

► WHY ARE YOUNG WORKERS AT HIGHER RISK OF INJURY?

The adolescent brain is different to the adult brain

Areas of the brain responsible for decision making, handling emotions and understanding hazards are all still developing in young workers.

Go to ***Brain Development and Young Worker Safety*** for more information.

Young people have limited experience with workplace hazards

Young workers may not be able to predict the outcome of their actions because they haven't experienced the task/situation before. Without experience it can be hard for a young person to form judgements which an adult may consider to be common sense.

Their bodies are often still growing

Most young workers won't have reached full physical maturity. Their growing bodies mean they may not have the same physical strength or coordination as other workers.

Young people have hectic lives

Combining school, socialising, study, sport and hobbies with casual or part time work can cause young workers to become over-tired and distracted, placing them at greater risk of injury.

Young people often aren't sure about appropriate workplace behaviours

Being new to working, young people often don't know what to do when faced with a workplace hazard. Young workers may not know:

- How to identify workplace hazards or assess the harm they could cause.
- Who to speak to about safety issues and when they should do so.
- The important reasons for adhering to safety rules.
- How to report that they feel in danger, that they don't know what to do or how to do it safely.
- That reporting an OHS hazard is an employee responsibility.
- How to handle stressful situations, such as bullying or harassment.

Go to ***Training and Supervising Young Workers*** for more information on how to manage young workers' safety.