20% of all workplace injuries are sustained by young Australian construction workers (below the age of 25). The injury rate for young workers is 18% higher than the rate for workers aged 25 years and over.

Young male construction workers are up to 2.5 times more likely to die by suicide than other men their age.
Young workers (under the age of 25) experience a higher level of workplace stress than the general workforce, and have a higher risk of work-related injury. Supervisors’ communication with young workers is critically important to them feeling safe and safe in the workplace. It is often reported by young workers that supervisors and construction trades teachers have a significantly positive influence on their workplace health and safety experiences. This study aimed to investigate whether there are differences in the role of supervisors in relation to the extent that supervision is respectful. Some supervisors identified the importance of being non-judgemental and willing to take time showing them how to do things. Positive and supportive supervisor-apprentice communication is characterized by respect and civility. The results were mixed in relation to the extent that supervision is respectful. Some supervisors described their experiences as very positive. In the next stage of the research, the interview findings will be used to design a program targeted at improving the quality supervisors and construction trades teachers play a role in reducing the likelihood of work-related injury. The impact of the program on apprentice-supervisor communication will be evaluated. This theoretical framework can be viewed at the Construction Work Health and Safety Research & Training Centre (2013).