



# WORKCOVER NEWS

The workplace safety and injury management magazine

ISSUE  
**79**  
Jan-Mar  
2010



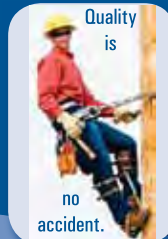
**2009 SafeWork Awards  
winners announced!**

*making a difference*



# OHS PUBLIC Courses Training Calendar 2010

WorkCover NSW Accredited & Specific Purpose Courses  
Vital Training for Effective Risk Management



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## OHS Consultation

*This course is required to be attended by OHS Committee members & OHS representatives. It provides participants with the skills to apply the principles of workplace OHS consultation & effectively carry out their functions under the OHS legislation. (A WorkCover NSW Accredited Course)*

Course Fee: \$610 (\$671 incl. gst) Course Length: 4 days (9am - 4pm).

PAR1	Jan	Tue 12	Wed 13	Tue 19	Wed 20	Parra	PAR4	Apr	Tue 6	Tue 13	Tue 20	Tue 27	Parra
CIT1	Jan	Thu 14	Fri 15	Thu 21	Fri 22	City	PAR42	Apr	Wed 7	Thu 8	Wed 14	Thu 15	Parra
PAR1/2	Jan	Thu 21	Fri 22	Thu 28	Fri 29	Parra	CIT4	Apr	Mon 12	Tue 13	Mon 19	Tue 20	City
CIT1/2	Jan	Wed 27	Thu 28	Wed 3	Thu 4	City	CAM4	Apr	Wed 14	Thu 15	Wed 21	Thu 22	Campb
PAR2	Feb	Mon 1	Tue 2	Mon 8	Tue 9	Parra	CIT42	Apr	Wed 14	Thu 15	Wed 21	Thu 22	City
PAR22	Feb	Wed 3	Wed 10	Wed 17	Wed 24	Parra	CHA4	Apr	Wed 28	Thu 29	Wed 5	Thu 6	Chats
CIT2	Feb	Fri 5	Fri 12	Fri 19	Fri 26	City	CIT5	May	Mon 3	Tue 4	Mon 10	Tue 11	City
CIT22	Feb	Mon 8	Tue 9	Mon 15	Tue 16	City	PAR5	May	Mon 3	Tue 4	Mon 10	Tue 11	Parra
HUR2	Feb	Tue 9	Wed 10	Tue 16	Wed 17	Hurst	HUR5	May	Mon 3	Tue 4	Mon 10	Tue 11	Hurst
CAM2	Feb	Tue 9	Wed 10	Tue 16	Wed 17	Campb	PAR52	May	Wed 5	Thu 6	Wed 12	Thu 13	Parra
CHA2	Feb	Wed 10	Thu 11	Wed 17	Thu 18	Chats	CIT52	May	Fri 7	Fri 14	Fri 21	Fri 28	City
PAR23	Feb	Thu 11	Fri 12	Thu 18	Fri 19	Parra	CIT53	May	Wed 12	Thu 13	Wed 19	Thu 20	City
RH2	Feb	Mon 15	Tue 16	Mon 22	Tue 23	Rooty/H	CAM5	May	Thu 13	Fri 14	Thu 20	Fri 21	Campb
CIT23	Feb	Mon 22	Tue 23	Mon 1	Tue 2	City	PAR53	May	Fri 14	Fri 21	Fri 28	Fri 4	Parra
PAR24	Feb	Fri 26	Fri 5	Fri 12	Fri 19	Parra	PAR54	May	Wed 19	Thu 20	Wed 26	Thu 27	Parra
PAR3	Mar	Mon 1	Tue 2	Mon 8	Tue 9	Parra	PAR55	May	Mon 24	Tue 25	Mon 31	Tue 1	Parra
CIT3	Mar	Mon 8	Mon 15	Mon 22	Mon 29	City	CHA5	May	Mon 24	Tue 25	Mon 31	Tue 1	Chats
CIT32	Mar	Tue 9	Wed 10	Tue 16	Wed 17	City	CIT6	Jun	Tue 1	Tue 8	Tue 15	Tue 22	City
PAR32	Mar	Tue 16	Wed 17	Tue 23	Wed 24	Parra	CIT62	Jun	Wed 2	Wed 9	Wed 16	Wed 23	City
CHA3	Mar	Thu 18	Fri 19	Thu 25	Fri 26	Chats	PAR6	Jun	Wed 2	Wed 9	Wed 16	Wed 23	Parra
RH3	Mar	Tue 23	Wed 24	Tue 30	Wed 31	Rooty/H	RH6	Jun	Wed 9	Thu 10	Wed 16	Thu 17	Rooty/H
CAM3	Mar	Wed 24	Thu 25	Wed 31	Thu 1	Campb	HUR6	Jun	Tue 15	Wed 16	Tue 22	Wed 23	Hurst
PAR33	Mar	Wed 24	Thu 25	Wed 31	Thu 1	Parra	CHA6	Jun	Thu 17	Fri 18	Thu 24	Fri 25	Chats
HUR3	Mar	Tue 30	Wed 31	Tue 6	Wed 7	Hurst							

## ohs risk management for supervisors & managers

*This course provides participants with knowledge, skills and appropriate attitudes necessary to apply the principles of risk management and effectively manage health & safety in their areas of responsibility. (There is no WorkCover NSW Course)*

Course Fee: \$550 (\$605 incl. gst) Course Length: 2 days (9am - 4pm).

PARS2	Feb	Mon 15	Tue 16	Parramatta
CITS3	Mar	Thu 4	Fri 5	City
PARS3	Mar	Mon 29	Tue 30	Parramatta
CITS4	Apr	Wed 7	Thu 8	City
PARS6	Jun	Wed 30	Thu 1	Parramatta

## introduction to return to work co-ordination

*This course is required to be attended by a return to work coordinator whose employer has a base tariff premium of more than \$50,000 pa. It develops the basic skills and knowledge needed to manage workplace injuries. (A WorkCover NSW Accredited Course)*

Course Fee: \$570 (gst free) Course Length: 2 days (9am - 4:30pm).

CITR1	Jan	Mon 18	Tue 19	City
PARR2	Feb	Thu 4	Fri 5	Parramatta

CITR2	Feb	Wed 10	Thu 11	City
PARR3	Mar	Wed 10	Thu 11	Parramatta
CITR3	Mar	Tue 23	Wed 24	City
PARR5	May	Mon 17	Tue 18	Parramatta
CITR5	May	Mon 24	Tue 25	City
CITR6	Jun	Thu 17	Fri 18	City
PARR6	Jun	Thu 24	Fri 25	Parramatta

## ohs committee chairperson

*This course provides a chairperson with further skills and certainty so that they can operate the committee effectively and make a greater impact on health and safety. (There is no WorkCover NSW Accredited Course)*

Course Fee: \$320 (\$352 incl. gst) Course Length: 1 day (9am - 4pm).

CITC2	Feb	Mon 1	City
PARC3	Mar	Thu 18	Parramatta
CITC3	Mar	Fri 26	City
PARC4	Apr	Fri 30	Parramatta
CITC6	May	Wed 26	City

## ON-SITE Training Courses

*The following courses can be delivered at your premises.*

- Course in OHS Consultation (4 days)
- Intro to Return to Work Coordination (2 days)
- Senior First Aid (2 days)
- OHS Risk Mgmt for Sups & Mgrs (1 or 2 days)
- Accident Investigation (1 day)
- Advanced Return to Work (1 day)
- Developing Workplace Safety Culture (1 Day)
- OHS Committee Chairperson (1 day)
- OHS Committee Refresher (1 day)
- OHS Risk Management (1 day)
- First Aid Recertification (1 day)
- Workplace Substances (1 day)
- OHS Induction for Employees (4 hrs)
- BackBasics Manual Handling Risk Mgmt (3.5hrs)
- BackBasics Manual Handling (2 hrs)
- BackBasics Workstation Set-up & M/H (2 hrs)
- OHS Law for Directors & Managers (2 hrs)
- OHS Responsibilities for Sups & Managers (2 hrs)

## ohs committee refresher

*This course is designed to refresh committee members on their role as a committee member and how to improve the effectiveness of their committee. (There is no WorkCover NSW Accredited Course)*

Course Fee: \$320 (\$352 incl. gst)

Course Length: 1 day (9am - 4pm).

CITF3	Mar	Thu 25	City
PARF4	Apr	Wed 28	Parramatta
CITF6	Jun	Thu 24	City

## advanced return to work co-ordination

*This course provides accredited return to work coordinators who have at least 6 months experience, with further knowledge and skills so they can effectively handle more complex return to work cases. (A WorkCover NSW Accredited Workshop)*

Course Fee: \$340 (\$374 incl. gst)

Course Length: 1 day (9am - 4pm).

CITE4	Apr	Tue 6	City
PAR6	Jun	Thu 3	Parramatta

## construction general ohs induction

*This course will cease to be a WorkCover course on the 1st of September 2009 and can then only be delivered by a Registered Training Organisation that has been approved by VETAB NSW to deliver the unit CPCCOHS1001A Work Safely in the Construction Industry. We will advertise dates for this training after Courtenell has received approval from VETAB.*

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Visit our website

[www.courtenell.com.au](http://www.courtenell.com.au)

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OHS information & recent  
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'Your Safety Matters'.

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and Safety



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# SafeWork AWARDS winners announced!



(see page 16)

#### WorkCover NSW Head Office

92-100 Donnison Street  
Gosford NSW 2250  
Phone: (02) 4321 5000  
Post: Locked Bag 2906  
Lisarow NSW 2252  
[www.workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au)

#### WorkCover Assistance Service

Workplace health, safety, injury  
management and workers  
compensation enquiries  
Phone: 13 10 50

#### Subscription Enquiries

Phone: 1300 799 003

#### Advertising Enquiries

Phone: (02) 4321 5204

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# News from the CEO

At the time of writing this column the new CEO for WorkCover NSW had just been announced by the Minister for Finance, the Hon. Michael Daley. I would like to warmly welcome Lisa Hunt to WorkCover. Lisa will focus on continuing to make long-standing improvements to occupational health and safety practices in workplaces across NSW, improvements to the WorkCover Scheme and ensuring that employers and injured workers in NSW continue to receive accurate and timely advice to OHS, injury management and workers compensation.

I would like to congratulate all of the winners of the 2009 WorkCover SafeWork Awards. The standard of entries was again very high last year with 47 finalists from the 119 entries received recognised for their exceptional safety innovations and improvements. The level of interest in the awards highlights the growing importance being placed on workplace safety.

Attended by almost 600 people, the awards evening provided an ideal opportunity for finalists to showcase their safety initiatives and share with industry peers what they have achieved.

With rising summer temperatures and many outdoor workers exposed to the heat and sun, now is the time to ensure you and your workplace are prepared. It is important that they are protected. Together, workers and employers can use simple strategies and safety equipment to protect themselves when working in the sun. Australia has the highest incidence of skin cancer in the world - more than 380,000 people are treated for the disease every year.

This issue of *WorkCover News* looks at the assistance being offered by WorkCover to the rural community to conduct mental wellness education events. Farmers suffering from anxiety and depression as a result of the drought are learning how to rebuild their lives and in the process create safer workplaces. WorkCover's Rural Mental Health Support program has helped to break down barriers and raise awareness of the mental health issues that can be brought on by stress and economic hardship.

Helping employers, service providers and injured workers understand the workers compensation system is one of our key goals. Please take the time to read about the following:

- an overview of the Workers Compensation Commission and the processes used by arbitrators to resolve disputes
- information on a new regulatory framework for psychologists and counsellors that came into effect from 1 January 2010
- advice on how to distinguish between a worker and contractor for workers compensation premium purposes.

While it is not always easy for employers to differentiate between workers and contractors, it is important to get it right, particularly when calculating workers compensation insurance premiums. Knowing the correct status of a worker ensures the correct premium is paid.



**Rob Thomson**  
Acting Chief Executive Officer  
WorkCover NSW





# Mutual recognition of licences

Under existing mutual recognition arrangements, a person registered in one state or territory is entitled to registration in another jurisdiction where the registered occupation is substantially the same.

The Council of Australian Governments (COAG) have established new arrangements for the system of mutual recognition to make it easier for licensed tradespeople, and authorities that issue licences, to know what a worker is entitled to when applying for a licence in another jurisdiction.

A new website [licencerecognition.gov.au](http://licencerecognition.gov.au) allows a person to look up a licence entitlement in another jurisdiction, based on the currently held licence. The website also has information on who to contact to apply for a licence.

Workers need to apply to the relevant authority, hold a current valid licence and pay a licence fee. In cases where no equivalent licence is stated, the worker can still apply for individual assessment, as they have always been able to do under the existing mutual recognition legislation (*Mutual Recognition Act 1992*).



As a result of a Ministerial declaration, the following occupational health and safety (OHS) licences have been deemed equivalent and are listed on the [licencerecognition.gov.au](http://licencerecognition.gov.au):

- pest management technician
- asbestos
- demolition
- explosives.

Also featured are various other construction related, transport and maritime licences.

COAG are in the process of developing a National Licensing System for specified occupations as part of its broader agenda for regulatory reform, which will allow licensees to work anywhere in Australia without having to reapply for a licence when moving to another jurisdiction.

Currently it is expected that the electrical occupations, air conditioning and refrigeration, plumbing, gas fitting and property services will be included in the first round by 1 July 2012. Building and building related occupations, land transport (passenger vehicle drivers and dangerous goods), maritime occupations, conveyancers and valuers are expected within the second round of occupations by approximately 1 July 2013.

While no WorkCover licence types have so far been selected for the COAG National Licensing System, it is anticipated that they will be considered for national recognition under the model OHS legislation arrangements.

For further information  
please contact WorkCover NSW  
on **13 10 50**  
or visit [licencerecognition.gov.au](http://licencerecognition.gov.au)

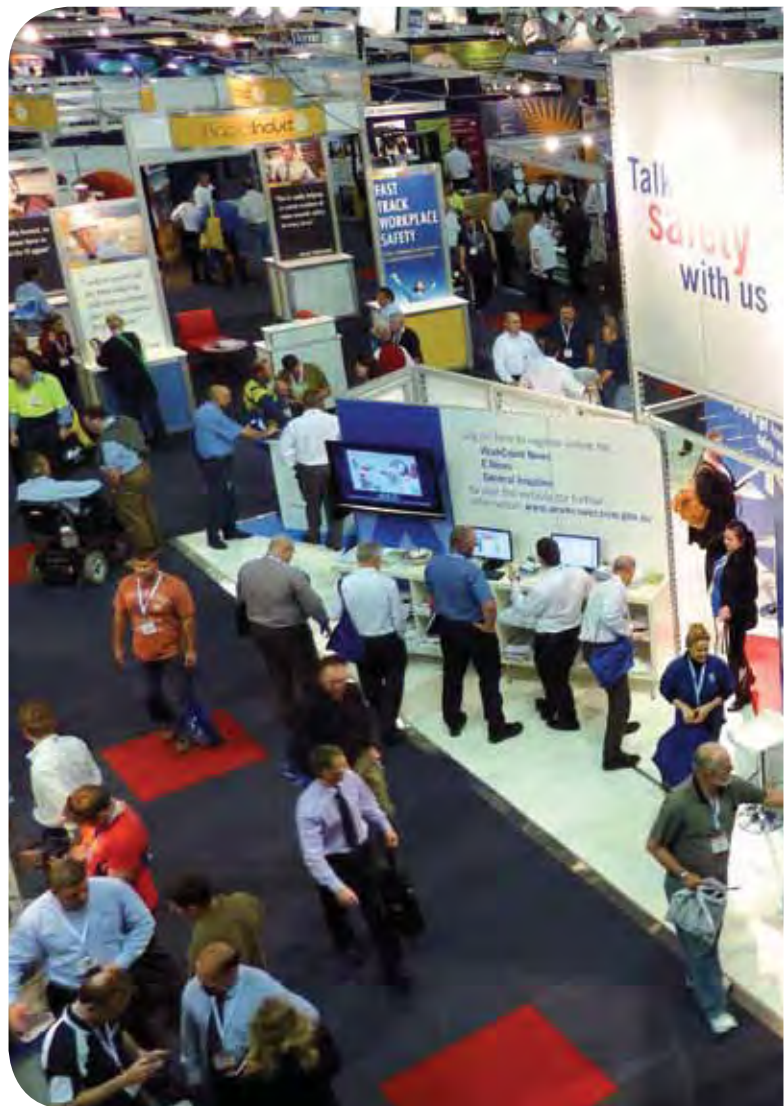
# 2009 Safety Show and Conference

For the seventh year WorkCover NSW returned as principal sponsor of The Safety Show and Conference, held at Homebush between 27 and 29 October 2009.

**Despite the recent economic downturn the Show was a success, attracting over 10,000 keen visitors over the three days.**

As NSW's largest safety event, The Safety Show hosted over 300 safety and materials handling specialists across the three and a half acres of the Sydney Showground. The attendance rates remained steady from last year's numbers, an indication of the importance and need for greater safety knowledge in the workplace.

Over 50 WorkCover staff provided information and advice over the three-day event. These staff worked from the custom-built stand, and for their efforts were awarded 'The Safety Show & Sydney Materials Handling 2009' award for 'Best Use of Exhibition Medium'.



WorkCover representatives also presented a series of free and informative workshops. These workshops focused on dealing with and preventing workplace bullying, manual handling and the Smart Move toolkit, as well as information about workers compensation.

The workshops had excellent attendance rates, a 24 per cent increase on last year's figures, and gave attendees valuable information on how to meet workers compensation and workplace safety legislative requirements.

Held alongside the Safety Show was the Safety Conference. This year the Conference hosted over 60 Australian and international speakers. The three-day program offered new ideas and practical safety solutions, with visitors benefiting from the insights of industry leaders as well as networking with colleagues and potential clients.



The Safety Show also featured a number of seminars run by Safe Work Australia and Deacons law firm. These popular seminars discussed the development of the new national OHS laws.



**Pictured above:**

A WorkCover Information Officer discussing workplace safety with a Safety Show visitor.

Another significant seminar was a mock trial presentation by Deacons law firm. This presentation illustrated the processes involved in OHS trials in NSW and the legal penalties for OHS breaches, covering personal liability and the consequences of unsafe work practices.

A number of live interactive demonstrations were also held throughout the Show. Showcased at these events were the Australian Red Cross Defibrillator training, RMSS risk management software, and safety eyewear advice. One of the most popular seminars was presented by Workplace Access & Safety, which mapped out appropriate height safety practices.

**The Safety Show returns  
to the Sydney Showground  
26-28 October 2010.  
Check the Safety Show website for  
further details... [thesafetyshow.com](http://thesafetyshow.com)**



# Stay Safe in the sun this summer

As we swelter through another hot Australian summer, WorkCover NSW is reminding outdoor workers about the dangers of working in the heat with the development of a new **Sun Safety@Work** campaign.

Launched at NSW Parliament House by NSW Minister for Finance Michael Daley, the campaign is aimed at educating businesses in the construction and utilities industries about ways to reduce the risks of heat and UV radiation exposure from the sun.

*'Here in Australia we have the highest rate of skin cancer in the world, which is why those who work outdoors need to understand the importance of occupational health and safety responsibilities,' said Mr Daley.*

*'Providing adequate sun protection for outdoor workers is essential and should be a number one priority for employers this summer.'*

*'Workers also have an obligation to cooperate with their employers in reducing the risk to their health from exposure to the sun and complying with relevant sun protection policies,' he said.*

Exposure to UV radiation can occur both by direct sunlight and by reflection from surrounding surfaces such as concrete, glass, metal, sand and large bodies of water.

Even when working in the shade or under cover it is important for outdoor workers to continue to wear sun protection to avoid the risk of sun damage through UV radiation.

Pictured below:

**The Hon Michael Daley** (Minister for Finance) and **John Watson** (General Manager OHSD - WorkCover NSW) launch the Sun Safety@Work campaign.







The campaign outlines the dangers of heat and UV exposure for outdoor workers, as well as workplace practices to reduce these risks.

#### Safe practices include:

- working under shade and shelter whenever possible
- designing systems of work to reduce the amount of time workers spend in the sun
- rotating tasks to lessen exposure time and scheduling work at cooler times of the day
- providing information, instruction, training and supervision to workers
- providing water and encouraging workers to stay hydrated
- providing personal protective equipment.

WorkCover inspectors are visiting construction and utilities sites across NSW over summer to provide advice and assistance to help employers and workers about how to effectively manage outdoor work. Businesses can book a Sun Safety@Work workshop at their workplace by contacting WorkCover.

WorkCover's Safety Bus (pictured above) will also travel to locations across the Sydney metropolitan area with officers on board to provide free guidance material (pictured right) and one-on-one advice to help businesses develop and implement sun protection measures in their workplaces.

WorkCover's Safety Bus will visit the following locations with officers on board to provide free guidance material and one-on-one advice:

- West Gosford - Lots 7-12 Stockyard Place, 13 January 2010
- North Parramatta - Cnr Windsor Rd and James Ruse Drive, 27 January 2010
- Campbelltown - Cnr Kellicar Rd and Bugden Place, 10 February 2010
- Hoxton Park - Cnr Hoxton Park Rd and Lyn Parade, 24 February 2010.

The WorkCover guide *Skin cancer and outdoor workers – A guide for employers* (Catalogue no. WC00116) and other resources are available at [workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://workcover.nsw.gov.au) or by calling **13 10 50**.

Other SunSmart resources are available from the Cancer Council at [cancercouncil.com.au](http://cancercouncil.com.au) and the Cancer Institute of NSW at [darksideoftanning.com.au](http://darksideoftanning.com.au).



# A cut above on safety

For hairdresser Trevor West, there is no greater sense of satisfaction than using his finely skilled hands to turn a client's dream into a masterpiece.

But what happens when those hands turn to the task of establishing safe systems of work? The scissors are cast aside and suddenly there's a lot more than hair to snip into.

Enter WorkCover NSW's small business assistance services – services which have not only helped Trevor to make practical workplace safety improvements, but also adapt to meet changing industry safety needs.

Trevor and his business partner Donna Lavis said their salon, Canvas Hair in Kingscliff, has gone from strength to strength since inviting their local WorkCover business advisory officer, Lydia Plim, for a workplace advisory visit.

*'Having somebody come out to help us with our OHS was just invaluable – you're dealing with a person and not just a set of regulations,' said Trevor, who has more than 20 years in the hair industry.*

*'My experience has shown me that it's a continual process of upgrading and accommodating industry safety changes. Ensuring my business, employees and clients are safe is a task that is never finished, but after the advisory visit I feel we're on the right track,' he said.*

With Lydia's help, Trevor made some simple changes that are already working to keep both his workers and clients safe. With an eye to the future, other safety improvements will be implemented over time.



Together, the pair looked at safe work procedures, established OHS consultation arrangements – how Trevor could share information and seek contribution on OHS from his workers – and implemented OHS management systems.

*'We sat down and discussed a range of things, like putting plugs in power points to avoid shocks, checking whether any hazardous chemicals could be replaced, and emergency procedures,' Lydia said.*

Trevor's passion for making his workplace safer has also prompted him to register for WorkCover's small business forums, which allow business operators to have a say in how WorkCover can improve services and assist in business productivity.

Like he has, Trevor encourages all small business operators to take advantage of WorkCover's free assistance services and to provide feedback on their industry's safety needs through the forums.

*'It can only help your business and your industry. Fixing any immediate physical safety issues and having a practical safety system in place for yourself and your staff is just so important – it's great to know WorkCover is there to help,' Trevor said.*

For more information about WorkCover's assistance services for small business, or to request a workplace advisory visit, go to [workcover.nsw.gov.au/safebusiness](http://workcover.nsw.gov.au/safebusiness) or call **13 10 50**.

# Settling disputes efficiently and fairly: The Workers Compensation Commission

## What happens if an injured worker submits a claim for workers compensation and there is a dispute over that claim?

The first step is to seek advice from the WorkCover NSW Claims Assistance Service (CAS) on **13 10 50**. If the matter cannot be agreed and settled through CAS, then an application can be made to the Workers Compensation Commission for resolution of the dispute.

The Workers Compensation Commission was established in 2002 and replaced the Compensation Court of New South Wales and Workers Compensation Resolution Service. The Commission is part of the workers compensation system in NSW.

**The Commission's role is to resolve disputes between injured workers and employers over workers compensation claims. It handles disputes over:**

- weekly payments of compensation
- management of a worker's injury/illness in the workplace, such as suitable duties
- medical and related expenses
- permanent impairment and pain and suffering compensation
- compensation in respect of the death of a worker.

*'Our resolution model is quite unique,' said Sian Leatham, Registrar of the Commission. 'It encourages all parties to resolve the problem at any stage of the proceedings and a single arbitrator will manage the case throughout the process.'*

There are several different paths which applications can travel to reach a resolution: conciliation/arbitration, medical assessment (for disputes about level of permanent impairment), and expedited assessment. Which path is followed depends on the type of claim and the issues in dispute. The steps involved also vary according to the complexity of the matter.

The first step in disputes about liability is usually a teleconference where the parties try to reach an agreement with the assistance of an arbitrator. If that is unsuccessful, then the process escalates to a face-to-face conciliation conference. Approximately 70 per cent of matters are resolved at or before the teleconference stage. Of the 30 per cent that move from the teleconference to the conciliation/arbitration stage, about 75 per cent will settle through conciliation and the remainder will be determined by the arbitrator. An arbitrator's decision is legally binding, with some rights of appeal to a Commission Presidential member.

*'Of course we are constantly reviewing our processes to ensure they are fair and efficient for all parties,' Sian said. 'Our most recent innovation is an Arbitrator Practice Manual which provides arbitrators with guidance and research that will ensure consistent and sound decisions.'*

The Commission receives about 750 new applications a month and 88 per cent are resolved within six months.



# Drought

## affects mental health

‘I’ve been feeling down and blaming everyone else around me.’

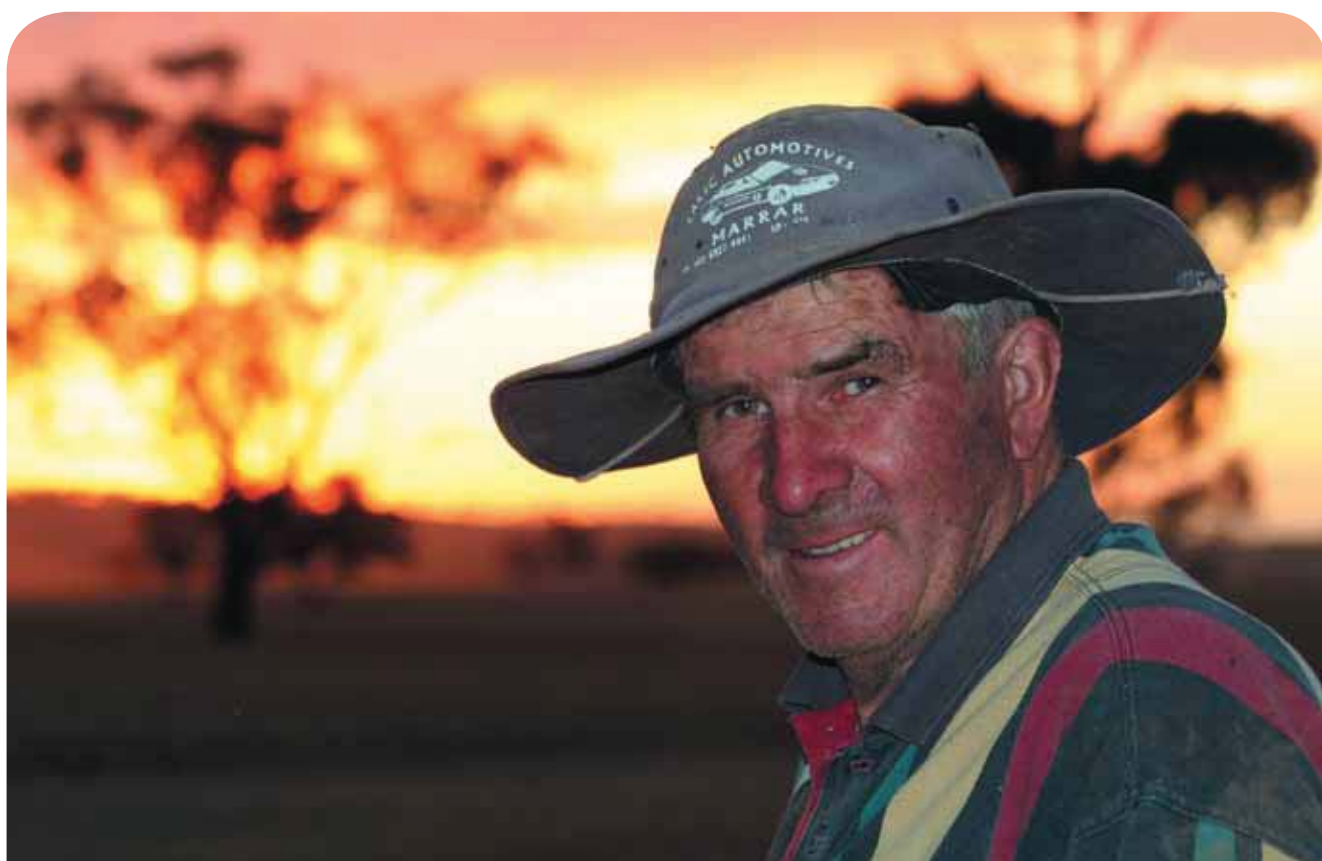
‘I want to keep to myself; I don’t want to talk to people.’

Farmers suffering from anxiety and depression in drought hit rural communities are learning how to rebuild their lives and in the process create safer workplaces.

WorkCover NSW’s rural mental health support program has helped break down barriers and raise awareness of the mental health issues that can be brought on by stress and economic hardship. Sponsorship of \$60,000 has been made available for the running of mental wellness education events in rural communities, particularly those isolated from regional centres – towns like Oaklands in the Riverina and Mendooran and Armatree in central and western NSW.

Since early 2008, WorkCover has sponsored more than 17 events and partnered with organisations such as YMCA, Anglicare, Beyond Blue, Blackdog, Country Women’s Association, Greater Southern and Western Area Health Services, and John Harper and many other drought support workers.

**Withdrawal and isolation  
are common warning signs of  
anxiety and depression in the  
rural community.**





## Thousands turn out

A recent event in the small country town of Lockhart – population 900 – attracted 8000 people from the surrounding area. The community came together to help organise the event that featured celebrity entertainer Rhonda Burchmore and guest speakers on mental health.

*'It was a fantastic event – a real collaboration between the locals, the health community and mental health support groups,'* said WorkCover's Principal Inspector Colin Wall.

*'The idea was to get the message out about how to recognise poor mental wellbeing and where to go for help. We want farmers to see the link between their state of mind and the danger of on-farm injuries. If they are consumed with stress about how to pay overdue bills or prevent crops from failing, they can't concentrate on their job – and unfortunately this is when accidents happen.'*

## Mates helping mates

At many of the events, under the banner of 'mates helping mates', former wheat and sheep farmer from Stockinbingal, John Harper, has spoken about the battle he went through with depression and how it affected his health, work and relationships. Like many males in the rural community, he initially refused to believe he had a problem and only began to turn his life around when he accepted that he was suffering from depression.

*'Five years ago if we had told the rural community we were having an event that related to mental health, no one would have turned up. Now there is a room full of people, many of whom are blokes,'* said Mr Wall.

*'It shows how far we've come because it has traditionally been very hard to get people talking about their personal feelings of stress or anxiety.'*

*'Once we bring these issues out into the light, people see that the first step is a positive step – the recognition that they have a treatable problem.'*

## Safety message

A bonus of the Rural Mental Health Support program has been that it spreads the safety message and lets farmers know of the many ways WorkCover can help them in their business.

*'It has encouraged farmers to start talking about workplace safety and their concerns for how to achieve a safe working environment. Many isolated farmers have found it an enormous relief to find out that they can come to WorkCover for help and assistance,'* says Mr Wall.





WORKCOVER NSW

# WHATEVER CAREER PATH YOU CHOOSE



**BE SAFE AT WORK**  
*making a difference*

For assistance in making your workplace safer contact  
WorkCover NSW on 13 10 50. [www.workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://www.workcover.nsw.gov.au)

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# Safety in outdoor advertising

Billboards and bus shelters may not be an obvious workplace safety risk, yet these workplaces can pose significant dangers if the correct rules and practices are not followed.

Many outdoor advertising sites in NSW require workers to regularly scale heights of up to 40 metres to replace signage or maintain infrastructure. These activities require vigilance by supervisors and workers to ensure that the appropriate equipment and safety procedures are in place.

Bus shelters present a variety of risks as maintenance workers are regularly called upon to work at heights or in confined public spaces, and required to replace broken glass or deal with hazardous substances, such as in the removal of graffiti.

Workers in printing works and manufacturing plants which supply materials and structures to the outdoor advertising industry also face OHS risks unique to their workplaces.

Recently members of the Outdoor Media Association (OMA) completed a new supervisor training program with the assistance of a \$96,000 grant from WorkCover NSW.

Rosemary Roberts, who heads the OMA's OHS Group, said the industry needed to develop a program that could be applied to a number of different work environments, as well as being able to overcome any language barriers presented by multicultural workers with low level English literacy skills.

*'We identified a need for a common supervisor training program that could be readily accessed by all of our members, regardless of the size of their workforces,'* Ms Roberts said.

*'The program consists of a DVD covering a range of work environments and risk scenarios which can be downloaded from our website, and complemented with targeted, face-to-face sessions with our members.'*

Ms Roberts said the OMA worked closely with a specialist in managing workplace safety risks that are specific to the industry.

WorkCover recognises that employer and employee organisations and not for profit group training organisations are uniquely positioned to develop and implement programs to help employers and workers understand and comply with occupational health and safety and workers compensation legislation.

Funding for this project was made available through the 2008 WorkCover Assist Education and Training Grants Program - a funding initiative of the NSW State Government and WorkCover NSW.

For more information  
on the WorkCover Assist Program visit  
[workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://workcover.nsw.gov.au)

# 2009 SafeWork Awards **WINNERS** announced!

WorkCover NSW's prestigious SafeWork Awards were presented at a gala dinner on Wednesday 28 October 2009 at Rosehill Gardens which was attended by almost 600 people.

Guests were delighted to be part of an impressive evening that saw all 47 finalists recognised for their exceptional safety innovations and improvements.

ABC Radio host Adam Spencer returned as Master of Ceremonies, keeping the audience entertained with his humour and enthusiasm for workplace safety.

This year, the bar was raised to a very high standard with some initiatives achieving remarkable improvements in injury rates. A total of 119 entries were received for the 2009 Awards, highlighting the statewide recognition of the importance of workplace safety. All entries demonstrated a collective commitment from businesses ensuring that NSW workplaces are among the safest in the world.

All winning entries are eligible for entry into the national Safe Work Awards, which will be presented in Canberra in 2010. Winners from each category are showcased throughout the following pages. Highly commended entrants and finalists will feature in future issues of *WorkCover News*.

For details on how to enter the 2010 SafeWork Awards please check the WorkCover website.

## Category 1

### Best workplace health and safety management system

Thirteen finalists were selected for their commitment to improving their health and safety management systems. Two entries took out the award for their comprehensive OHS systems in the private and public sectors.

#### WINNER – Private sector

**Transfield Services** (Port Kembla)

#### WINNER – Public sector

**Roads and Traffic Authority NSW**  
(North Sydney)

#### HIGHLY COMMENDED

**OneSteel Limited** (Mayfield)  
**Shoalhaven City Council** (Nowra)

#### FINALISTS

**Country Energy** (Queanbeyan)  
**Darling Harbour Convention & Exhibition Centre Pty Limited** (Darling Harbour)  
**GHD** (Newcastle)  
**Otto Holdings (Aust.) Pty Ltd** (The Rocks)  
**St Vincent's & Mater Health Sydney** (Darlinghurst)  
**Sydney Catchment Authority** (Penrith)  
**Tomago Aluminium** (Raymond Terrace)  
**Transport Infrastructure Development Corporation** (Chatswood)  
**University of Wollongong** (Wollongong)

## Transfield Services

WINNER – Private sector

**Transfield Services** delivers essential services to key industries in the resources and industrial sectors as well as infrastructure, property and facilities management services. As part of an alliance partnership, Transfield Services and Blue Scope Steel manage the maintenance of the Port Kembla steelworks. The alliance employs 35 subcontractors and can have up to 400 personnel on the site at a single time.

Transfield Services noticed that their subcontractor safety management systems lacked consistency – with many subcontractors unaware of their OHS obligations. To ensure that all subcontractors apply the same set of safety standards, the company developed an audit process, training and safety mentors to encourage a consistent approach to safety.



Pictured above:

**Transfield Services** with the Hon Joe Tripodi, the former Minister for Finance and **Rob Thomson** (Acting CEO WorkCover NSW).

## Roads and Traffic Authority (NSW)

WINNER – Public sector

The **Roads and Traffic Authority (NSW)** is responsible for the improvement of road safety, motor registration and licensing, as well as the management of 17,932 kilometres of road networks. The RTA serves the large and diverse population of NSW and employs 6929 staff in more than 180 offices, including 129 motor registries.

The RTA's health and safety management system has been developed to meet the compliance requirements of the NSW public sector and the unique demands of its large business operations. The system uses a multi-faceted approach to managing safety, involving all staff members in order to deliver strong safety outcomes for the Authority.



Pictured above:

**Roads and Traffic Authority (NSW)** with the Hon Joe Tripodi, the former Minister for Finance and **Rob Thomson** (Acting CEO WorkCover NSW).



## Category 2

### Best solution to an identified workplace health and safety issue

This year, 23 entries were short listed as finalists for this award and were recognised for their excellence in developing an innovative solution to an OHS issue. After a difficult judging process a Newcastle-based business, Rotacaster Wheel Limited, was announced as winner.

#### WINNER

**Rotacaster Wheel Limited** (The Junction)

#### HIGHLY COMMENDED

**Bucyrus Australia Underground Pty Ltd** (Beresfield)

**Citigate Central Sydney Hotel** (Sydney)

**MidCoast County Council** (Taree)

#### FINALISTS

**AAMHatch** (Wollongong)

**Auburn City Council** (Auburn)

**Catholic Diocese of Wollongong and Voice Care Australia** (Wollongong)

**Centennial Coal Company Limited** (Toronto)

**Combined Safety Pty Ltd** (Marrickville)

**Country Energy** (Queanbeyan)

**Michael White** (Hinchinbrook)

**NSW Police Force – Tactical Operations Unit** (Surry Hills)

**NSW Rural Fire Service** (Homebush Bay).

**NSW Sugar Milling Co-operative Ltd** (Harwood)

**Otis Elevator Company** (Mascot)

**Penrith Lakes** (Castlereagh)

**Radisson Plaza Hotel Sydney** (Sydney)

**Roads and Traffic Authority (NSW) - Sydney Traffic Services** (Yennora)

**Safety Compliance Design & Services Pty Ltd** (Kotara South)

**Sydney Water Corporation** (Parramatta)

**The Water Delivery Alliance** (Erskineville)

**Walton Construction Pty Ltd** (St Leonards)

**Wiseman Industries Pty Ltd** (Coffs Harbour)

## Rotacaster Wheel Limited WINNER

**Rotacaster Wheel Limited** is an Australian owned and operated company that manufactures the Rotacaster multi-directional wheel. Recognising a number of hazards and strain injuries associated with conventional hand trucks, managing director Peter McKinnon designed the Rotatruck.

The hand truck is mounted with the multi-directional, self-supporting Rotacaster wheels removing the user's need to carry or balance any weight. The ergonomic design allows operators to lever loads rather than lift them, reduces pull back effort and allows the user to move directly sideways or rotate on the spot in confined spaces.



Pictured above:

**Rotacaster Wheel Limited** with the Hon Joe Tripodi, the former Minister for Finance and **Rob Thomson** (Acting CEO WorkCover NSW)..

## Category 3

### Best workplace health and safety practices in a small business

Small businesses represent the majority of workplaces in NSW. As such, WorkCover encourages small businesses to enter the Awards no matter how simple the safety initiative may seem, as long as it has had an impact on the overall health and safety of the workplace. The 2009 winner was **Pride Investment Holdings**.

#### WINNER

**Pride Investment Holdings** (Ingleburn)

#### HIGHLY COMMENDED

**Eminent Waste Pty Ltd** (Artarmon)

#### FINALISTS

**Wiseman Industries Pty Ltd** (Coffs Harbour)

### Pride Investment Holdings WINNER

As an independent supplier of forklifts, **Pride Investment Holdings** tailors specific forklift packages to suit their clients' needs. These requirements range from the supply of new equipment to the full maintenance of forklifts. As the business has grown, the company has developed an innovative approach through an OHS program called 'Take PRIDE in workplace safety'.

The program is not just compliant with legislation but forges a positive OHS culture within and throughout the organisation, blending the OHS message into every aspect of their business. In the development of the program, Pride Investments Holdings consulted with staff to strengthen their workers' commitment towards their own welfare and safety at work.



Pictured above:

**Pride Investment Holdings** with the Hon Joe Tripodi, the former Minister for Finance and **Rob Thomson** (Acting CEO WorkCover NSW).



## Category 4

### Best individual contribution to workplace health and safety

This award recognises individuals who have made an exceptional difference to health and safety. This year, six individuals were short listed for their commitment and contribution to the safety message.

#### **WINNER** – No formal OHS responsibility

**Alan Burman** (Country Energy)

#### **WINNER** – Formal OHS responsibility

**Nardia Zelukovic** (Orange Precision Metalcraft Pty Ltd)

#### **FINALISTS**

**Andrew McGarity** (Sydney South West Area Health Service)

**Brett Richardson** (Sutherland Shire Council)

**Neil Mineef** (Integral Energy)

**Shane Moran** (Integral Energy)

### Alan Burman

#### **WINNER** – No formal OHS responsibility

**Country Energy** manages Australia's largest energy supply network across NSW, with over 4000 employees serving more than 870,000 customers. Throughout his career Alan Burman, Manager Public Safety at Country Energy, has implemented workplace and community safety initiatives above and beyond his immediate areas of responsibility.

Some of Alan's novel initiatives have included the development of a hold-up awareness course, fire retardant clothing test, syllabus for safety officers course, as well as initiating electricity field days and safety practitioners conferences. Alan has been a driving force for improving safety at Country Energy with his initiatives having a positive impact on his co-workers and the community at large.



Pictured above:

**Alan Burman** (Country Energy) and **Country Energy** staff with **the Hon Joe Tripodi**, the former Minister for Finance and **Rob Thomson** (Acting CEO WorkCover NSW).

## Category 5

### WorkCover's leadership safety award

This award category acknowledges external organisations that are working in partnership with either WorkCover or with an external organisation to promote safer workplaces in NSW. Nominations for this award have been submitted by WorkCover senior management to recognise safety leadership achievements.

#### **WINNER**

**Motor Traders' Association** (Darlinghurst)

#### **HIGHLY COMMENDED**

**Shearing Contractors' Association of Australia** (Milsons Point)



## Nardia Zelukovic

**WINNER** – Formal OHS responsibility

**Orange Precision Metalcraft (OPM)** specialises in industrial and commercial metalwork design and fabrication. Knowing first hand how detrimental and devastating injury can be to a person's health and family, Nardia Zelukovic threw herself into improving OPM's occupational health and safety procedures.

As OPM's Human Resources Administrator, Nardia sought to bring the company into line with its legislative requirements and create a safer workplace for OPM's workers. To assist her co-workers she took on extra study and training in order to develop better procedures and with the help of an OHS expert set about to educate staff that it is every individual's right and responsibility to be safe at work.



Pictured above:

**Nardia Zelukovic (Orange Precision Metalcraft)** with the **Hon Joe Tripodi**, the former Minister for Finance and **Rob Thomson** (Acting CEO WorkCover NSW).

## Motor Traders' Association (MTA)

**WINNER**

Founded in 1910, the **Motor Traders' Association (MTA)** has a 6000 strong membership across New South Wales. The MTA assists in the daily running of members' businesses through advice and lobbying at a state and federal level. The MTA actively promotes OHS, workers compensation and injury management practices throughout the industry.

The vast majority of MTA members are small business, putting the MTA in a unique position to influence and drive safety outcomes relevant to small business workplaces in NSW. The Association has created a number of initiatives including an OHS and workers compensation resource kit, 'MTA AutoSafe OHS management system', and an industry safety help line.



Pictured right:

**Motor Traders' Association (MTA)** with the **Hon Joe Tripodi**, the former Minister for Finance and **Rob Thomson** (Acting CEO WorkCover NSW).

# Psychologists and Counsellors Regulatory Framework

WorkCover NSW has released a regulatory framework for psychologists and counsellors that came into effect on **1 January 2010**.

Developed in consultation with stakeholders, the framework aims to achieve better return to work outcomes and improve cost effectiveness of services provided to injured workers. It provides expectations about treatment and service that will promote consistency across the industry.

WorkCover's model for achieving high quality health care services at an affordable price has already been implemented with five other allied groups of health professionals: physiotherapists, chiropractors, osteopaths, exercise physiologists and remedial massage therapists. The psychologists and counsellors framework was developed to align with these groups and with the frameworks in use in other jurisdictions.

## Development

Consultation about the framework started in October 2008 through a discussion forum held by WorkCover, with around 60 representatives of key parties. The purpose of the forum was to discuss issues related to psychological and counselling services and identify options for a regulatory framework.

In December 2008 WorkCover released the *Psychological and Counselling Services Regulatory Framework Consultation Paper*. Responses to this paper were reviewed and an amended framework was released in May 2009. Further feedback informed the final version of the framework which was released in September 2009.

## Key features

Psychologists and counsellors providing treatment to injured workers in the NSW workers compensation system now need to be WorkCover approved and have an approval number. The application process commenced in early December 2009 and will be ongoing.

### Other features of the framework include:

- guidelines developed for practitioners to promote evidence-based practice and delivery of services to provide measurable outcomes for injured workers
- common understanding developed for 'reasonably necessary treatment'
- administration changes to improve communication between insurers, workplace rehabilitation providers, employers and service providers
- introduction of a fee schedule which sets the maximum fees payable
- appointment of independent consultants to provide peer support and review service providers
- introduction of a complaints management system
- education of insurers, agents and service providers.

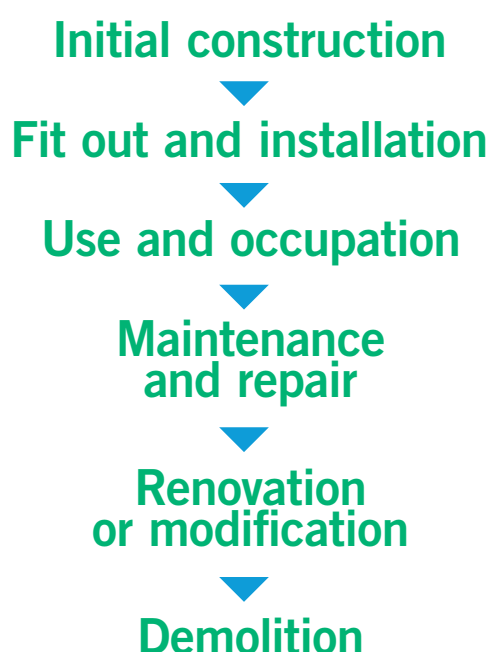
To find out more about the regulatory framework visit [workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://workcover.nsw.gov.au)

# SAFE design is GOOD design

The design of a building or structure affects everyone's safety, from those who construct it to those who work in it, maintain it and eventually demolish it.

**Now there's a guide to help ensure a good design will safeguard workers from start to finish.**

Safe design of buildings and structures takes a risk management approach to design, following the basic steps of hazard identification, risk assessment, and risk elimination or control. It recognises that many people have a role to play in design, ranging from architects to clients, constructors and end users. Consultation is, therefore, key to reducing risks throughout the building's life cycle (see below).



The guide outlines the principles of safe design, but goes beyond that to give concrete, practical advice on how to achieve it.

- There is specific guidance on how to organise consultation workshops, how to report, and how to incorporate safety requirements into contracts and procurement.
- There is a template for a risks and solutions register, for identifying and addressing issues at the planning stage.
- There are 13 pages with detailed examples of safe design considerations, covering everything from excavation to violence and crime.
- There is an eight-step recommended safe design process, giving designers a clear map of what to do and when in order to ensure their design is a safe one.

The benefits of safe design are twofold. It reduces the risk of injury and illness for workers, but it also reduces the potential costs associated with an unsafe design. Retrofitting, production downtime, higher insurance premiums, environmental clean-up costs and possible litigation are all persuasive reasons to get the design right from the outset.

To download your copy of the guide *Safe design of buildings and structures* (Catalogue no. WC02088), visit [workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://workcover.nsw.gov.au) or to order your copy contact the Publications Hotline on **1300 799 003**. For more information on how to build safe design into your project, call **13 10 50**.



# Worker OR Contractor?

## Confused about the difference between a worker and contractor?

It's not always easy to know which is which, but it's important to get it right, particularly when calculating workers compensation insurance premiums. Knowing the correct status of a worker ensures the correct premium is paid.

It's a common misconception that if a worker has an Australian Business Number (ABN) they must be a contractor. This is not always true, so when making a decision on worker status it's important to look at all aspects of the business relationship. You should never rely on one factor alone.

## Contractors

### Key characteristics include:

- work is quoted on a job-by-job basis
- the job has a start and end date
- payment amount is fixed for the work performed and is made to a registered business entity and not to an individual
- provides own tools and equipment
- the person hired subcontracts or delegates work
- chooses the hours worked and is able to offer services to others
- provides a guarantee/warranty for the work performed and rectifies defective work at own expense.

## Workers

### Key characteristics include:

- payment for services is based on period of time worked, such as an hourly rate made at regular periods (usually weekly or fortnightly)
- fixed or regular hours under the supervision and control of an employer
- materials/equipment provided by employer
- performs work for the employer in accordance with an employment contract and takes no commercial risk
- performs work personally and cannot be subcontracted to others
- tools provided by employer unless specifically agreed
- receives paid leave such as sick, annual and long service leave.

Call **13 10 50** or visit  
**[workcover.nsw.gov.au/workerstatus](http://workcover.nsw.gov.au/workerstatus)**  
for more information  
about worker status.

## Which is which? Resources to help decide

WorkCover NSW has developed an online self-assessment tool to help you determine the status of a worker. Go to [workcover.nsw.au/workerstatus](http://workcover.nsw.au/workerstatus) or call the Worker Status Service on **13 10 50** to request a printed version.

The self-assessment tool is non-binding, so if after using it you still wish to seek clarification, you can apply to WorkCover for a private ruling. This then becomes a binding notice that states whether a person or groups of people, are workers or contractors.

To apply, you must sign and complete an application form and forward it to WorkCover, attaching any supporting documentation such as the decision of the self-assessment tool, copies of contracts or invoices.

# How can we help?

WorkCover NSW now has a **pocket-size Services directory**, listing all the services we offer.

The quick reference guide lists all the different ways WorkCover can help you with OHS, workers compensation, injury management and licensing. Services range from technical safety advice to help with wages declarations, how to obtain a licence and where to find a local WorkCover office.

In addition to our call centre, **13 10 50**, the booklet contains some key contact telephone numbers for specialist services.

You can obtain printed copies (Catalogue no. WC02052), from any WorkCover office or through our publications hotline **1300 799 003**, or simply download it from [workcover.nsw.gov](http://workcover.nsw.gov)

*making a difference*

# Safety ALERTS

WorkCover NSW has issued the following safety alerts relating to filling SCUBA cylinders, the purging of gas installations and safe work on or near public roads.

## Filling aluminium SCUBA cylinders

This Safety Alert follows serious injuries to a person while filling an aluminium self-contained underwater breathing apparatus (SCUBA) cylinder in August 2009. The cylinder shattered into pieces.

This is the latest in a number of incidents involving the filling of aluminium SCUBA cylinders manufactured from 6351 alloy. The 6351 alloy was used in:

- aluminium alloy cylinders manufactured between 1972 and 1988 to specifications DOT SP6498, DOT E6498, DOT E7042, DOT E8107, DOT E8364, and DOT E8422
- Australian made aluminium alloy cylinders manufactured before 1991 to AS 1777.

## Purging gas installations

A Safety Alert was published following the serious injury of two plumbing apprentices earlier this year while purging the main (natural gas) supply line to a residential tower. Flammable gases from the supply line ignited when released into a plant room of the residential tower block, which contained multiple ignition sources.

The incident serves as an important reminder of the potentially catastrophic results of the uncontrolled release of a flammable gas within a building. It also highlights the necessity for adequate systems to purge large volume gas installations, and any associated appliances, to a safe location on the outside of the building away from potential ignition sources.

Other important factors to be taken into account include the volume of the pipe work, and the fact that natural gas is lighter and liquid petroleum gas is heavier than air.

The following risk control measures relate to the purging of large volume installations of fuel gas:

- **Do not commence any purging operation until a purge area has been defined, made safe and cleared of all ignition sources – eg naked flames, pilot lights and electrical switchgear.**
- **The purge outlet should be at least six metres away from any ignition source and well clear of any opening into a building.**
- **Do not allow smoking in or near the purge area.**
- **Erect warning signs and/or barriers.**
- **Where the network operator permits other persons to purge a service pipe, the purge is to be carried out in accordance with the network operator's procedures.**



## Safe work on or near public roads: issues with plastic water-filled safety barriers

A Safety Alert was released following a recent incident where a road worker was struck by a water filled plastic barrier that had been hit by a motor vehicle. The alert emphasises that water filled plastic safety barriers may only be used in certain circumstances where workers are not in close proximity.

Occupational health and safety legislation defines working near traffic as a high-risk activity. This requires employers to ensure that controls are implemented to eliminate or minimise the risk of moving vehicles colliding with people.

Without appropriate counter-measures in place, road workers would be constantly exposed to risk. Therefore, it is imperative that a risk assessment be done before work starts to determine the most appropriate safety system to manage traffic. This system must then be implemented with traffic control devices in place including, where required, the positioning of appropriate safety barriers for temporary construction work.

Importantly, all road workers involved must be consulted and given information, training and supervision. The *Code of Practice - Moving plant on construction sites* (Catalogue no. WC01310) provides guidance.

Safety barriers are only one part of a total traffic control system, and should not be relied upon as the only method to control risks associated with moving vehicles when construction work is being undertaken.

For more information on these safety alerts visit [workcover.nsw.gov.au](http://workcover.nsw.gov.au) and follow the links to publications, OHS and Safety Alerts.

The *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000* requires employers to provide systems of work that are safe and without risks to health, and to provide such information, instruction, training and supervision as is necessary to ensure the health and safety of workers.

# subscribe to WorkCover's eNews

## Would you like to be?

- Kept aware of safety alerts
- Informed of the latest updates to occupational health and safety and workers compensation legislation
- Notified of WorkCover Safety Workshops and seminars in NSW and your local area
- Provided with information regarding rebates, grants and subsidies
- Brought up-to-date on new publications and forms available.

To subscribe To WorkCover's eNews for all of this and more simply visit [workcover.nsw.gov.au/eNews](http://workcover.nsw.gov.au/eNews)

For further information please contact WorkCover on 13 10 50.



# National focus on OHS research priorities

The WorkCover NSW Research Centre of Excellence (WRCE) is regarded as a **national leader in quality OHS and injury management research.**

This year, some of Australia's leading occupational health and safety experts gathered to consider the future national direction of OHS research. The 2009 *Research Directions Forum* heard from leading academics, industry, employer and worker representatives, as well as workplace safety experts from WorkCover NSW and safety authorities across Australia.

Delegates were keen to identify priority issues to help form a national focus for the strategic direction for OHS research over the next five years.



Following the forum, the top three priorities for future national OHS research were identified:

- psychosocial issues and soft tissue injury hazards
- work/life issues
- the impact of multiple long-term exposures.

These priorities include thorough investigations of the psychosocial aspects of work, which many leading academics see as pivotal in assisting greater understanding of workplace injuries, as well as some of the more subtle long-term hazards to which workers in certain industries may be exposed.

The forum also identified emerging issues that included a greater need to focus on youth issues, and the need to combine promotion and workplace health protection. Other factors highlighted for consideration for a national research agenda included:

- occupational disease recognition and prevention
- evaluation of intervention strategies
- return to work research
- musculoskeletal problems
- changing nature of work/technology developments.

The drive to move from basic reactive research to improved practice that addresses the issues of early prevention as well as the evaluation of different intervention strategies was a common theme at the forum, which also emphasised collaboration between different state authorities.



The WRCE was established in 2004 as a joint venture between WorkCover and the University of Newcastle.

The centre is headed by Professor Derek R. Smith, an eminent researcher, previously awarded the Environmental/Occupational Safety Person of the Year award by the World Safety Organisation.

Professor Smith said the WRCE was delighted to host the 2009 Research Directions Forum as it was part of WorkCover vision for a national 'think tank' on the future of OHS research in Australia.

*'This significant event will elucidate current and future OHS issues faced by the Australian workforce, and in doing so, will lay the foundations for future research directions at both a state and national level,'* Professor Smith said.

# Critical INCIDENTS

1 April - 30 September 2009

The following is a list of workplace fatalities occurring in New South Wales since those listed in Volume 78 of *WorkCover News*. This covers traumatic incidents that resulted in a fatality occurring from 1 July to 30 September 2009 inclusive.

- A worker was negotiating a descent from a ladder when he slipped and fell approx 2.8 metres. The worker later passed away in hospital as a result of the injuries.
- A worker was breaking a piece of limestone with a hammer when he became trapped between two hydraulic rams, causing fatal injury.
- A worker was repairing a hydraulic lift table when it collapsed, fatally trapping the worker.
- A worker was securing a roof sheet when a piece of sheeting gave way and the worker fell approx 4.2 metres onto a concrete floor.

**Disclaimer:** *These reports are of a preliminary nature and are based 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.*



# Forest industry safety



**Forest harvesting contractors, timber haulage companies, mills and others employed in the forest and forest products industry will benefit from a new safety improvement program being rolled out across the industry in conjunction with Forests NSW.**

Resulting from the recommendations of an industry tri-partite safety group, the joint venture program aims to improve the management of occupational health and safety risks and injury management performance across the industry by engaging and supporting the industry.

A major aspect of the program was to review the *State Forests Safety Pack 2002*. WorkCover NSW and Forests NSW have subsequently developed the draft *Forest Industry Safety Tool* through consultation with key stakeholders from within the forest and forest products industry. The *Forest Industry Safety Tool* aims to assist all contractors to systematically manage occupational health and safety.

*'We spoke to contractors in the field as part of our benchmarking exercises to find out what occupational health and safety systems they were using, how easy these systems were to use and whether they did a good job in managing their health and safety,'* said WorkCover State Inspector and project leader, Mark Stothard.

*'It became apparent that different contractors were using different systems, implemented and integrated into business operations at varying levels – with much frustration that there wasn't a management tool that could be used universally across the board.'*

*'As a result, WorkCover, in conjunction with Forests NSW, and in consultation with industry, have developed a new contractor management safety tool. The safety tool includes standardised templates that a small employer or business can reproduce and use as needed.'*

Feedback is being sought on the tool as part of a series of workshops throughout NSW, to be held between December 2009 and February 2010.

The intent is for the tool to be used across all operations and, pending feedback received, will be produced in hard copy and also as a CD Rom to enable contractors to gain easy access to the templates.

*'From the feedback we receive in the workshops and from industry groups, we can further refine and develop this important safety tool,'* Mr Stothard said.

*'We hope to see a future workplace where all contractors have cohesive systems in place, including harvesting and haulage plans, medical emergency evacuation plans, site safety plans, risk assessment processes including safe operating procedures. By working together with Forests NSW we have a real chance to reduce the risk of fatalities, major injuries and workers compensation claims.'*

# WorkCover NSW offices

## HEAD OFFICE

Office Hours: **8:30am – 5:00pm**  
Monday to Friday

### Gosford

92-100 Donnison Street,  
GOSFORD 2250  
P: (02) **4321 5000**  
F: (02) **4325 4145**  
Post: WorkCover NSW,  
Locked Bag 2906  
LISAROW 2252

## WORKCOVER ASSISTANCE SERVICE

Office Hours: **8:30am – 5:00pm**  
Monday to Friday

### Gosford

92-100 Donnison Street,  
GOSFORD 2250  
P: **13 10 50**

## REGIONAL OFFICES

Office Hours: **8:30am – 4:30pm**  
Monday to Friday

### Newcastle

Level 1, Suite C,  
Cnr Fitzroy and Cowper Street,  
CARRINGTON 2294  
P: (02) **4921 2900**  
F: (02) **4940 8558**  
Post: PO Box 2186  
DANGAR NSW 2309

### Wollongong

Level 1, 60 Burelli Street,  
WOLLONGONG 2500  
P: (02) **4222 7333**  
F: (02) **4226 9087**

## LABORATORIES

### Thornleigh

5A Pioneer Avenue,  
THORNLEIGH 2120  
P: (02) **9473 4000**  
F: (02) **9980 6849**

### Londonderry

Testsafe Australia, Ground Floor,  
919 Londonderry Road,  
LONDONDERRY 2753  
P: (02) **4724 4900**  
F: (02) **4724 4999**  
Post: PO Box 592  
RICHMOND 2753

## METROPOLITAN & DISTRICT OFFICES

Office Hours: **8:30am – 4:30pm**  
Monday to Friday

### Albury

Suite 5, 1st Floor,  
429 Swift Street,  
ALBURY 2640  
P: (02) **6042 4600**  
F: (02) **6041 2580**  
Post: PO Box 905  
ALBURY 2640

### Ballina

11 Grant Street,  
BALLINA 2478  
P: (02) **6620 6900**  
F: (02) **6681 6100**  
Post: PO Box 903  
BALLINA 2478

### Bega

Shop 1, 248 Carp Street,  
BEGA 2550  
P: (02) **6491 6600**  
F: (02) **6494 7151**  
Post: PO Box 943  
BEGA 2550

### Blacktown

Suite L0302, Level 3,  
22 Main Street,  
BLACKTOWN 2148  
P: (02) **8882 4200**  
F: (02) **9831 8246**  
Post: PO Box 886  
BLACKTOWN 2148

### City - CBD South

Level 10, Centennial Plaza,  
Building C, 300 Elizabeth Street,  
SYDNEY 2000  
P: (02) **8260 5877**  
F: (02) **9281 9633**  
Post: PO Box 1476  
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### Chatswood

Suite 1101, Level 1167,  
Albert Avenue,  
CHATSWOOD 2067  
P: (02) **9406 3800**  
F: (02) **9413 1190**

### Coffs Harbour

Suite 33, Jetty Village  
Shopping Centre,  
361 Harbour Drive,  
COFFS HARBOUR 2450  
P: (02) **6659 1700**  
F: (02) **6652 8213**

### Dubbo

Level 2, 1 Church Street,  
DUBBO 2830  
P: (02) **6841 7900**  
F: (02) **6884 2808**

### Goulburn

Lower Ground Floor,  
159 Auburn Street,  
GOULBURN 2580  
P: (02) **4824 1500**  
F: (02) **4822 1242**  
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GRIFFITH 2680  
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F: (02) **6964 1738**

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F: (02) **9585 0261**

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F: (02) **6362 8820**  
Post: PO Box 1056  
ORANGE 2800

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F: (02) **9891 1474**

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P: (02) **6588 7000**  
F: (02) **6584 1788**  
Post: PO Box 1646  
PORT MACQUARIE 2444

### Tamworth

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F: (02) **6766 4972**  
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TAMWORTH 2340

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8 Corporation Circuit,  
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F: (07) **5524 6300**  
Post: PO Box 3214DC  
TWEED HEADS SOUTH 2486

### Wagga Wagga

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- OHS Risk Management

- OHS Risk Management for Supervisors
- Introduction to Site Safety Plans
- Introduction to Safe Work Statements
- Safe Work at Heights
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• Manual Handling  
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• Supervisor Line Manager

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## January - June 2010 COURSE CALENDAR

### OHS Consultation for Safety Committees and Representatives (4 days)

Cost: \$550 (gst free)

This 4 day WorkCover accredited course meets the legislative training requirements for OHS committees and OHS representatives. It aims to provide participants with knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to apply the principles of workplace OHS consultation as an integral part of an effective OHS management.

Month	Days	Location
January	Monday, 11 Tuesday, 12 Monday, 18 Tuesday, 19	Sydney - City
January	Wednesday, 20 Thursday, 21 Wednesday, 27 Thursday, 28	Parramatta
February	Monday, 1 Tuesday, 2 Monday, 8 Tuesday, 9	Sydney - City
February	Wednesday, 17 Thursday, 18 Wednesday, 24 Thursday, 25	Parramatta
March	Monday, 1 Monday, 8 Monday, 15 Monday, 22	Sydney - City
March	Wednesday, 17 Thursday, 18 Wednesday, 24 Thursday, 25	Parramatta
April	Wednesday 7 Thursday, 8 Wednesday, 14 Thursday, 15	Parramatta
April	Wednesday, 21 Thursday, 22 Wednesday, 28 Thursday, 29	Sydney - City
May	Wednesday, 5 Thursday, 6 Wednesday, 12 Thursday, 13	Sydney - City
May	Monday, 10 Tuesday, 11 Monday, 17 Tuesday, 18	Parramatta
June	Wednesday, 2 Thursday, 3 Wednesday, 9 Thursday, 10	Sydney - City
June	Monday, 14 Tuesday, 15 Monday, 21 Tuesday, 22	Parramatta

### First Aid - Senior

Cost: \$130 (gst free)

This 1 day WorkCover and VETAB accredited course covers the outcomes required to recognise and respond to an emergency using basic life support measures.

Month	Days	Location
January	Saturday, 9	Parramatta
January	Monday, 11	Parramatta
January	Saturday, 23	Parramatta
January	Monday, 25	Parramatta
February	Saturday, 6	Parramatta
February	Monday, 8	Parramatta
February	Saturday, 20	Parramatta
February	Monday, 22	Parramatta
March	Saturday, 6	Parramatta
March	Monday, 8	Parramatta
March	Saturday, 20	Parramatta
March	Monday, 22	Parramatta
April	Saturday, 3	Parramatta
April	Monday, 5	Parramatta
April	Saturday, 17	Parramatta
April	Monday, 19	Parramatta
May	Saturday, 1	Parramatta
May	Monday, 3	Parramatta
May	Saturday, 15	Parramatta
May	Monday, 17	Parramatta
May	Saturday, 29	Parramatta
May	Monday, 31	Parramatta
June	Saturday, 12	Parramatta
June	Monday, 14	Parramatta

### Manual Handling

Cost: \$150 (including gst)

This course aims to familiarise participants with the knowledge and skills for correct manual handling. Participants learn to apply the principles of risk management to manual handling scenarios. This session contains both practical and theory components.

Month	Days	Location
January	Tuesday, 26	Parramatta
February	Tuesday, 16	Parramatta
March	Tuesday, 23	Parramatta
April	Monday, 19	Parramatta
May	Thursday, 27	Parramatta
June	Monday, 28	Parramatta

### Introduction to RTW Coordination (2 days)

Cost: \$450 (gst free)

Employers who have a worker's compensation premium of more than \$50,000 are required by law to have a Return to Work Coordinator who must complete this WorkCover course. This course gives a RTW Coordinator the basic skills and knowledge, to effectively manage workplace injuries.

Month	Days	Location
January	Wednesday, 13 Thursday, 14	Parramatta
February	Monday, 22 Tuesday, 23	Parramatta
March	Monday, 29 Tuesday, 30	Parramatta
April	Tuesday, 27 Wednesday, 28	Parramatta
May	Tuesday, 25 Wednesday, 26	Parramatta
June	Tuesday, 29 Wednesday, 30	Parramatta

### OHS Risk Management for Supervisors and Managers

Cost: \$330 (including gst)

This is a one day course for managers and supervisors. The course aims to familiarise participants with the knowledge and skills necessary to apply the principles of risk management as an integral part of an effective OHS management system. It will assist supervisors to effectively manage health and safety in their area of responsibility.

Month	Days	Location
January	Monday, 25	Sydney - City
February	Wednesday, 24	Parramatta
March	Wednesday, 31	Parramatta
April	Monday, 26	Sydney - City
May	Monday, 31	Parramatta
June	Wednesday, 30	Parramatta

### Green / White Card CPCOHS 1001A Induction for Construction (1 day) Cost: \$100 (gst free)

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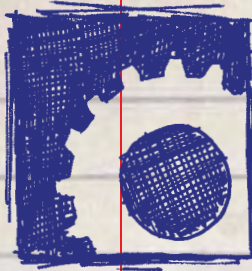
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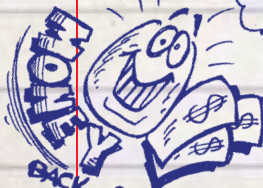
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