

workcover

The workplace safety and injury management magazine

54 September – November 2003

- Special Feature Helping Small Business
- Simplified Incident Notification
- New WorkCover website
- The Safety Show and Conference 2003

Vital Training for Effective Risk Management

DID <u>YOU</u> KNOW THAT . . . ?

If you are an employer, a manager or even a supervisor you could be breaking occupational health and safety law and could be fined or prosecuted under the OHS Act 2000 and the OHS Regulation 2001.

As an employer or manager you are required by law to ensure the health and safety of people in your workplace.

This includes having to;

- Identify hazards in your workplaces
- Assess the risks of those hazards
- Eliminate or control those risks
- Review your risk assessments regularly
- Provide instruction, information and training to your employees about hazards in your workplace
- Supervise your employees to ensure their safety and good health
- Be prepared to handle fire and other emergencies
- Have the required first aid equipment and first aid trained staff
- Establish and maintain consultation with your employees about occupational health and safety matters

YOU CAN BE IN CONTROL AND GET THE ANSWERS YOU NEED by attending one of our WorkCover accredited courses at a public venue or on your own site. Call us to discuss your needs.



See our Public Training Calendar 2003 (insert in this magazine) for all our public course dates.



Visit our website www.courtenell.com.au

for information on our courses, OH&S information, search facility & recent editions of our publication 'Committee Member'

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WorkCover New South Wales Head office 92-100 Donnison Street Gosford NSW 2250 Phone (02) 4321 5000 Website www.workcover.nsw.gov.au

WorkCover Assistance Service

Work health, safety, injury management and workers compensation enquiries Phone **13 10 50**

Subscription enquiries 1300 799 003 ISSN 1033/5064 Produced by WorkCover Communications Group All advertising enquiries (02) 4321 5478 Artwork Dunham Bremmer Australia

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News from the Chief Executive Officer



I commenced as WorkCover's Chief Executive Officer on 18 August 2003 and am committed to WorkCover's essential task of improving the working lives and environment of every employee and employer in NSW.

WorkCover's primary task over the next two years will be to put in place a better framework for the provision of workplace safety, injury management, recovery and return-to-work programs, and workers compensation insurance. Our driving goal will be improved service delivery by WorkCover and we will achieve this through the implementation of both the Government's response to the recommendations of the NSW Safety Summit, and the recently completed review of workers compensation.

New safety laws in NSW also came into effect for small businesses (those with less than 20 employees) on 1 September. WorkCover's Small Business Assistance Strategy is helping employers to comply with the new legislation. Television, press and radio advertising has been used, seminars are being held across the state, and small

business operators are receiving support to meet the requirements of the legislation.

Useful information in the form of safety checklists is now available from WorkCover's website (**www.workcover.nsw.gov.au**) and Publications Hotline (**1300 799 003**). Pages 4 and 5 of this edition contain more information about our Small Business Assistance Strategy activities.

The commencement of the New Notification System on 1 September means that work-related incidents can now be reported more simply. Notification can now also be made via the WorkCover website. A suite of information products has been developed to assist employers with the new process and more detail on this can be found on the page opposite.

People using our website will discover a change for the better as the site has been totally redesigned. Our Minister the Hon. John Della Bosca MLC, launched it on 7 August.

I have used the site and found it easy to navigate, with a straightforward presentation of information relevant to workers, employers, industry, service providers, and insurers. Further information about the site can be found on page 6 of this edition. Please visit the site and if you wish provide comments on how useful it is for you so that it can be improved where necessary.

Jon Blackwell Chief Executive Officer WorkCover NSW

Simplifed

Incident Notification

THE NEW SIMPLE WAY TO NOTIFY WORK-RELATED INCIDENTS

Following wide consultation with employers, workers and unions, WorkCover recognised that the old system of reporting workplace incidents was inefficient, costly and time consuming.

As a result, WorkCover's Incident Report Form will be abolished and, effective 1 September 2003, a new, simple method for incident notification will be introduced.

Incidents can now be notified by completing an online form on WorkCover's website or by phoning the WorkCover Assistance Service on **13 10 50**.

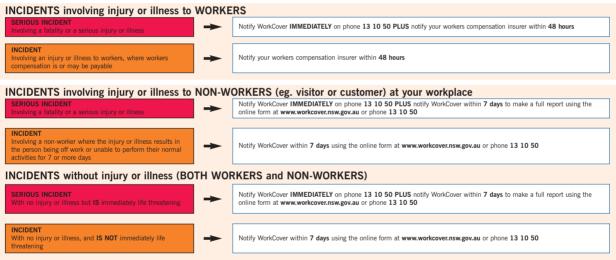
WHAT, WHO & WHEN TO NOTIFY

However, if the incident involves a workplace injury, where workers compensation is or may be payable, the incident need only be notified to the employer's workers compensation insurer – **unless** the injury is serious, in which case it must be notified to WorkCover, also.

The table below outlines the new process in detail, with procedures for 'incidents' and 'serious incidents'.

The WorkCover website address is www.workcover.nsw.gov.au.

If you need more information you can order a brochure (Catalogue No. 1287) from WorkCover's Publications Hotline on **1300 799 003**.



CASE STUDIES

Injury to a worker

 A storeman is moving stock around the warehouse and, while lifting a heavy box, suffers a back injury. He is unable to return to his normal duties for at least two weeks.

Action: Notify the incident to the employer's workers compensation insurer.

Injury to a non-worker

 A young woman slips on the polished tiled floor at her local grocery store, breaks her wrist, and is unable to perform her daily duties or return to work for several weeks.
 Action: Notify the incident to WorkCover.

Incident involving no injury

 A builder's hoist on a building site is damaged and cannot be safely used.

Action: Notify the incident to WorkCover.

Serious incidents

- A worker is electrocuted on a building site.
- A worker is dragged unconscious from a silo.
- Action: Notify the incident to WorkCover and if the worker is covered by workers compensation insurance, the employer's insurer must also be notified.

Special Feature

Helping small business



Recent changes to NSW occupational health and safety (OHS) legislation provide a practical approach to enable employers to maintain a safe and healthy workplace.

From 1 September 2003, small business owners need to talk to their workers, determine what safety hazards there are in the workplace, and take action to reduce or eliminate these hazards. It takes very little time to ensure a safer workplace.

Small business (ie. less than 20 workers) accounts for 92 per cent of all businesses in NSW and WorkCover is keen to assist them achieve safe workplaces.

Recognising that small business operators will need time to adjust to this new approach, for the first 12 months WorkCover will focus on assisting them implement the regulatory requirements.

The WorkCover website, **www.workcover.nsw.gov.au**, has a major section dedicated to small business, including information on the latest legislation, publications, and answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs). A toll-free call (**13 10 50**) takes you to the WorkCover Assistance Service where questions about OHS, workers compensation and injury management can be answered.

The *Small Business Safety Starter Kit* (Catalogue No. 50) includes a six-step plan for managing small business safety. It contains health and safety forms for reviewing your safety system, training staff, developing procedures and planning for safety, together with an OHS Policy that can be tailored to any small business.

The *Starter Kit* also includes the *Small Business Safety Checklist* (Catalogue No. 1284), which contains easy-to-use checklists on slips, trips and falls, emergency procedures, electricity, chemicals, machinery and equipment, and manual handling. Completing these checklists will ensure that you are well on the way to meeting your obligations.

The publications are available from WorkCover's Publications Hotline on **1300 799 003**, or from **www.workcover.nsw.gov.au**.

From 1 September

FREE SMALL BUSINESS SEMINARS

WorkCover is conducting a series of seminars throughout NSW to assist small business operators understand how OHS requirements apply to their workplace.

These seminars provide small business operators with:

- information on OHS responsibilities
- practical advice on how these responsibilities can be met
- resources and tools that will assist in creating a safe and healthy workplace
- an opportunity to raise issues concerning health and safety in the workplace
- information and assistance with workers compensation and injury management issues.

These seminars are free of charge, however registration is essential and numbers are limited. All seminars run from 6.00 pm - 8.00 pm, and registration commences at 5.30 pm.

Phone 1800 624 097 to register your attendance.

Remaining WorkCover Small Business Seminars

Regional	Bathurst 23 Sept	
	Orange 24 Sept	
	Dubbo 25 Sept	
Metropolitan	Parramatta 29 Sept and 1 Oct	
	Sydney 30 Sept and 2 Oct	



THE SAFETY SHOW AND CONFERENCE

WorkCover is the Principal Sponsor of the new workplace Safety Show and Conference, to be held from 14-16 October 2003, at the Sydney Showground and Exhibition Complex.

More than 120 exhibitors, including WorkCover, will take part at The Safety Show and the organisers anticipate about 3500 visitors.

During the trade show, WorkCover will conduct two free seminars to provide practical OHS programs tailored for small business.

These seminars will provide insight into:

- OHS responsibilities for small business and how they can be met
- resources and tools for creating a safe and healthy workplace
- workers compensation issues.

There are two sessions only and places are limited:

- Wednesday 15 October 8.30am 10.30am
- Thursday 16 October 8.30am 10.30am

Registration for these free seminars is essential, visit www.thesafetyshow.com and see 'Visitor Registration'.

The Safety Conference will take place on 14-15 October and run alongside the trade show. Experts, including speakers from WorkCover, will cover a wide variety of topics including:

- risk and hazard control for managers and supervisors
- legislation and risk avoidance
- injury management and workers compensation
- OHS leadership and culture.

For more information and to register for The Safety Conference, visit www.thesafetyshow.com and see 'I want to attend the Conference'.

WorkCover website

www.workcover.nsw.gov.au

On 7 August 2003, the Minister for Commerce, the Hon. John Della Bosca MLC, unveiled WorkCover's new website.

'It is essential that workers and employers have rapid access to information and advice to help create safe workplaces,' Mr Della Bosca said.

Twelve months ago, WorkCover undertook a comprehensive testing and evaluation project to determine the efficiency and effectiveness of its website.

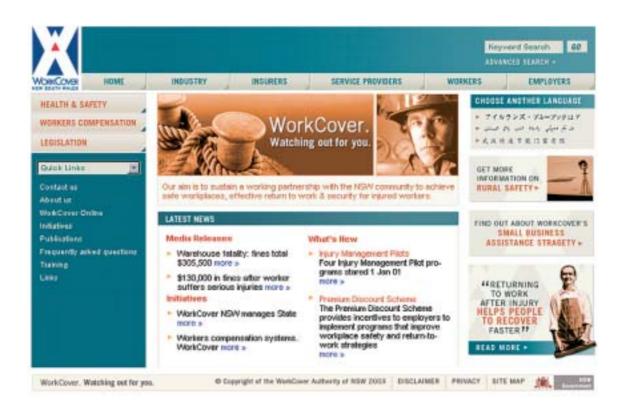
The project found that there was a clear need for a more user-friendly website, with the most up-to-date information available.

The changes to the website have improved user access to WorkCover initiatives, publications, frequently asked questions, databases and training resources. Users can find information about the Premium Discount Scheme, Roll Over Protection Scheme (ROPS), ShearSafety rebates and the Small Business Assistance Strategy. To accommodate the 21,000 daily page visits that the WorkCover website attracts, a simple-to-use search engine has been implemented.

'The new site will be invaluable in helping workers and employers comply with their obligations under the state's occupational health and safety, workers compensation and injury management legislation,' the Minister said.

The website now presents 'information about' OHS, workers compensation, and law and policy, and 'information for' employers, workers, industry, service providers and insurers.

A 'quick links' menu includes a glossary of commonly used OHS, workers compensation and injury management terms. It also contains information about certificates of competency, research and grants, tenders and testing, media releases, statistics, the Safety Summit and an interactive 'Safety Zone' for young workers to practice their workplace skills.



Community

On 31 July 2003, WorkCover hosted an occupational health and safety (OHS) forum at the Masonic Centre in Sydney for the non-government social and community services sector. Delegates attended from a range of organisations, including the NSW Council of Social Services (NCOSS), the Australian Services Union (ASU) and the Local Community Services Association.

A variety of presentations were made by key groups in the sector, and discussion focused on the OHS obligations that small business and not-for-profit organisations need to be aware of from 1 September 2003.

In his keynote address, Rob Seljak, the then Acting General Manager of WorkCover, emphasised that over the next 12 months WorkCover would ensure that the community sector receives advice and information – via publications, seminars and workshops – to ensure that it can understand and satisy its OHS responsibilities.

As part of this commitment, WorkCover will provide funding for 12 months for a dedicated position at NCOSS, to help provide its more than 7000 members with up-to-date information on OHS requirements. This new position would also be responsible for disseminating information through the vast NCOSS regional network forum.

Delegates were informed of the forthcoming release of the revised WorkCover/NCOSS publication, *Safety Pack – for the Community Sector*. The new *Safety Pack* will be available in November and is designed to help the community sector, particularly with regard to OHS obligations.

During the forum, delegates were involved in workshops, where key safety issues facing the community sector were clarified and prioritised.

The forum provided a unique opportunity for the community sector to build partnerships, examine confronting issues and develop strategies to help ensure OHS compliance.

Becoming a WorkCover Inspector

WorkCover inspectors provide advice and assistance. They visit workplaces around NSW, accompanying employers and workers around their worksites, gathering information and providing advice on appropriate methods for addressing occupational health and safety (OHS) issues.

WorkCover inspectors have experience in a range of trades and professions. Many hold tertiary qualifications in OHS disciplines.

The 2003 recruitment of WorkCover inspectors commenced in June. More than 680 information kits were distributed and 487 applications were processed (including almost 20 per cent from female applicants).

After new inspectors are appointed, they undergo an intensive 18-month training program. They must attend specialist courses and briefings to ensure their skills and knowledge are up-to-date.

A combination of classroom tuition and on-the-job training is the focus of the first eight months, followed by intensive fieldwork where new recruits are 'mentored' with experienced inspectors.

After successful completion of training, inspectors attend a formal WorkCover graduation ceremony.

On 16 August 2003, the Minister for Commerce, the Hon. John Della Bosca MLC, presented 18 WorkCover inspectors with a Diploma of Injury and Illness Prevention and Management (Inspector) and reinforced the importance of their role in helping create safe and secure workplaces across NSW.

The presentation of the diplomas was a significant milestone, as it was being held on the Central Coast for the first time, following the relocation of WorkCover's head office to Gosford in October 2002.

Stakeholder Consultation on **Workers** Compensation

WORKCOVER IS SEEKING COMMENTS ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GROUPING PROVISIONS AND THE REVIEW OF THE METHOD OF CALCULATING WORKERS COMPENSATION INSURANCE PREMIUMS.

A discussion paper has been circulated to NSW employer groups and unions, licensed workers compensation insurers and other interested parties, as well as to members of WorkCover's Industry Reference Groups. The discussion paper is also available from WorkCover's website,

www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/discussionpaper.

Comments on the paper are invited from interested parties by 5.00pm Friday 3 October 2003 and should be sent to:

The Director, Insurance Strategic Management Group WorkCover NSW Level 4, 92 – 100 Donnison Street Gosford NSW 2250 Fax: (02) 9287 5201 Email: **discussion.paper@workcover.nsw.gov.au**

GROUPING OF RELATED ENTITIES FOR WORKERS COMPENSATION

In 2002, after a period of extensive consultation and an independent review, the NSW Parliament passed legislation to introduce new grouping provisions that would require related entities to have a single workers compensation policy. These grouping provisions are expected to apply to new or renewed policies from 4.00pm 30 June 2004.

This means that the wages and claims experience of all employers in the group will be used when calculating the group's premium and that industry classification will apply at the group level, except where there are 'separate and distinct' businesses operated by different employers within the group.

For example, a manufacturer may currently have 'related' employers who mainly package or distribute the items manufactured. These employers may currently be classified in packaging or distributing industry classes. Once the grouping provisions commence, these related employers would be classified as a group under the relevant manufacturing classification.

Who Will Form a Group

Existing payroll tax provisions (Part 10A of the *Taxation Administration Act 1996*) will be used to determine who is a related entity. Related entities, including trusts, partnerships and corporations, will be grouped along similar lines to the payroll tax provisions.

Employers will be grouped where:

- 1. corporations are related under section 50 of the *Corporations Act 2001*
- 2. workers of one business work solely or mainly for another business, or
- 3. the same person, or persons, have a controlling interest in each of two or more businesses.

For more information on grouping provisions and what businesses are considered 'related', refer to the Office of State Revenue website, **www.osr.nsw.gov.au**.

Consultation on Grouping

When the legislation was passed, WorkCover undertook to consult with stakeholders about the implementation of grouping. In particular, WorkCover is now seeking comment from stakeholders on:

- the application of workers compensation grouping provisions to employers who are exempt from or not liable for payroll tax
- proposed amendments to self-insurer licences to align with the new grouping provisions
- the impact of grouping provisions on employers insured with specialised insurers
- proposed changes to the Premium Discount Scheme (PDS) participation
- the preferred method of issuing Certificates of Currency.

PREMIUM REVIEW

The aim of the premium review is to assess the current methods used for workers compensation premium calculation. Specifically, WorkCover is seeking input on:

- the current method of experience adjustment
- the current claims costs excluded from an individual employer's premium
- a proposal that, to support the implementation of the new notification system and encourage the early reporting of injuries, from 1 July 2004 the existing excess of \$500 be applied to those employers who notify their insurer of an injury within 48 hours, while a \$1000 excess would apply to those employers who do not
- the introduction of a no-claim discount for workers compensation premiums, and
- the introduction of industry classes specifically for labour hire employers.

Based on this consultation, WorkCover anticipates that a revised premium calculation method will be introduced from the 2004/05 policy year.

For details on the consultation and a copy of the discussion paper, visit WorkCover's website at **www.workcover.nsw.gov.au**.

Working Safely in shearing sheds

On 15 July 2003, the Minister for Commerce, the Hon. John Della Bosca MLC, awarded the first grant under a new WorkCover incentive scheme designed to improve safety in shearing sheds around NSW.

'Under the dollar-for-dollar ShearSafety program, 13 NSW woolgrowers have been nominated to each receive between \$10,000 and \$20,000 to upgrade their sheds,' said Mr Della Bosca.

Shearing shed hazards include electric shocks from old wiring; trips and falls on damaged floors, stairs and shearing boards; poorly guarded grinders, shearing equipment and wool presses; inadequate ventilation and sheep handling injuries.

The proud recipient of the first grant, Mr Terry Moran, manages a property with his brother Jim at Caloola, near Bathurst. Mr Moran said, 'the \$20,000 grant has allowed us to bring our shearing shed up to a standard that would not otherwise have been possible.'

The grant will allow the Morans to replace entry stairs and safety railings, upgrade electrical wiring, lighting and ventilation, provide an amenities room, install raised shearing shed floors, and replace sheep pens and gates.

Through a process of consultation with their shearers, the Morans implemented a risk management system that reduced the amount of bending, lifting and subsequent back strain by simply raising the shed floors. The Morans new shearing shed, together with those of the other grant recipients, will be the focus of open days towards the end of this year. The sheds will demonstrate to other local farmers and shearers the improvements that can be made to their own sheds – at a reasonable cost.

Another component of the ShearSafety program is a \$60 rebate for shearers to replace their pin-drive handpieces with the less dangerous worm-drive mechanism. To date, WorkCover has provided the rebate to more than 800 shearers.

ShearSafety, like the Roll Over Protection Scheme (ROPS) and the Premium Discount Scheme, helps demonstrate that good OHS can help your business.

For more information on numerous rural topics, visit WorkCover's Rural Safety Site, accessible from www.workcover.nsw.gov.au.

Below: Minister Della Bosca and Terry Moran





- / OHS Leadership & Culture
- / College of Fellows Colloquium

- I Injury Management & Workers Compensation

SYDNEY SHOWGROUND 14-15 OCTOBER 2003

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

TUESDAY 14 OCTOBER 2003

am Keynote Address / Workplace Safety in NSW ate, Minister for Commerce, Hon. John Della Boso Minister for Industrial F

Presented by the Safety Institute of Australia (NSW Division) Inc.



Principal

Sponsor

Mr Derek Viner, FSIA, Viner Group International Risk Engineering Techniques and Disaster Prevention Mr John Carlton, CFSIA, Viner Group International

Risk & Hazard Control for

Managers & Supervisors

Applying Risk Assessment to the Workplace Ms Cheryle Burns, Woollahra Municipal Council



9.30am

Why Assess Risk?

10 45am - 11 15am Morning Tea

OHS Lessons from Effective Counter

Terrorism Planning Supt Garry Meers, NSW Fire Brigades

Cash Handling - The Unrecognized Workplace Hazard

Mr Terry Flanders, ASIA, Investigation Systems Effective Emergency Management Planning Mr Bob Walker, Jardine Lloyd Thompson

9.30am Wellness In The Workplace

Employee Assistance Programs -Why Do We Need One? Ms Tonie Gilbert, Crossroads Consulting Keeping Employees Well@Work Mr Ken Buckley, Health Works Corporate Critical Incident Debriefing in a High Risk Environment Mr Michael Morris, NSW Fire Brigades

Taking Workplace Health to a Higher Level -Producing Tangible Behaviour Change, Effective Health Outcomes and "Real" Benefits for the Organisation Mr Greg McLoughlin, Health By Design "People Just Want to Feel Better, More Often" - The Basis of a Wellness

Using WorkCover Premium Discount

9.30am Legislation & Risk Avoidance

The Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001 - Where to From Here? Mr John Watson, WorkCover NSW

The Duties of Controllers of Premises Mr Michael Tooma, ASIA, Deacons Solicitors Contractor Pre-Qualification and Project OHS Performance Monitoring Mr Thomas Mitchell, Safety Systems Management

Professional Indemnity Insurance Mr Andrew Ferns, Teamcare Insurance Brokers Legal Implications of the Civil Liabilities Act with Non Employees

Mr Stan Tsaridis, Deacons Solicitors Fairer Workplaces - Improving Compliance

in Workers Compensation Mr Craig McBride, WorkCover NSW

Workshop: Putting Together a Site Safety

Management Plan

Mr Garry Nabbe, MSIA, Aim Workplace Safety

12.30pm Lunch



.30pm Keynote Address / Good OHS = Good Business. Leadership is the Key Mr Eric Curtis, CEO, National Safety Council of Austra

A Consultants Overview of SubbyPack Mr Gabriel Bresolin, MSIA Guardian Safety Services

Effective Control Measures Roger Fairfax, MSIA, State Rail Dangerous Goods - A New Paradigm for the Management of Chemicals in the Workplace? Mr Peter Dunphy, WorkCover NSW

3.15pm - 3.45pm Afternoon Tea

The Changes to AS 4360 - Have Your Say Prof Jean Cross, FSIA (Hon), University of NSW

Risk Management - Managers, Safety Professional, Supervisors and Workers Major John Everett, FSIA, Department of Defence

Occupational Noise Assessments -How to Avoid the Pitfalls Mr Ken Scannell, Noise and Sound Services

Workplace Violence - Responding to Customer Aggression in the Workplace Ms Bernadine Euers, Passmore Duff Training

The Need for Hearing Performance Standards - Why a Basic Hearing Test is Not Enough Mr Ross Woolven, MSIA Industrial Audiology Services

Gridlocked Strain Injury Prevention - Unlocked Mr Kelvin Blackney, MSIA Manual.Handling Resilience

Fatigue Management and Controlling Shift Work Dr Delwyn Bartlett, Woolcock Institute of Medical Research

Workplace Drug and Alcohol Misuse Mr Norman Marshall, Australian Drug Management & Education

The Role of the Individual in Fatique Management Mr Brad Strahan, Brad Strahan & Associates

Workshop: Writing Safe Work Method Statements Mr Garry Nabbe, MSIA, Aim Workplace Safety

6.30pm NSCA/Telstra National Safety Awards of Excellence Presentation & Dinner, The Wentworth Hotel Ballroom

For full conference details and to register online OR

Program that Delivers Mr Dallas Tye, Macquarie Institute

Scheme as a Benchmark Mr Grant Richter, Delta Health and Fitness

Hear from over 60 Australian and international speakers

WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER 2003

9am Keynote Address / Future Trends in Workplace Health and Safety - Australia and Beyond Mr Robert Seljak, Assistant General Manager, WorkCover NSW



9.30am OHS Leadership & Culture

From Compliance to a Culture of Safety Excellence Mr Bob Turner, Independent Consultant How to Take the Incident Management System You Have and Make it Work for Your Organisation Max Lloyd-Jones, Lloyd-Jones Meakin Group

10.45am - 11.15am Morning Tea

Adding Icing to the Cake: Continuous Strategies to Improve Risk Management Systems Mr Leith Perry, The Brief Group

Marketing OHS within your Organisation -Gaining the Support Mr John Ninness, MSIA, Queensland Natural Resources & Mines

Safety - Why it Makes Good Business Sense Mr Ed Camilleri, Revesby Workers Club

12.30pm Lunch

1.30pm Keynote Address / Accident Insurance Model Mr Anthony Ractliffe, Chairman, ACC NZ

Risk Assessment As An Empty Fashion Statement Dr Yossi Berger, Australian Workers' Union

Are We Managing Risk Affectively? -An Employer Group Perspective Mr Mark Goodsell, Australian Industry Group

Health and Safety at Work: It's About Leadership Prof Ed Davis, Macquarie University

3.15pm – 3.45pm Afternoon Tea

Hypothetical - Drama Based Learning as a Powerful Tool in Cultural Change Mr Barry Sherriff, FSIA (Hon), Freehills and Mr Kevin Berry, Performance In Management

5.00pm Concludes

5.00pm Evening Drinks in Exhibition Hall - all Delegates welcome

9.30am Injury Management & Worker Compensation

WorkCover NSW Paralympian Sponsorship Program Ms Janelle Carr, WorkCover NSW

Return to Work, Return to Life Mr Terry Giddy and Mr Heath Francis, Paralympians

Making Sport Safer Through Injury Surveillance Dr John Orchard, Sporting Injuries Committee

Installing a Return to Work Program Within a Self Insured Organisation Mr Peter Venson, Bankstown City Council

Controlling the Costs with Effective Rehabilitation Services Mr Brendan Delaney, Rehabilitation Providers Association

Injury Management Initiatives in OHS for Small to Medium Enterprises Mr Greg Lamont, ASIA, Your Executive Service / Gunnedah Council

Developing a Premium Reduction Strategy

Preparing for the Premium Discount Scheme

Mr Patrick Dunn, NRMA Workers Comp

Mr Colin Stewart, Corporate Risk Services

Case Study on PDS Marrickville Council

Specialist Insurer Model: A New Approach

Mr Barry Cotter, Marrickville Council

to Workers Compensation Ms Amanda Dobie-Brown.

StateCover Mutual Limited Update on Government Reforms

to Workers Compensation Mr Rob Thomson, WorkCover NSW

Understanding the NSW Workers Compensation Commission Hon Justice Terry Sheahan, Workers Compensation Commission

9.30am Professional Development Program

Behavioural Safety and its Application to Manual Material Handling Ms Claere Kay, Australia Post

The Art and the Science of Predicting Future High Risk Exposure Mr Gareth Shepherd, The InterSafe Group and Prof Jean Cross, FSIA (Hon), University of NSW

Work-Related Injury in NSW Hospitalisation and Workers' Compensation Datasets: A Comparative Analysis Mr Soufiane Boufais and Dr Anne Williamson, NSW Injury Risk Management Research Centre

Implementing Change in Sport -

The Role of Research Dr Robert Parker, MSIA, Children's Hospital Institute of Sports Medicine

Preliminary Investigation into Workers Inhalation Assessment in an Agricultural Environment Mr Ryan Kift, University of Western Sydney and Dr Sue Reed, MSIA, University of Western Sydney

Chemical Safety on Farms Prof Chris Winder and Ms Usha Garg, University of NSW

College of Fellows Colloquium Risk Management

Held in conjunction with



For free Trade Show registration visit www.thesafetyshow.com

Organiser Australian Exhibitions & Conferences Pty Ltd Tel +613 9654 7773 Fax +613 9654 5596 Email safety@aec.net.au

Premium Discount Scheme

Estee Lauder joined the Premium Discount Scheme (PDS) in 2001 and was a highly commended finalist in the inaugural Premium Discount Scheme Awards held in November 2002.

Estee Lauder Pty Ltd was established in 1946 and commenced operations in Australia in 1965. The head office, located in Rosebery, Sydney, employs approximately 145 permanent staff, in both a corporate and warehousing capacity. Eight retail stores around Sydney are staffed by up to 50 permanent and casual workers, for whom the company has sole occupational health and safety (OHS) and injury management (IM) responsibilities. A number of beauty advisors and consultants are also located at major department stores, where the responsibility for OHS and IM is shared with other organisations.

Estee Lauder was attracted to the PDS by the benchmarking opportunity the Scheme provides, the discipline of annual audits and the focus on long-term sustainable improvement in all aspects of workplace health and safety.

Before committing to the PDS, the company reviewed the potential benefits of participating, such as:

- a reduction in claims
- improved systems and processes
- safer work practices
- fewer accidents/incidents
- premium cost reductions
- an overall cultural change towards OHS.

As a result of the review, Estee Lauder decided to enter the PDS and selected a Premium Discount Adviser to assist them in further developing the company's OHS and IM systems to meet the PDS benchmarks.

Over the last two years, Estee Lauder's OHS and IM achievements have included OHS training, a health and safety awareness newsletter, induction packs for store managers, and a personalised incident reporting process that provides immediate response and feedback relevant to the nature of the incident.

The company also introduced a health and fitness program for warehouse staff, which is now being rolled out to corporate staff. Other health initiatives include regular company health fairs – offering healthy eating tips and heart, blood and cholesterol tests, flu vaccinations and onsite massage/relaxation.

Estee Lauder has benefited in several ways through its involvement in the PDS:

- claims have reduced significantly, from 15 in the company's first year of participation to four in the current period
- premium costs have substantially decreased, from \$875,000 in the first year of participation to \$200,000 for the current policy period (these figures do not include the premium discount)
- workplace incidents/accidents have decreased and there has not been a workplace-related time-loss injury for more than nine months (as at time of printing).

The company has recently passed its third audit and received its final premium discount. Over the course of the Scheme, Estee Lauder achieved the maximum aggregate premium discount of \$150,000 over the three-year period (ie. \$75,000 in year 1, \$50,000 in year 2 and \$25,000 in year 3).

The final benefit to Estee Lauder has been the cultural change in staff attitudes to OHS and IM. More frequent and improved communication has led to staff adopting an active role in workplace safety. Workers have shown an increased willingness to report incidents and potential hazards so that

PREMIUM DISCOUNT SCHEME

The Premium Discount Scheme is a practical initiative by the NSW Government to help employers achieve world's best practice in workplace health and safety and injury management. Participants can earn discounts on their workers compensation insurance premiums (up to 15 per cent in the first year), for a period of three years, by making their workplaces safer.

As at end March 2003, the Premium Discount Scheme had delivered over \$62 million in premium rebates to approximately 2000 employers in NSW, providing safer work practices for more than 320,000 workers.

Estee Lauder's premium product

changes can be made and risks managed. Importantly, staff no longer consider the provision and maintenance of a safe working environment to be the sole responsibility of management. A culture of looking out for colleagues' welfare has developed.

With the savings that Estee Lauder has made from its participation in the PDS, the company has invested in training and education programs, new equipment to improve workplace practices, and it has also upgraded the NSW offices as part of an Australia-wide initiative to ensure healthy and safe work environments. Even though Estee Lauder is coming to the end of its involvement with the PDS, the company is confident that its workers and customers will continue to benefit from the systems developed and knowledge gained.

Estee Lauder confirms that the PDS has been the driving force in implementing and improving their OHS and IM systems, helping them achieve a desirable balance between commercial productivity and a supportive, healthy work environment for staff. The company is proud to have achieved best practice OHS and IM systems – and is determined to maintain them.

Below: Estee Lauder Service Centre Chatswood



2003 PREMIUM DISCOUNT SCHEME AWARDS

'It's just like winning an Oscar.'

These were the words of 'Employer of the Year' winner Marrickville Council at WorkCover's inaugural Premium Discount Scheme Awards held last November.

Winning this award meant a lot to the staff at Marrickville – it enabled us to celebrate our staff and their achievements in improving workplace health and safety,' says Director of Corporate Services, Candy Nay. 'The award has also helped us keep up the momentum to continually improve workplace safety,' Ms Nay said.

Since entering the PDS, Marrickville Council has experienced a dramatic reduction in the number of days lost due to workplace injuries and almost a 50% reduction in its workers compensation premium.

Since winning 'Employer of the Year', Marrickville Council has shared its experiences with other local government organisations and has been a regular presenter at conferences.

The Awards gave particular recognition to all finalists', as well as the winners, giving them the opportunity to be promoted as preferred employers in the area of workplace health and safety.

The 2003 Premium Discount Scheme Awards will be held in late November. More information will be made available on the WorkCover website, **visit www.workcover.nsw.gov.au**.

Below: Estee Lauder receiving the PDS Award



Latest Publications

Health and safety guides for the cleaning industry



WorkCover will launch two new publications for the cleaning industry at the NSW Cleaning Expo in Sydney, on 23-24 September 2003.

The guides are designed to assist property owners and managers, and cleaning employers and contractors, to meet their obligations under occupational health and safety (OHS), workers compensation and injury management legislation. They also provide advice on how to integrate OHS management systems into contract management.

Both guides include invaluable management tools, such as an OHS questionnaire to assist in tendering, a sample risk assessment form and work method statement, a monthly OHS report for contractors, and a health and safety checklist.

'These guides have been developed in consultation with industry associations and major employers,' said Les Blake from WorkCover.

'There is very strong industry demand for this style of information and guidance. The cleaning industry has potential for major OHS and workers compensation improvements,' Mr Blake added.

The cleaning industry is a major priority for WorkCover, given that workers compensation premiums have soared from 2.67 per cent to 10.52 per cent over the last seven years. Injuries among cleaners have a higher than average cost (compared to other workers in NSW) and are more likely to result in permanent injury.

'WorkCover is committed to helping employers reduce premiums in the industry by encouraging employers, managers and contractors to integrate OHS into all levels of business activities and decisions,' Mr Blake said.

The guides, *Health and Safety for Cleaning Contractors in NSW – A Guide for Property Owners and Managers* (Catalogue No. 1221) and *Health and Safety for Cleaning Contractors in NSW – A Guide for Cleaning Employers and Contractors* (Catalogue No. 1222), are available in print and CD format (Catalogue No. 1226).

They can be ordered from the WorkCover Publications Hotline (1300 799 003). Key industry groups will also be distributing the guides to their members.

The guides are also available in PDF format on the WorkCover website, **www.workcover.nsw.gov.au**.

Stop Press

WORKCOVER MOVES TO NEW PREMISES IN LIVERPOOL

WorkCover recently opened new premises in the Liverpool area after a complete refurbishment and fitout.

Design principles developed for the Gosford head office, which maximise occupational health and safety in the use of workstations, chairs and circulation space, have been used and have become the standard for all office fitouts WorkCover conducts throughout NSW. WorkCover staff at Liverpool can now be contacted at:

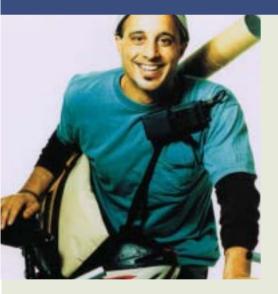
Level 3 33 Moore Street Liverpool Telephone: (02) 9827 8600 New fax number: (02) 9824 0348

WorkCover Diary

SMALL BUSINESS SEMINARS

(All seminars are from 6pm-8pm. Call 1800 624 097 to register)

September October	Armidale 16 Sept Narrabri 17 Sept Gunnedah 18 Sept Bathurst 23 Sept Orange 24 Sept Dubbo 25 Sept Parramatta 29 Sep Sydney 30 Sept Parramatta 1 Oct		
	Sydney 1-2 Oct		
	14-16 Oct Sydney Showgroun Seminars 8:30-10:		
GENERAL			
23-25 September	Henty Field Days www.hmfd.com.au		
23-24 September	NSW Cleaning Exp 10am-6pm Rosehill Gardens	C	
14-16 October	The Safety Show an Sydney Showgroun www.thesafteyshow		
21-23 October	National Field Days	s – Orange	
	www.anfd.net	WorkCover. Watching out for you.	1





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WorkCover. Watching out for you.

Workplace Fatalities & Injuries

LINESMAN INJURED

A man installing new electrical cables at the top of a power stanchion was attaching a lifting device for the installing of 'ABC Bunded cable', when he came into contact with the 11KV energised cables with his hand. He subsequently fell and was caught by the safety harness but suffered burns to his hand and was exposed to high voltage electrical shock.

RENDERER FALLS FROM PLANK

A man rendering a wall standing on a plank suspended between two sawhorses was injured, when he slipped off the plank, falling awkwardly and striking his head on the handle of a sliding door as he fell.

MAN KILLED WHILST FELLING TREE

A man sustained fatal head injuries when part of a tree he was felling came away from the tree and fell against him.

BRICKLAYER CRUSHED BY WALL COLLAPSE

A bricklayer sustained fatal injuries when a recently-erected brick wall collapsed onto him.

MAN ELECTROCUTED BY OVERHEAD POWER LINES

A man was electrocuted as a result of a crane coming into contact with overhead power lines during the removal of a shed on a farm.

NON-WORKER INJURED

A man who was not a worker, was assisting a worker in moving sheet metal in a stand when one of the support posts gave way causing the sheets to fall breaking the man's leg and ankle.

MACHINE OPERATOR CAUGHT IN MACHINE

A machine operator was fatally injured when he became caught in an articulated spreading machine.

LABOURER DIES IN FALL

A builders labourer sustained fatal injuries following a fall from formwork at a construction site.

Disclaimer: These reports are of a preliminary nature and are based only on initial reports from WorkCover inspectors. Full details of incidents will be available after the completion of coronial and other processes. No liability on the part of any parties referred to herein can be inferred from these reports.

Prosecution Highlights

BORAL FINED \$130,000 AFTER JINDERA KILN FATALITY

Company: Boral Bricks Pty Ltd

Fine Amount: \$130,000

Date of Judgment: 18 July 2003

Inspector: Ian Lancaster

Case Details: Boral Bricks Pty Ltd has been fined \$130,000 by the NSW Industrial Relations Commission sitting in court session following the death of a worker and injury to three others who tried to rescue him from its Jindera brick kiln.

A WorkCover investigation showed that the company had failed to provide appropriate safety measures and training for the rescue of personnel and failed to comply with requirements for working in confined spaces. The worker died on 10 January 2000 after he was trapped between two brick carts in a 2.5 metre high pre-heating tunnel at the kiln. Unsuccessful attempts to free the man in the hot and gas-laden air of the tunnel resulted in injuries to three other workers.

Boral pleaded guilty to three charges brought by WorkCover under Section 15(1) and Section 16(1) of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1983* for failing to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the worker who died, three workers who were injured, and another worker who was placed at risk.

In fining Boral \$43,333 on each of the three charges, Justice Staunton said the company had taken an attitude of quiescent complacency towards occupational health and safety at the kiln since acquiring the property in 1999.

\$297,000 IN FINES IMPOSED AFTER LOGGING FATALITY

Company: Wyoming Mill Pty Ltd

Fine Amount: \$297,000

Date of Judgment: 14 August 2003

Inspector: Brian Dell

Case Details: A timber milling company and one of its directors have been fined a total of \$297,000 by the NSW Industrial Relations Commission sitting in court session following the death of an employee hit by a logging vehicle at Niangala, near Tamworth.

Both breaches were for failing to ensure the health and safety of the company's employees. The employee suffered fatal injuries on 2 May 2000 when struck by the logging vehicle while crossing the company log yard with another worker.

A WorkCover investigation showed that the vehicle was not fitted with any warning devices and the forward view of its driver was obscured by the logs it was carrying.

Wyoming Mill Pty Ltd was fined \$270,000 for a breach of Section 15(1) of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1983* and Wyoming Mill company director, Braith Murray Vidler, was fined \$27,000 for a breach of Section 50(1) of the Act.

In handing down his judgment, Justice Boland said: 'The employment of warning lights or sirens, spotters, guides, safety fences and the like were all feasible options at the time of the accident. They were available to the defendants and may well have prevented this accident.'

EX-DIRECTOR GUILTY OF WORKERS COMP FRAUD

Company: Coastline Bricklaying Pty Ltd

Fine Amount: \$7562

Date of Judgment: 16 May 2003

Inspector: Ken Shearing

Case Details: The former director of a Dapto bricklaying firm has been convicted on five counts of workers compensation fraud by the NSW Chief Industrial Magistrate's Court sitting at Wollongong.

A WorkCover audit showed that Daryl Wesley Waller, 39, had

Disclaimer: This list is a selection of cases and does not represent all prosecutions undertaken and/or resolved by WorkCover NSW (under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1983*) in the three months since WorkCover News was last published.

used false business cards and invoices to reduce his workers compensation premiums by \$3781. Waller falsified the number of sub-contractors and paid workers employed by his company, Coastline Bricklaying Pty Ltd.

Waller exaggerated the number of sub-contractors he engaged – who were responsible for their own workers compensation policies – and reduced the number of paid workers he employed.

He was fined \$1500 on one charge and ordered to enter good behaviour bonds totalling two years on the other four charges brought under Section 178BB of the NSW *Crimes Act 1900.* Waller will also be required to pay WorkCover double the amount of avoided premium, totalling \$7562.

\$12,256 PENALTIES FOR COFFS HARBOUR WORKERS COMP FRAUD

Company: Geoffrey William Flower

Fine Amount: \$12,256

Date of Judgment: 17 July 2003

Inspector: Ken Shearing

Case Details: A former Coffs Harbour security man has been ordered to pay penalties totalling \$12,256 after being found guilty in the NSW Chief Industrial Magistrates Court of 18 charges of workers compensation fraud.

The insurer had reimbursed Flower for hydrotherapy and associated accommodation expenses he had claimed in connection with a back injury suffered while working as a security officer in 1991. Doubts about the claims were raised in 2001 after Allianz checked the accounts.

An investigation by WorkCover's NSW Fraud Investigation Team uncovered 15 forged accounts for hydrotherapy, totalling \$5414, and three false accounts for accommodation amounting to \$780.

Geoffrey William Flower, 53, was fined \$200 on each of the 18 counts, ordered to pay costs of \$2462 and restitution of \$6194 to the insurer, Allianz Workers Compensation (NSW) Ltd.

Chief Industrial Magistrate George Miller said he favoured making a community service order, but decided on a financial penalty due to Flower's health condition.

webwise

www.workcover.nsw.gov.au

Public comment - discussion paper

WorkCover invites comment on the implementation of grouping related entities and a review of the method of calculating workers compensation insurance premiums.

Visit http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au/discussionpaper.htm

Guidelines for employers' return-to-work programs

These guidelines outline the obligations of employers, workers, insurers and doctors in relation to occupational health and safety, workers compensation and injury management. It includes details on developing a return-towork plan, the role of return-to-work coordinators, and information on shared return-to-work arrangements.

Visit **www.workcover.nsw.gov.au** and see Workers Compensation/Injury Management/Employer Responsibilities

Plant Position Papers

A series of position papers have been published detailing the types of plant that must be registered with WorkCover before they can be used in NSW.

Visit www.workcover.nsw.gov.au and see Publications/Industry/Plant/Plant Position Papers

Safety guides for cleaning contractors in NSW

Two new guides that focus on how OHS fits into a contracts/tendering process for cleaners. The guides are for property owners, managers, cleaning employers and contractors and provide detail on legal obligations, risk management and the Premium Discount Scheme.

Visit www.workcover.nsw.gov.au and see Publications/OHS/Safety Guides

WorkCover NSW Offices

Head Office

Office Hours 8:30am – 5:00pm Monday to Friday 92-100 Donnison Street GOSFORD 2250 Phone (02) 4321 5000 Fax (02) 4325 4145 Postal Address: WorkCover NSW Locked Bag 2906 LISAROW 2252

WorkCover Assistance Service

Office Hours 8:30am – 4.30pm Monday to Friday 92-100 Donnison Street GOSFORD 2250 Phone 13 10 50

LABORATORIES

Thornleigh 5A Pioneer Avenue THORNLEIGH 2120 Phone (02) 9473 4000 Fax (02) 9980 6849 Email: Iab@workcover.nsw.gov.au

Londonderry

TestSafe Australia Ground Floor, 919 Londonderry Road LONDONDERRY 2753 Phone (02) 4724 4900 Fax (02) 4724 4999 Email: testsafe@workcover.nsw.gov.au

REGIONAL and LOCAL OFFICES Office Hours 8:30am – 4:30pm Monday to Friday REGIONAL OFFICES

Newcastle

Vewcastie 956 Hunter Street NEWCASTLE WEST 2302 Phone (02) 4921 2900 Fax (02) 4940 8558 Office Hours 8:30am – 5:00pm

 Wollongong

 106 Market Street

 WOLLONGONG
 2500

 Phone (02)
 4222

 Fax (02)
 4226

 Office Hours
 8:30am – 5:00pm

 LOCAL OFFICES
 Description

Albury 463 Kiewa Street ALBURY 2640 Phone (02) 6042 4600

Fax (02) 6041 2580 Batemans Bay Shop 6, Fenning Place 12 Orient Street

BATEMANS BAY 2536 Phone (02) 4472 5544 Fax (02) 4472 5060 Blacktown

125 Main Street BLACKTOWN 2148 Phone (02) 8882 4200 Fax (02) 9831 8246

Dubbo

Suite 3, 157 Brisbane Street DUBBO 2830 Phone (02) 6841 7900 Fax (02) 6884 2808

Goulburn 21-23 Clifford Street GOULBURN 2580 Phone (02) 4824 1500 Fax (02) 4822 1242

Grafton NSW Government Offices 49-51 Victoria Street GRAFTON 2460 Phone (02) 6641 7500 Fax (02) 6641 5100

Griffith NSW Government Offices 104-110 Banna Avenue GRIFFITH 2680 Phone (02) 6962 8900 Fax (02) 6964 1738

Hurstville Level 4, 4-8 Woodville Street HURSTVILLE 2220 Phone (02) 9598 3366 Fax (02) 9585 0261

Lindfield 345 Pacific Hwy LINDFIELD 2070 Phone (02) 9936 3000 Fax (02) 9936 3030

Lismore

Suite 4, Level 4 Manchester Unity Building 29 Molesworth Street LISMORE 2480 Phone (02) 6627 4300 Fax (02) 6622 0090

Liverpool Level 3 33 Moore Street LIVERPOOL 2170 Phone (02) 9827 8600 Fax (02) 9824 0348

Narrabri Level 1, 55 Maitland Street NARRABRI 2390 Phone (02) 6792 8720 Fax (02) 6792 3532

Nowra Level 1, 5 O'Keefe Avenue NOWRA 2541 Phone (02) 4428 6700 Fax (02) 4422 4997

Orange 74 McNamara Street ORANGE 2800 Phone (02) 6392 7600 Fax (02) 6362 8820

Parramatta Level 4, 128 Marsden Street PARRAMATTA 2150 Phone (02) 9841 8550 Fax (02) 9841 8490 Office Hours 8:30am – 5:00pm

Port Macquarie

Shops 1 & 2 Raine & Horne House 145 Horton Street PORT MACQUARIE 2444 Phone (02) 6588 7000 Fax (02) 6584 1788

Tamworth Shop 20, 341 Peel Street TAMWORTH 2340 Phone (02) 6767 2500 Fax (02) 6766 4972

Lake Macquarie Shop 2, 33 The Boulevarde TORONTO 2283 Phone (02) 4935 8700 Fax (02) 4950 5587

Tweed Heads Suite 5, 1 Sands Street TWEED HEADS 2485 Phone (07) 5536 3262 Fax (07) 5536 4389

 Wagga Wagga

 Level 2, 76 Morgan Street

 WAGGA WAGGA 2650

 Phone (02) 6933 6500

 Fax (02) 6937 3616

For all occupational health and safety, workers compensation and rehabilitation information, call the WorkCover Assistance Service - 13 10 50 from anywhere in NSW.