One of the goals of the UPLOADS Project is to develop a National dataset of incident reports and participation data so that the led outdoor activity sector can understand the risks it faces and take appropriate action.

The UPLOADS Research Team are considering developing a website that allows people within the outdoor education, recreation and adventure sector to access and explore the findings from the National dataset, enabling them to understand injury and accident trends across the Australian led outdoor sector and different led outdoor activities. The website would allow people to search for certain types of incidents (e.g. all high ropes incidents involving injuries) and generate summaries of the data which, for example, would show the causal factors involved across the set of incidents (e.g. in 23 out of 30 high ropes incidents across Australia equipment and risk assessment were identified as causal factors). In addition, the website could be used to identify strong relationships between causal factors (e.g. in 70% of led outdoor activity incidents there is a strong relationship between financial pressures and inadequate training programs).

To ensure confidentiality, the website would only present summaries of multiple incidents from multiple organisations. Individual reports or details on specific incidents would not be accessible.

The report on the prototype trial is an example of the type of information that would be presented (http://uploadsproject.files.wordpress.com/2014/05/goode-et-al-2014-summary-of-uploads-prototype-trial-results-18th-march-2014.pdf)

This paper reports on a study conducted to obtain feedback from people within the outdoor education, recreation and adventure sector on the development and design of the website. The aims were to: 1) determine whether people within the outdoor sector would use the website; 2) identify desirable features; and 3) evaluate whether the control measures we have in place to ensure confidentiality are considered sufficient for the website.

Method

People within the outdoor education, recreation and adventure sector were invited to complete an anonymous online survey. The survey asked for basic demographic information and then a series of questions regarding the development and design of the website. The study was approved by the University of the Sunshine Coast Human Ethics Committee.

Results

Sample

Thirty-five people completed the survey (6 females, 29 males). Twenty-five participants stated they worked for an outdoor education or recreation provider, 5 worked for outdoor education training organisation and 5 worked for an industry body. Eleven participants were based in VIC, 10 in NSW, 7 in QLD, 5 in WA, 4 in SA, 2 in NT and 1 in TAS. Twenty-seven participants led activities as part of their current role.

Would you use the website?

All participants agreed that a website that allowed you to access and explore the findings from the National dataset would be a useful resource for the outdoor education, recreation and adventure
Almost all participants said they would use such a website; one participant stated they were unsure.

**What would you use the website for?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage of Participants Selecting This Option</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop risk management and control strategies</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Look at summaries of incident data</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding the causal factors involved in incidents</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understand the hazards involved in certain activities</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding what type of incidents can occur</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Understanding what type of injuries can occur</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inform program design</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide evidence to funding bodies</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additional comments:

- Identify incident trends and get ahead of the curve.
- In order to improve our understanding of the risks involved and to better manage those risks, by way of reviewing our risk management process policies and procedures and identifying any necessary training to be undertaken as a result.
- As a resource for students training in Outdoor Recreation.
- Part of continuous review.
What features would you like?

- Databank of incident narratives (deidentified) would be very useful, both with staff training and in gaining a good understanding of contributing factors. Similar to the past annual United States productions for mountaineering and white water incidents. The analysis commentary in these publications is very useful but may or may not be suitable here.
- Descriptive (qualitative) stories rather than just quantitative data - as this provides much more opportunity for learning.
- The ability to share best practice, so not only a forum for discussion purposes as these can sometimes be ineffective according to who uses them, but a resource to offer more detailed and incident specific information, and a way in which it can be analysed and evaluated so we can learn from this process.
- Links to outdoor education and recreation organisations.
- The ability to differentiate the mode of programme delivery i.e. School based programmes which are led by teachers trained in OE/OR.
- Comparisons with data from other domains or links to sources of incident data from other domains, particularly education and sport.
- What activities are considered risk but do not eventuate.
- What is the mean time between incident?
- Links to relevant information such as standards, or a library with public investigations such as the Turia Pitt case.

Additional comments:

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- What activities are considered risk but do not eventuate.
- What is the mean time between incident?
- Links to relevant information such as standards, or a library with public investigations such as the Turia Pitt case.
Do you think the risk controls described above are sufficient for ensuring that individuals and organisations cannot be identified?

- Perhaps a bigger sample before able to be interrogated.
- This database will be used by government agencies, law firms and other parties that may use the data in other than the intended purpose. The possibility of this information being available to all and sundry as a "community service" will make me review my participation.
- This is a grey area and no amount of control could eliminate possible identification.
- It is a small Industry and people could figure it out with only that number as minimum.
- It is my understanding that many people in the industry know each other and of other outdoor education/camp businesses, and I wonder whether it may still be possible to identify either an individual or organisation through 'industry gossip' when combined with the summary information on the website, or for people to believe they may have identified an individual or organisation. I do not know whether this is a valid concern, as my experience is limited to working in the office.

Are there any further risk controls you think should be put in place?

- Six people explicitly said “No.”
- No, quite the opposite, I would prefer transparency, and encourage shared experience, in a non-judgmental environment, in order to learn from these incidents. There are inherent risks involved in the activities we do, and sometimes incidents occur, it is far more negligent to pretend like they haven't to save face, and do nothing to improve matters, when what is vital is that we do all that we can to prevent them and ensure we manage them effectively when they do.
- The information should be confidential and only available to participants on the basis that they agree that the information not be disseminated to any other individual, group, organisation.
- State based/location based data need greater participation numbers to increase levels of anonymity.
- Industry based / Activity based analysis.

Additional comments:

74% Yes
23% Unsure
3% No
Do you have any further feedback, comments or suggestions?

- Sounds like a great idea.
- Making this sort of information available to the public would allow funding bodies AND organisations looking to add outdoor activities to their organisation's curricula aware of what risks are involved. This would enable them to make INFORMED decisions rather than MIS-informed decisions as is often the case currently - I feel we would see more people participating and could assist to lower costs involved in participation (specifically insurance premium costs!). I hope it becomes the norm! Thanks for all your efforts.
- Only to raise that differentiation of the 3 areas listed may need consideration i.e. to lump Outdoor Education, Outdoor Recreation & Adventure Tourism into the same bucket is significantly broad... Thanks for your consideration.
- The data base would be a perspective of risk in the Australian environment of activity culture.
- There is a danger of dumbing the information down to a Workcover safety alert level where you don't really get a root cause and that type of info would be disappointing
- This is a great idea and I hope that you get the support needed to see it through.

Conclusion

The results indicate that there is support from the sector. Therefore, funding will be sought to develop and pilot the proposed website. The ideas and insights gained from this survey will be used to inform the development of the website.