

RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION DATA

Residential Construction safety is a priority for WorkSafe ACT and is in line with our [Strategic Plan](#). It is also a key focus in our Statement of [Operational Intent](#).

This document gives an overview of some important statistical information relating to the residential construction industry, and is explained in more detail below.

Residential construction data overview

NB: This information relates to the data on pages 2-4 of this document.

The 'residential construction workplace visits (WPV) and notices' graph, represents how many WPVs WorkSafe ACT has conducted, and the number of notices issued between 1 January – 30 September 2020. This has been captured as part of our ongoing business as usual activities and through [Operation Safe Prospect](#) (which began in August 2020).

The 'frequency of offence' chart, represents the number of notices issued against sections of the WHS Act and Regulations.

The data shows the most common offence encountered by WorkSafe ACT inspectors relates to s79, 'specific requirements to minimise falls' is. In descending order, other predominant offences are:

- s298 – security of workplace
- 'other' – refers to s19 duty of care
- s40 – duty in relation to general workplace facilities, primarily be able to move around the site under normal and emergency conditions
- s299 and s300 –relates to the requirement for a Safe Work Method Statements (SWMS) and Compliance with SWMS
- s225 – relates to scaffold.

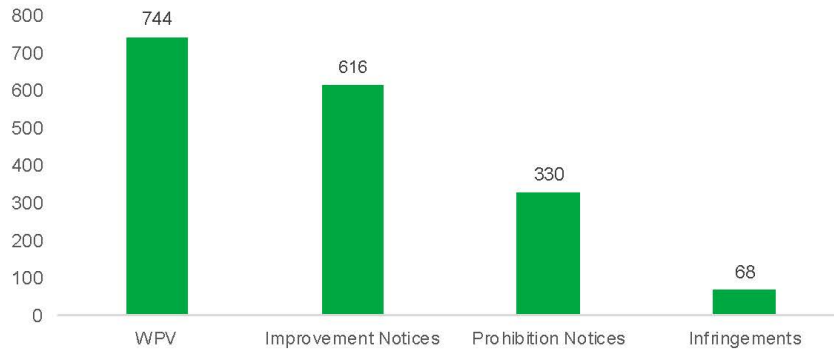
Sections 79 and 225 are broken down further to provide guidance; although the s225 scaffold offences are not as prevalent as other offences, they represent a significant fall from heights risk.

PCBU's should encourage all workers/others on site to be alert for these issues, advising the PCBU as they occur so they can be addressed by the principle contractor.

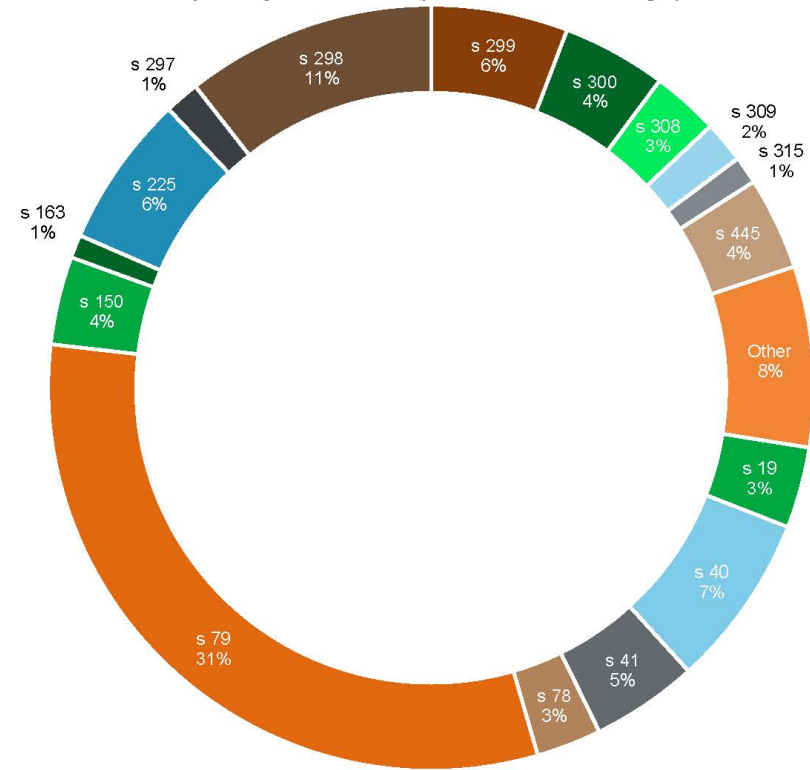


RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION DATA (1/1/2020 – 30/9/2020)

Residential Construction WPV and Notices (1/1/20 - 30/9/20)



Frequency of offence (WHS Act and Regs)



227K in fines



1014 notices

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S79 AND S225 SPECIFIC ISSUES

Specific requirements to minimise risk of falls - s79

- Missing edge protection
- Missing use of fall protection arrest systems
- Open/exposed voids
- Incorrect use of ladders (not fixed top and bottom, incorrect angle, incorrect extension distance above the eave/gutter)

Scaffolding - s225

- Missing sole board/incorrect material type
- Base plate misaligned, too far overhang distance with respect to the sole board
- Missing bottom rail, mid rail, handrails (ledgers)
- Missing toe – boards
- Missing brick guards; mesh screening/panels
- Missing supports
- Too much distance (>225mm) from the scaffold to the structure being worked on (risk of fall).
- Missing prefabricated planks/other trades removing
- Missing or out of date scaffolding certification tag and scaffolding often gets changed without consultation with the scaffolder/certifier
- Poor access to decks



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GENERAL ISSUES

- Sites not secured (missing fence panels, no fencing at all particularly at the stage of when formwork is in place in prep for slab pours
- No toilets/ or not clean and maintained
- Housekeeping – blocking access to scaffolds and building waste, bricks and roofing materials left scattered around site and outside of sites blocking pedestrians footpaths.
- Test and tag not carried out
- Unsafe electrical – exposed conductors and wires, damaged leads on tools and equipment (tilers, carpenters), No WHS Management Plan
- SWMS not:
 - Accessible
 - Not completed prior to work commencing
 - Controls measures not implemented
 - Workers not inducted into SWMS
 - Not site specific



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