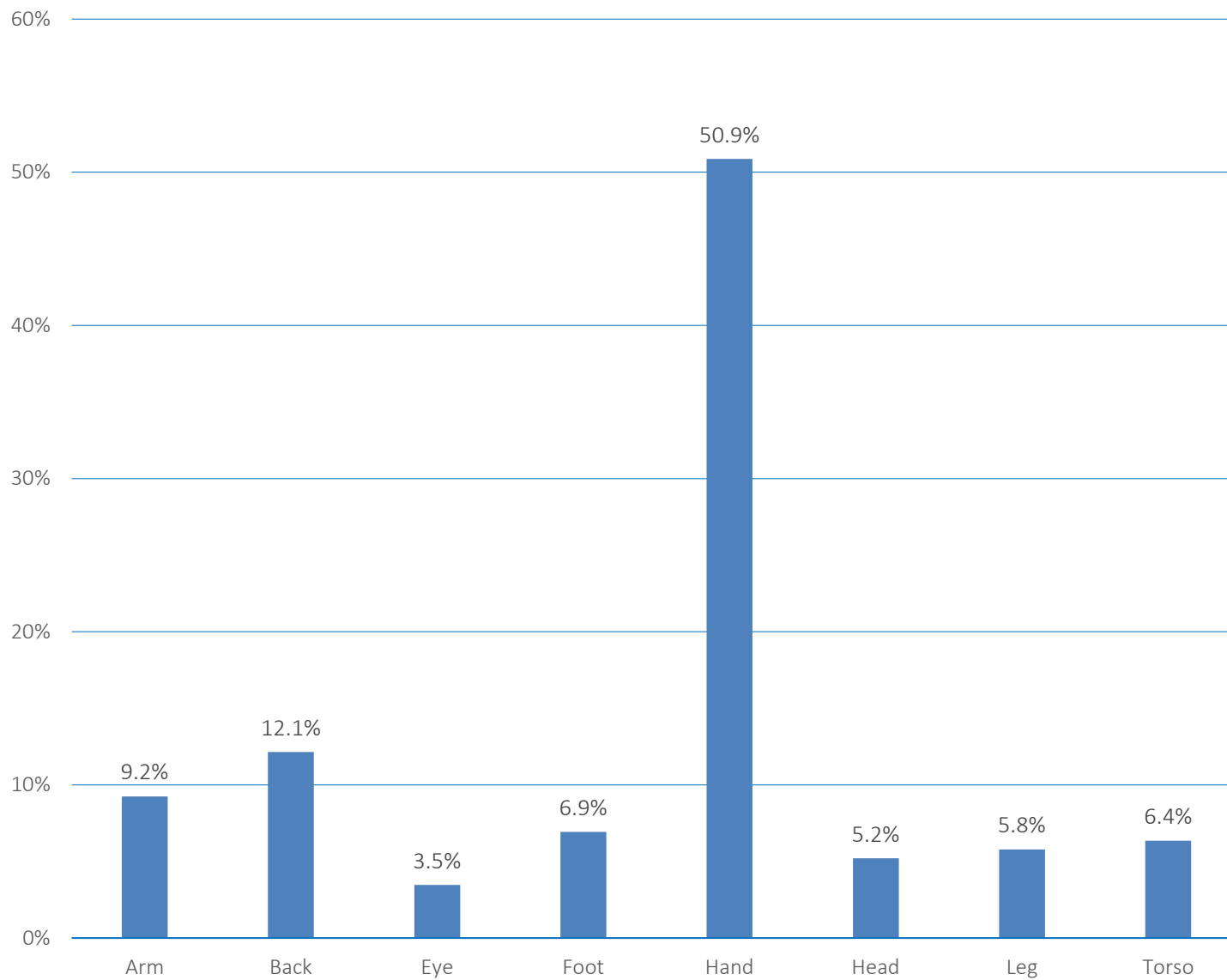
When comparing the statistics from pages 12, 13, and 14 an assumption can be made that lacerations to the hand have the highest frequency.

This is followed by sprains and strains to the back.

### Possible improvements for consideration include:

- Working with the host company on identifying hazards and controlling the risk in the workplace
- Emphasising the need to use lifting equipment
- PPE – gloves and eye protection. Further training and supervision of apprentices using hand/power tools

## Frequency of Injury Location



**Summary of injuries**

**Most frequent types of injuries**

**1<sup>st</sup> Year Apprentices**

- Laceration / hand
- Sprains & strains / back

**2<sup>nd</sup> Year Apprentices**

- Laceration / hand
- Sprains & strains / back

**3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Year Apprentices**

- Laceration / hand
- Sprains & strains / back

**Pre-App**

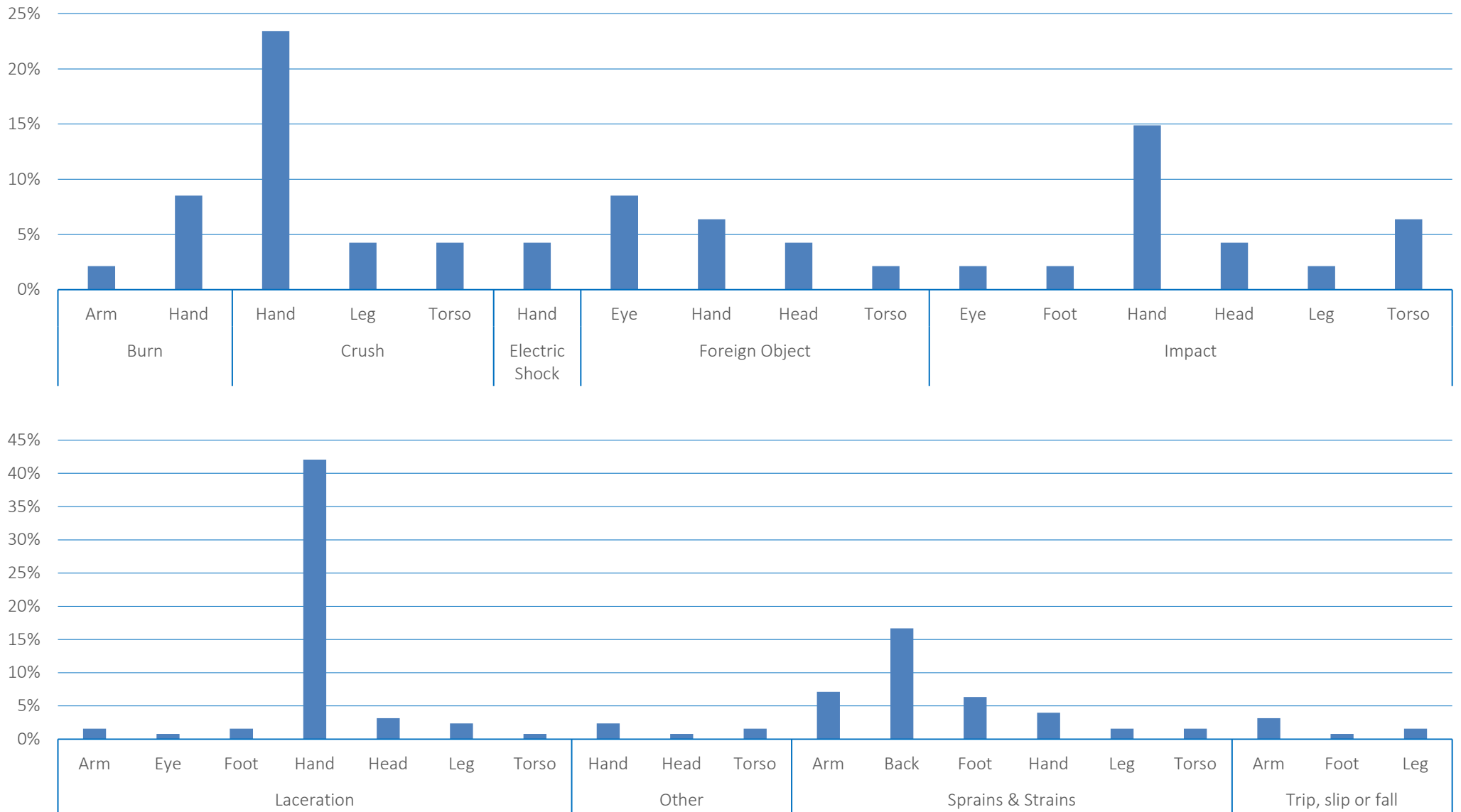
- Trip, slip or fall / arm
- Burn / hand

**Trainees**

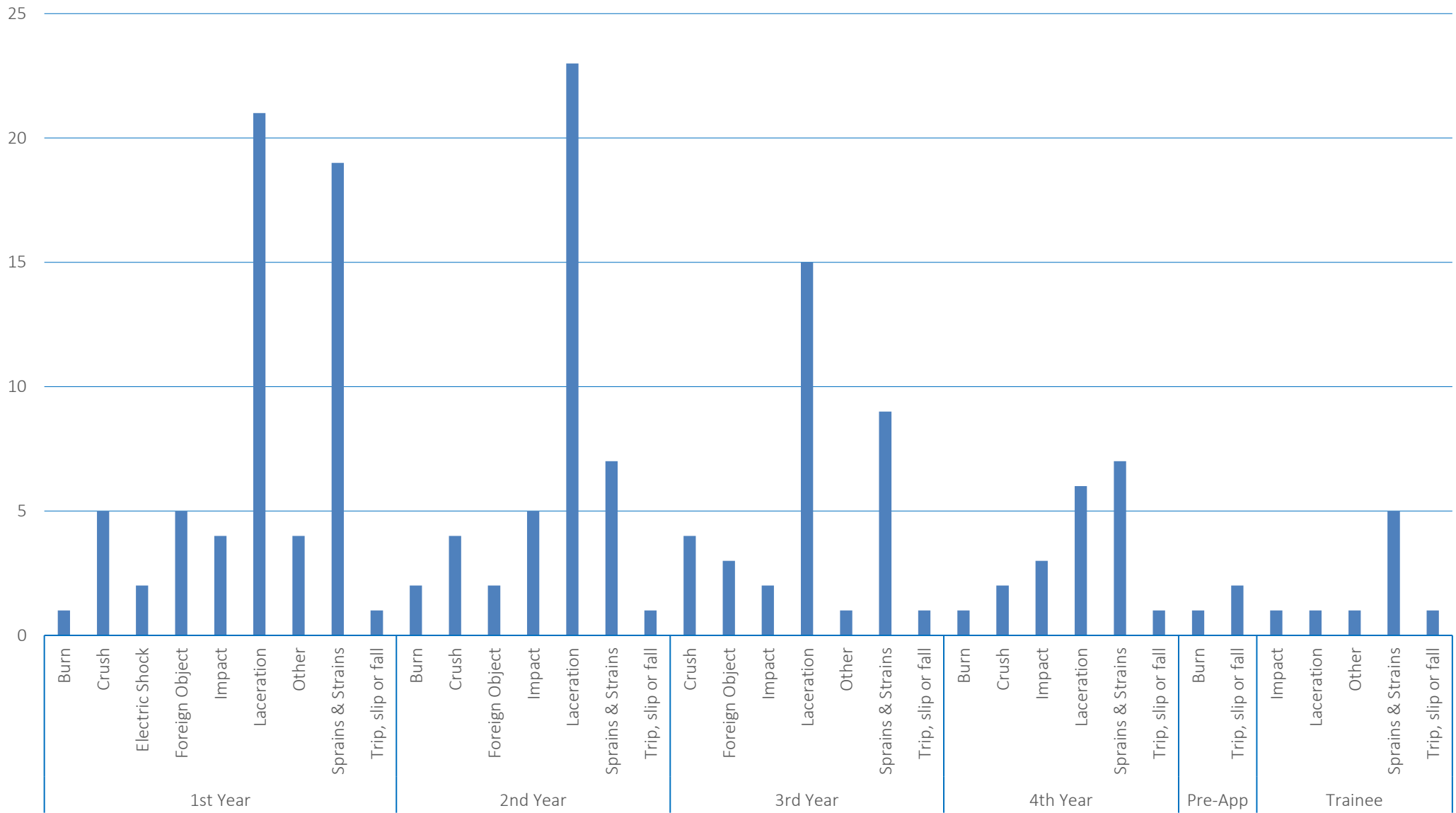
- Sprains & strains / back, hand and leg

Refer to page 13 & 14 for further details

## Comparison of Type of Injury Sustained with Body Location



## Summary of Injury Type by Apprenticeship Level



# Summary of Report and comparisons to LTIFR indicators

## Lost-time injury frequency rates calculated and reported by Safe Work Australia

A lost-time injury is defined as an occurrence that resulted in a fatality, permanent disability or time lost from work of one day/shift or more. This definition comes from the Australian standard: *Workplace Injury and Disease Recording Standard (Australian Standard 1885.1– 1990)*, published by Standards Australia.

## Definition and calculation of lost-time injury frequency rates (LTIFR)

Lost-time injury frequency rates are the number of lost-time injuries within a given accounting period relative to the total number of hours worked in the same accounting period. This is calculated as follows and results in a measure of the number of lost-time injuries per hour worked during the accounting period:

$$\frac{\text{( Total hours worked in accounting period )}}{\text{( Number of lost time injuries in accounting period )}}$$

The number of lost-time injuries per hour worked is always a very small number. Therefore, for ease of interpretation, a multiplier of 1 million is used and LTIFRs are reported as the number of lost-time injuries per million hours worked. This is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{( Number of lost time injuries in accounting period )}}{\text{( Total hours worked in accounting period )}} \times 1\,000\,000$$

## 2020 Apprentice and Trainee Workplace Health and Safety LTIFR results

*(including Assumptions and calculations used)*

**Number of lost time injuries**                      **177**

**Total hours worked**                                      **16,355,504 hours**

*9782 total of employed apprentices – assumptions: full-time employees (38 hr week) with 44 weeks worked on site (allowing for annual leave, off-site training and other leave/public holidays)*

**LTIFR for 2020**    **92,404 hrs / injury**

**10.82 injuries / 1 million hours**



## Acknowledgements

AEN OHS Network

Gary Workman – AEN Executive Director

Nik Mavrommatis – AEN Operations Manager

## References

Key Work Health and Safety Statistics, Australia 2019

<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/book/key-work-health-and-safety-statistics-australia-2020>

Lost time injury frequency rates (LTIFR)

<http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/statistics/ltifr/pages/lost-time-injury-frequency-rates>

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) - Work-Related Injuries, Australia, Jul 2017 to Jun 2018

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/mf/6324.0>

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**[safetyfirst.org.au](https://safetyfirst.org.au)**

SafetyFirst is an initiative of the  
Apprenticeship Employment Network



# Appendix A: List Industry Description / Qualifications

(Reference – The Victorian Government Department of Education and Training).

## **AUTOMOTIVE**

Automotive Electrician  
Bicycle Mechanic  
Diesel Motor Mechanic  
Motor Mechanics  
Motor Vehicle or Caravan Salesperson  
Motor Vehicle Parts Interpreter  
Panel beater  
Product Assembler  
Vehicle Body Builder

## **BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION**

Air conditioning and Mechanical Services Plumber  
Bricklayer  
Building and Engineering Technicians  
Building and Plumbing Labourers  
Business Administration Managers  
Carpenters and Joiners  
Civil Engineering Technician  
Construction Trades Workers  
Drillers, Miners and Shot Firers  
Earthmoving Labourer  
Gasfitter  
Mechanical Engineering Technician  
Painting Trades Worker  
Paving Plant Operator  
plasterer  
Plumbers  
Sign writer  
Stonemason  
Tiler - Roof  
Tiler - Wall and Floor

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES AND HEALTH**

Aged or Disabled Carer  
Ambulance Officer  
Child Care Worker  
Clerical and Administrative Workers  
Counsellors  
Dental Technician  
Dietician  
Disabilities Services Officer  
Education Aides  
Massage Therapist  
Nursing Support and Personal Care Workers  
Office and Practice Managers  
Operating Theatre Technician  
Optical Dispenser  
Pathologist  
Personal Care Assistant  
Pharmacy Sales Assistant  
Welfare Worker  
Youth Worker

## **CULTURAL AND RECREATION**

Amusement, Fitness and Sports Centre Managers  
Community Arts Worker  
Community Worker  
Fitness Instructor  
Handyperson  
Library Assistant  
Performing Arts Technicians  
Photographer's Assistant  
Production Assistant (Film, Television, Radio or Stage)  
Sound Technician  
Sports and Personal Service Workers  
Sportspersons  
Visual Arts and Crafts Professionals

## **ELECTRO TECH PRINTING INFO COMMUNICATION**

Air-conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanic  
Binder and Finisher  
Cabler (Data and Telecommunications)  
Electrical or Telecommunications Trades Assistant  
Electrician  
Electronic Equipment Trades Worker  
Graphic Pre-press Trades Worker  
ICT Support Technicians  
Multimedia Designer  
Printing Machinist  
Screen Printer  
Telemarketer  
Web Administrator

## **BUSINESS SERVICES FINANCE AND PROPERTY**

Business Administration Managers  
Call or Contact Centre Operator  
Carpet Cleaner  
Commercial Cleaner  
Conveyancer  
Customs Officer / Security Officer  
Finance Broker  
Human Resources  
Inspectors and Regulatory Officers  
Insurance Agent  
Law Clerk  
Market Research Analyst  
Occupational Health and Safety Adviser  
Office and Practice Managers  
Pest or Weed Controller  
Program or Project Administrator  
Property Manager  
Real Estate Agent  
Recycling or Rubbish Collector  
Sales and Marketing



**ENGINEERING**

Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (Mechanical)  
Boat Builder and Repairer  
Building and Engineering Technicians  
Earthmoving Plant Operator (General)  
Fabrication Engineering Trades Workers  
Jeweller  
Locksmith  
Mechanical Engineering Draftspersons and Technicians  
Metal Engineering Process Worker  
Sheet metal Trades Worker  
Shipwright  
Watch and Clock Maker and Repairer

**FOOD**

Aquaculture Worker  
Bakers and Pastry cooks  
Butcher or Smallgoods Maker  
Chemical Plant Operator  
Food and Drink Factory Workers  
Meat Process Worker  
Production Manager (Manufacturing)  
Retail Supervisor  
Slaughterer  
Stationary Plant Operators  
Winery Cellar Hand

**FOREST**

Civil Engineering Technician  
Forestry and Logging Workers  
Saw Maker and Repairer  
Sawmilling Operator  
Wood and Wood Products Factory Worker

**FURNISHING**

Cabinetmaker  
Floor Finisher  
Furniture Finisher  
Glass Processing Worker  
Glazier  
Picture Framer  
Upholsterer  
Wood Machinist

**RACING**

Animal Attendants and Trainers  
Horse Trainer  
Jockey  
Stable hand

**TEXTILES, CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR**

Clothing Trades Workers  
Dressmaker or Tailor  
Drycleaner  
Fashion Designer  
Laundry Worker  
Shoemaker  
Textile and Footwear Production Machine Operators

**TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY**

Caretaker  
Conference and Event Organiser  
Cook  
Hospitality Workers  
Kitchen hand  
Tour Guide  
Tourist Information Officer  
Travel Consultant

**TRANSPORT AND DISTRIBUTION**

Air Transport Professionals  
Aircraft Maintenance  
  
Automobile, Bus and Rail Drivers  
Clerk of Court  
Crane, Hoist or Lift Operator  
Freight Handler (Rail or Road)  
Marine Transport Professionals nec  
Railways Assistant  
Store person  
Supply and Distribution Manager  
Warehouse Administrator  
Waterside Worker

**WATER**

Earth Science Technician  
Waste Water or Water Plant Operator

**PRIMARY**

Animal Attendants and Trainers  
Arborist  
Farm, Forestry and Garden Workers  
Greenkeeper  
Horse Breeder  
Horticultural Nursery Assistant  
Landscape Gardener  
Nurseryperson  
Park Ranger  
Veterinary Nurse

**PROCESS MANUFACTURING**

Chemical Plant Operator  
Clay, Concrete, Glass and Stone Processing Machine Operators  
Motor Vehicle Parts and Accessories Fitter (General)  
Organisation and Methods Analyst  
Plastics and Rubber Production Machine Operators

**WHOLESALE, RETAIL AND PERSONAL SERVICES**

Beauty Therapist  
Cafe Worker  
Earthmoving Labourer  
Florist  
Funeral Workers  
Hairdresser  
Pharmacy Sales Assistant  
Retail Supervisor



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