WorkCover news

Issue 83

The workplace safety and injury management magazine

Heath retires

SafeWork Awards

WHS update

10 years

NSW GOVERNMENT | WorkCover NEW SOUTH WALES

WORK SAFE HOME SAFE

OHS Training Calendar 2011

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

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PUBLIC — WorkCover

OHS Consultation

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

This is the WorkCover NSW Course in OHS Consultation. Under NSW OHS law all OHS Committee members and OHS representatives have to be trained on this course. It provides participants with the knowledge and skills to apply the principles of workplace OHS Consultation and to carry out their functions under NSW OHS law.

PAR4	April	Mon	4	Tue	5	Mon	11	Tue	12	Parramatta
CIT4		Mon	4	Tue	5	Mon	11	Tue	12	City
CHA4		Mon	4	Tue	5	Mon	11	Tue	12	Chatswood
RH4		Wed	6	Thu	7	Wed	13	Thu	14	Rooty Hill
CAM4		Wed	6	Thu	7	Wed	13	Thu	14	Campbelltown
PAR42		Thu	7	Fri	8	Thu	14	Fri	15	Parramatta
HUR4		Thu	7	Fri	8	Thu	14	Fri	15	Hurstville
CIT42		Wed	13	Thu	14	Wed	20	Thu	21	City
CIT5	May	Mon	2	Tue	3	Mon	9	Tue	10	City
PAR5		Mon	2	Tue	3	Mon	9	Tue	10	Parramatta
HUR5		Mon	9	Tue	10	Mon	16	Tue	17	Hurstville
PAR52		Wed	11	Wed	18	Wed	25	Wed	1	Parramatta
CIT52		Wed	11	Thu	12	Wed	18	Thu	19	City
CAM5		Thu	12	Fri	13	Thu	19	Fri	20	Campbelltown
RH5		Thu	12	Fri	13	Thu	19	Fri	20	Rooty Hill
CHA5		Tue	17	Wed	18	Tue	24	Wed	25	Chatswood
PAR53		Thu	19	Fri	20	Thu	26	Fri	27	Parramatta
PAR54		Mon	23	Tue	24	Mon	30	Tue	31	Parramatta
CIT53		Tue	24	Wed	25	Tue	31	Wed	1	City
CIT6	June	Thu	2	Fri	3	Thu	9	Fri	10	City
PAR6		Thu	2	Fri	3	Thu	9	Fri	10	Parramatta
PAR62		Tue	7	Wed	8	Tue	14	Wed	15	Parramatta
CIT62		Tue	7	Wed	8	Tue	14	Wed	15	City
CHA6		Wed	8	Thu	9	Wed	15	Thu	16	Chatswood
HUR6		Tue	14	Wed	15	Tue	21	Wed	22	Hurstville
RH6		Tue	14	Wed	15	Tue	21	Wed	22	Rooty Hill
PAR63		Fri	17	Fri	24	Fri	1	Fri	8	Parramatta
CAM6		Mon	20	Tue	21	Mon	27	Tue	28	Campbelltown
CIT63		Wed	22	Thu	23	Wed	29	Thu	30	City
PAR64		Wed	22	Thu	23	Wed	29	Thu	30	Parramatta
HUR7	July	Wed	6	Thu	7	Wed	13	Thu	14	Hurstville
PAR7		Wed	6	Thu	7	Wed	13	Thu	14	Parramatta
CIT7		Wed	6	Wed	13	Wed	20	Wed	27	City
PAR72		Mon	11	Tue	12	Mon	18	Tue	19	Parramatta
RH7		Mon	11	Tue	12	Mon	18	Tue	19	Rooty Hill
CIT72		Thu	14	Fri	15	Thu	21	Fri	22	City
CIT73		Mon	18	Tue	19	Mon	25	Tue	26	City
CAM7		Tue	19	Wed	20	Tue	26	Wed	27	Campbelltown
CHA7		Thu	21	Fri	22	Thu	28	Fri	29	Chatswood
PAR73		Thu	21	Thu	28	Thu	4	Thu	11	Parramatta
PAR74		Tue	26	Wed	27	Tue	2	Wed	3	Parramatta
CIT8	August	Mon	1	Tue	2	Mon	8	Tue	9	City
PAR8		Mon	8	Tue	9	Mon	15	Tue	16	Parramatta
CHA8		Mon	8	Tue	9	Mon	15	Tue	16	Chatswood
CAM8		Wed	10	Thu	11	Wed	17	Thu	18	Campbelltown
CIT82		Wed	10	Thu	11	Wed	17	Thu	18	City
RH8		Wed	10	Thu	11	Wed	17	Thu	18	Rooty Hill
HUR8		Thu	11	Fri	12	Thu	18	Fri	19	Hurstville
PAR82		Wed	17	Thu	18	Wed	24	Thu	25	Parramatta
CIT83		Tue	23	Wed	24	Tue	30	Wed	31	City
PAR83		Tue	30	Wed	31	Tue	6	Wed	7	Parramatta
PAR9	September	Thu	1	Fri	2	Thu	8	Fri	9	Parramatta
CIT9		Fri	2	Fri	9	Fri	16	Fri	23	City
CIT92		Mon	5	Tue	6	Mon	12	Tue	13	City
PAR92		Mon	5	Mon	12	Mon	19	Mon	26	Parramatta
CAM9		Thu	8	Fri	9	Thu	15	Fri	16	Campbelltown
HUR9		Mon	12	Tue	13	Mon	19	Tue	20	Hurstville
CHA9		Tue	13	Wed	14	Tue	20	Wed	21	Chatswood
PAR93		Tue	13	Wed	14	Tue	20	Wed	21	Parramatta
CIT93		Wed	14	Thu	15	Wed	21	Thu	22	City
RH9		Thu	15	Fri	16	Thu	22	Fri	23	Rooty Hill
CIT94		Tue	27	Wed	28	Tue	4	Wed	5	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)

PUBLIC

ohs risk mgmt for supervisors & mngrs

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

PARS5	May	Mon	16	Tue	17	Parramatta
CITS5	May	Thu	26	Fri	27	City
PARS7	Jul	Mon	4	Tue	5	Parramatta
CITS8	Aug	Wed	3	Thu	4	City
PARS9	Sep	Thu	15	Fri	16	Parramatta

PUBLIC

ohs committee refresher

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

PARF4	Apr	Fri	1	Parramatta
CITF6	Jun	Thu	16	City
PARF7	Jul	Wed	20	Parramatta

PUBLIC

ohs committee chairperson

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

CITC4	Apr	Fri	1	City
PARC5	May	Fri	13	Parramatta
CITC6	Jun	Mon	20	City
PARC7	Jul	Mon	25	Parramatta
CITC8	Aug	Tue	16	City
PARC9	Sep	Thu	22	Parramatta

PUBLIC — WorkCover

intro to return to work co-ord

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

PARR4	Apr	Mon	18	Tue	19	Parramatta
CITR5	May	Wed	4	Thu	5	City
PARR5	May	Wed	4	Thu	5	Parramatta
PARR6	Jun	Mon	20	Tue	21	Parramatta
CITR7	Jul	Mon	11	Tue	12	City
PARR8	Aug	Mon	22	Tue	23	Parramatta
CITR9	Sep	Wed	7	Thu	8	City

PUBLIC — WorkCover

advanced return to work co-ord

Course Fee: $340 ($374 incl. gst) Course Length: 1 day (9am - 4pm).

PARE5	May	Thu	12	Parramatta
CITE7	Jul	Thu	28	City
PARE9	Sep	Tue	27	Parramatta

construction general induction

Work Safely in the Construction Industry (CPCCOHS1001A) (a unit of CPC08 Construction, Plumbing & Services Integrated Framework training package).

Complete this course, then you apply for a WorkCover Construction Induction Card to work on a construction site.

Public courses 6 days a week. Onsite courses when you need them.

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ohs risk management

Looking for a WORK BASED AND FLEXIBLE program that will demonstrate competency in OHS Risk Management and OHS legal responsibilities?

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Visit our website **www.courtenell.com.au** for information on our courses, OHS information & recent editions of our publication **'Your Safety Matters'.**

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The 2011 SafeWork Awards are now open. Visit safeworkawards.com.au for more information on how you can enter

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Retiring paralympian Heath Francis
(see page 8)

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message from the CEO

A healthy and safe 2011

Retiring Paralympian Heath Francis

We hope you enjoy this new edition of WorkCover News.

I would like to welcome the new Minister for Finance and Services, The Hon. Greg Pearce MLC.

The Minister is responsible for one of the largest portfolios in the NSW Government. The State Government has indicated its support for national harmonisation of work health and safety laws through the introduction of legislation in the first week of the new parliament.

As I write this, the harmonisation legislation is before Parliament with NSW expected to be the first state or territory to adopt the historic changes.

I look forward to working with all our stakeholders to implement the new legislative framework. Last year Safe Work Australia released the draft regulations for public consultation.

Over 1300 submissions were received and are now being considered by SWA who anticipate the final regulations will be made in July 2011. Many of our readers would have attended one of WorkCover's seminars.

In this addition we celebrate the successes of retiring track Paralympian Heath Francis who has received many international accolades and medals.

Heath has also been an active member of WorkCover's Paralympian Speakers Program since 2000. This program has reached workplaces around NSW and has given workers a very personal insight into how Paralympians deal with their workplace injuries and what continues to inspire them today.

On behalf of us at WorkCover and the many workplaces Heath has visited, we would like to thank him for his contribution towards raising awareness about workplace safety.

Safety doesn't just begin and end at work. We'd also like to acknowledge the incredibly brave and courageous actions of Inspector Brain Dell, who saved two lives in treacherous surf conditions at Lennox Heads on the North Coast last year.

LISA HUNT
CEO

The SafeWork Awards ceremony reflects well on those passionate about making their place of work safe and healthy

introducing the

Minister for Finance and Services

The Hon. Greg Pearce MLC has been sworn in as the Minister for Finance and Services, responsible for one of the largest portfolios in the NSW Government.

The Minister oversees the new super department of Finance and Services, which includes WorkCover and the other Compensation Authorities Staff Division (CASD), land and property management, Sydney Water, the Office of State Revenue, and the ICT Corporate Shared Services Program and government licensing platform as well as more than 110 acts of parliament. He is also the Minister for the Illawarra.

Mr Pearce has quickly familiarised himself with WorkCover and the other CASD agencies, and on April 28 attended the International Day of Mourning at Darling Harbour with staff and friends and families of those who have lost their life to a workplace fatality or a dust-related disease. He spent some time after the ceremony talking to families.

Mr Pearce first entered NSW Parliament in 2000 after a lengthy legal career with Freehills, and has held a number of senior Shadow portfolios including treasury, industrial relations, housing, finance and planning.

Prior to his political career, he was part of the legal team that established the first international environmental law practice in Australia.

He participated in the development of international environmental law and policy as a delegate at the Earth Summit in Brazil in 1992, and took part in meetings of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations.

Mr Pearce also served as a Director/Adviser with Clean Up Australia Pty Ltd, Clean Up the World Pty Ltd and a member of the CARE Sydney Fundraising Committee until 2000.

a day to remember

International Day of Mourning

Every year, on 28 April, tens of thousands of people gather around the world to honour their friends and loved ones who lost their lives on the job. The International Day of Mourning is a time to pause, reflect and remember.

In NSW in 08/09 a total of 139 employment related fatalities were reported. Etched into WorkCover's corporate plan is the aim of reducing work-related fatalities in NSW by 20 per cent by 2012, and work-related injuries and illnesses by 40 per cent. Over the past 20 years, there has been a 33 per cent fall in work-related fatalities, and workplace injuries and illnesses continue to decline.

However, one workplace death is one too many and the vast majority of them are preventable, so we must never underestimate the importance of workplace safety. Everyone has the right to return home safely from work each day.

The ceremony was held at Reflection Park on Little Pier Street in Darling Harbour.

a well earned breather for Heath

triumph over misfortune

A well-earned breather for Heath

After an illustrious career spanning more than a decade of competition, WorkCover-sponsored Paralympian Heath Francis has announced he is taking a well-deserved rest – and retiring from athletics.

The three-time Paralympian athlete and member of WorkCover's Paralympian Speaker's Program is the reigning Paralympic champion over 100m, 200m and 400m. Heath takes with him an outstanding Paralympic Games medal tally of six gold, four silver and three bronze medals from the Sydney, Athens and Beijing games.

Heath's triumph belies the misfortune of his younger years. Not only did he lose his father in a tragic farming incident, at the age of seven Heath lost his right arm below the elbow after it became caught in a mincer on his family's farm.

Heath's determination and discipline saw him overcome this trauma, letting nothing stand in his way of becoming a world-class athlete.

Heath's first taste of representing his country came at the 1998 IPC Athletics World Championships in England. His final competitive event was at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in India.

'I have been so lucky to be involved in sport for such a long time, and the privilege of having two international championships on home soil is something I will always remember,' Heath said.

'Coming home from Beijing with three gold medals and two world records was unbelievable, and my 200m and 400m races at those games were the best of my career.'

Heath's achievements have also been recognised away from the track, receiving the Athletics Australia 'Athlete with a Disability of the Year Award' in 2006, an Order of Australia Medal in 2001, and the 1999 Pierre De Coubertin Award for demonstrating values consistent with the Olympic movement as a secondary student.

Heath has also announced his retirement from WorkCover's Paralympian Speaker's Program, having been an active member since its inception in 2000.

The Paralympian Speaker's Program sponsors six athletes who, despite suffering permanent disabilities, have gone on to achieve outstanding sporting success.

They speak to workers throughout NSW about the importance of work health and safety and recount the workplace incidents that changed their lives.

WorkCover CEO, Lisa Hunt, said Heath's stories of determination and his ability to get on with life after an injury, while enjoying success as an international athlete, are an inspiration to us all.

'Heath is an extremely inspirational person who always manages to touch people with his stories,' Ms Hunt said.

Australian Paralympic Committee Chief Executive Jason Hellwig said Heath's contribution to Australian Paralympic sport had been hugely significant.

'Heath retires as one of the greats of Australian Paralympic athletics, and I congratulate him on his outstanding career,' Mr Hellwig said.

'Not only was he a tremendous competitor, he has been a tremendous ambassador for Paralympic sport and the Australian Paralympic Committee.'

Life after the Paralympics holds many opportunities for Heath, including contributing to the sport that has supported him.

The end of athletics opens a lot of new opportunities for me and I am really excited

'I'm working with Westpac as part of their graduate program and it's an opportunity I can't wait to pursue, and I am hopeful that I can use my experiences to give back to Paralympic sport, which has always supported me.'

To find out more about WorkCover's Paralympian Speaker's Program, visit **workcover.nsw.gov.au** or call **13 10 50**.

high

SafeWork Awards

if you see something, say something

Thank you WorkCover NSW for all the hard work to make the night such a success

Finalist, Construction Safety Education Forum

The 2011 SafeWork Awards are now open. Visit **safeworkawards.com.au** for more information on how you can enter

Meet the 2010 SafeWork Awards Winners

Winners of the WorkCover NSW SafeWork Awards, the state's highest accolade for work health and safety, were announced in October 2010 at a special ceremony in Sydney.

More than 500 people joined the former Minister for Finance, Michael Daley, and WorkCover CEO, Lisa Hunt, for the seventh annual awards night at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre at Darling Harbour.

Thirty-seven finalists, from Ballina to Queanbeyan, represented NSW's best workplace safety projects, practices and people.

Five category winners were named, with four additional finalists receiving 'highly commended'. These luminaries of work safety were selected by an expert panel of judges, following assessment of more than 90 entries.

For the third year running, Adam Spencer, the comedian and media personality, hosted the ceremony and kept the audience entertained with his quick wit and enthusiasm.

2010 Finalists

Aurecon Hatch

Ballina Bypass Alliance

Ballina Bypass Alliance and Visionstream

BridgeWorks Alliance

Bill O'Brien, Cabravale Ex-Active Servicemen's Club

Cargill Beef Australia

Construction Safety Education Forum

Country Energy

Daniel Germany, Country Energy

Edward Evans

Fredon Industries

Gen 2 Pty Ltd

GHD

Hazmat Services

HGT Australia, t/a NovaSkill

Housing Industry Consultative Committee

Inghams Enterprises

Jones Lang LaSalle

K2RQ Alliance

Motivate You Fitness & Personal Training

Neil Lamb, Roads and Traffic Authority NSW

Newcastle Port Corporation

NSW Fire Brigades

Owen Corey, VersaCold Logistics

Paul Gibson, ARA Group Pty Ltd

Qantas

Roofing Tile Association of Australia

Sgt Donna Faul, NSW Police Force

St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney

Stephen Barker, Australian Home Care Services

The City of Newcastle

Toyota Material Handling Australia

Transfield Services

Winners

Best workplace health and safety management system

Category 1

Ballina Bypass Alliance - Winner

The Ballina Bypass Alliance (BBA) was formed between the RTA, Leighton Contractors, AECOM, SMEC and Coffey Geotechnics to design and construct the Ballina bypass section of the Pacific Highway upgrade. When complete, the project will provide a safer 12km of dual carriageway.

several key health and safety initiatives are now being used on other major civil projects

BBA aims to have no injuries over the life of the project. They have adopted an integrated systems approach to safety, which includes commitment and involvement of leadership, effective safety systems and processes, comprehensive induction and training programs, and effective evaluation and improvement processes.
From September 2007 to June 2010, there were no lost time injuries over some 1.7million hours of work.

key senior staff and project managers speak at all weekly toolbox sessions with consistent and updated safety messages

Highly Commended

St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney

St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney is one of the largest not-for-profit health care providers in Australia and prides itself on having a first class health and safety management system that focuses on injury prevention.

Winners

Best solution to an identified workplace health and safety issue

Category 2

Toyota Material Handling Australia - Winner

Toyota Material Handling Australia (TMHA) provides retail and rental sales, fleet management and customer support services, across a range of industries. In response to a workplace injury, TMHA management and technicians worked together to find a solution to manual handling risks associated with moving forklift tyres.

The solution considered work restrictions and was purpose-built on site. From rudimentary beginnings, the device – based around a TMHA hand-pallet jack – allows the user to safely and securely lift the tyre to the required height, then easily rotate it to align the rim and wheel studs. It removes the manual handling task, with no need to lift, physically support or rotate the tyre.

Highly commended

BridgeWorks Alliance

The BridgeWorks Alliance (BWA) was formed between the RTA, Baulderstone, Freyssinet Australia and Aurecon to complete an $85m upgrade of the Sydney Harbour Bridge. From the outset of the project, the key risk was identified as working at heights, which was addressed with purpose-built platforms, engineering solutions, administrative controls and a positive working culture.

Winners

Best workplace health and safety practices in a small business

Category 3

Hazmat Services - Winner

Hazmat Services is a specialist work health and safety, waste and environment services company dealing specifically with hazardous materials and substances in the workplace. They provide consulting, assessment, monitoring and disposal services to clients across a range of industries, to help them meet their regulatory requirements. Safety is paramount in all they do.

impressive and comprehensive policies that would normally be seen at a large-scale operation

To address the dangers inherent in their work, Hazmat has built a strong safety culture around 'safety first'. The culture has empowered the workforce and drives positive safety outcomes. Hazmat has also integrated safety into their business management system.

a text book site for managing hazardous chemicals with every regulation met and sometimes exceeded

Highly commended

Motivate You Fitness & Personal Training

Motivate You is a small business that specialises in bootcamps and inhouse personal training for people with a disability, disadvantaged youth and the over 50s.

As a mobile service, workplaces may vary from a local park to a luxurious home, from a community hall to a retirement village, and the clientele may range from a seven-year old autistic child to a 70-year old invalid. Given the potential hazards and risks, a well-documented health and safety system and staff training are a primary focus for the company.

Winners

Best individual contribution to workplace health and safety

Category 4

Daniel Germany, Country Energy - Winner

Daniel Germany has always believed safety is everyone's responsibility and that no-one should be injured at work. He has put his beliefs into practice throughout his 22 year career in the energy industry, most recently as Country Energy's Manager, Tools and PPE.

Daniel has made a significant contribution to health and safety, developing and implementing ground-breaking workplace safety initiatives. He has worked with manufacturers and internal stakeholders to redesign pole platforms and fall-arrest harnesses, to reduce risk to line workers. Daniel has shown a personal commitment to innovation, driving improvement, consultation, communication and, above all, the safety and comfort of fellow workers.

Winners

Leadership safety award

Category 5

Aurecon Hatch - Winner

Aurecon Hatch provides complete engineering, procurement and construction management services, and considers work health and safety imperative in all they do. Their commitment to safety was demonstrated while principal contractor on the construction of the third coal export terminal for the Port of Newcastle.

Aurecon Hatch led the safety culture project and unified the safety management system, which together resulted in zero lost time injuries over more than 2.2 million hours worked. The safety culture project included more than 50 sub-contractors. Aurecon Hatch reduced hazards and prevented incidents by actively promoting and integrating risk management and control, health and injury management, and continuous improvement philosophies.

Highly commended

Housing Industry Consultative Committee

Ballina Bypass Alliance

The Housing Industry Consultative Committee (HICC) is a forum of leaders from the housing construction industry who share their knowledge and expertise, and provide guidance material for employers, workers and regulators.

The 2011 SafeWork Awards are now open. Visit **safeworkawards.com.au** for more information on how you can enter

2011 safework awards

Many workplaces have made positive changes to workplace safety so their workers return home safely to their families every day. If that's the case at your workplace, we'd like to hear about it.

Now in its eighth year, the 2011 SafeWork Awards acknowledge organisations and individuals that have made positive changes to workplace safety. If this is you or your workplace and you are a NSW registered business, organisation, individual or not for profit, then enter this year's awards.

It doesn't matter whether your solution to a safety issue is big or small, as long as it's made a difference to YOUR workplace.

It's simple and FREE to enter.

- Entries are now open
- Entries CLOSE Friday 15 July 2011

Winners are announced at the Sydney Exhibition and Conference Centre, Darling Harbour on Thursday 27 October 2011.

To find out more or to enter online visit **safeworkawards.com.au**

SafeWork Award categories for 2011

5 great ways to WIN

Category 1: Best workplace health and safety management system

Awarded to an organisation that demonstrates continuous improvement of workplace health and safety through an integrated systems approach.

Category 2: Best solution to an identified workplace health and safety issue.

For excellence in developing and implementing a solution to an identified health and safety issue. Entries for this Award may include a product solution, engineering innovation, a training program, an awareness raising activity or other risk control measures that reduce the risk of work-related injury and illness.

Category 3: Best workplace health and safety practices in a small business.

Are you a small business that has improved safety in your workplace with a great idea or a new approach?

It doesn't matter whether your safety solution is big or small, as long as it's made a difference to YOUR workplace.

Category 4: Best individual contribution to workplace health and safety.

This Award recognises individuals who have made an exceptional difference to health and safety. Two Awards will be given to:

1. An employee who does not have formal responsibility for work health and safety (WHS) management
2. An outstanding contribution by an OHS manager or a person with responsibility for WHS as part of their duties.

As a NSW Award winner you will be eligible for entry in the SafeWork Australia Awards. And you'll be invited to attend the national ceremony in Canberra.

Category 5: Safety leadership award

A WorkCover NSW Award, recognising an organisation that has demonstrated outstanding leadership and a commitment to continuous improvement of work health and safety culture.

For more information or to enter visit **safeworkawards.com.au**

new work health and safety laws

what will change

NSW is working towards model work health and safety laws to take effect from 1 January 2012 – that's less than a year from now.

Once introduced the new laws will bring changes to the way work health and safety is administered, but the basics will remain the same. Safety will still be a priority. Everyone will have a say in work health and safety matters. Risks will need to be identified and eliminated so far as reasonably practicable and if not reasonably practicable to eliminate to minimise those risks so far as reasonably practicable. And workers will be trained and supervised.

If you comply with the current laws, you are well on the way to meeting your requirements under the new laws.

So, what will change in NSW?

Work health and safety

'Work health and safety' (WHS) will replace the term 'occupational health and safety' (OHS). The new laws take into account modern work practices and ensure that everyone is responsible for work health and safety matters.

Reverse onus of proof

Removing the reverse onus of proof on defendants is consistent with the High Court's landmark decision in Kirk in 2010, and with criminal law, where the prosecution should bear the onus of establishing the offence.

This is fairer and in line with judicial process, where the prosecution needs to establish a case to be answered – in other words it re enforces the presumption of innocent until proven guilty.

Regulator to prosecute

In the five years from 2005-2010, only around 30 prosecutions were made by employee representatives. By way of comparison, in the four years between 2006-2007 and 2009-10, WorkCover NSW launched 693 successful prosecutions.

Employee representatives will still have the right to enter workplaces relevant to their industry to examine safety issues, but all NSW WHS prosecutions will be brought by WorkCover and its co regulator in mines the Department of Primary Industry which have a proven track record of enforcing safe work practices.

Importantly, if employee representatives believe an offence is not being dealt with appropriately, they can seek to have a decision reviewed independently.

Director liabilities

Directors and other officers will be required to exercise 'due diligence' in ensuring that the company complies with its health and safety duties, which will imbue a principle of fairness.

The due diligence model will mean officers are liable only for their own acts or omissions and will ensure they are provided with a sense of control over their personal liability.

Persons conducting a business or undertaking

Under the new laws, a 'person conducting a business or undertaking', or PCBU, will replace 'employer'. A PCBU is the person with the primary duty of care for the health and safety of workers and others who may be affected by the activities arising from the business or undertaking.

A PCBU includes employers, sole traders, bodies corporate, unincorporated bodies, associations and partnerships. You do not need to employ workers to owe PCBU duties to them.

New definition of worker

To reflect the range of work arrangements that exist throughout Australia today, 'employees' will be known as 'workers' under the new laws – and will include employees, labour hire staff, volunteers, apprentices, sub-contractors and contractors. Therefore, if you carry out work for a PCBU, you will be considered a worker. And if you are a contractor, you may be considered a worker to the person who engages you – and a PCBU to your own staff.

Reasonably practicable

The new laws require people with health and safety duties to ensure work health and safety by eliminating or minimising

If you comply with the current laws, you are well on the way to meeting your requirements under the new laws

risks – with duties qualified by the concept of 'reasonably practicable'. Therefore, to meet a person's responsibilities to ensure health and safety they must consider:

- the likelihood of a hazard or risk occurring
- the seriousness of the risk
- what they know or ought reasonably to know about the hazard or the risk, and the ways of eliminating or minimising the risk
- the availability and suitability of ways to eliminate or minimise the risk.

After assessing the extent of the risk and the available ways of eliminating or minimising the risk, a duty holder may take into account the cost associated with managing the risk and whether it is grossly disproportionate to the risk.

Consultation

The new laws retain consultation as a key element in effective work health and safety programs. Consultation is about sharing information with workers and providing them with an opportunity to respond and contribute to health and safety issues that affect them. A PCBU is required to consult with all their workers, not only their employees, and they must consult, cooperate and coordinate activities with other PCBUs if their duties overlap.

Health and safety representative

A health and safety representative (HSR) will be a primary contact for workers – they will ensure workers have their say in health and safety matters. In NSW, an HSR will have a similar role to the current OHS representative.

An HSR will:

- represent work group members on health and safety matters
- investigate work health and safety complaints from work group members, and inquire into anything that appears to be a risk to their health and safety
- accompany an inspector during an inspection
- request that a health and safety committee be established.

With training, an HSR will also be able to exercise the additional powers of issuing provisional improvement notices (PINs) and directing unsafe work to cease.

If a worker requests an HSR, the PCBU must facilitate their election – and the HSR must be given training if they request it. Training will involve a five-day course, with one-day annual refresher courses over the three years of their elected term. The majority of Australian states and territories have had HSRs for many years.

Health and safety committee

A health and safety committee (HSC) will perform more general duties – e.g. developing health and safety policies and procedures, and supporting the HSR. At least half the membership of the HSC must be comprised of workers not nominated by the PCBU, and an HSC must be established if it has been requested by at least five workers or an HSR, or is required by the regulations.

Work health and safety entry permit holders

A union official has always been able to enter a workplace in NSW, but under the new laws they must be trained and must apply for a work health and safety (WHS) entry permit to enter workplaces in relation to health and safety matters such as to:

- inspect a workplace
- advise or consult with workers
- resolve work health and safety issues
- represent members.

If the permit holder wishes to enter a workplace to investigate a suspected breach of the WHS laws, it is not necessary to provide the PCBU with prior notice, however notice must be given as soon as is reasonably practicable after entry. However, if they wish to enter a workplace to consult and advise workers on work health and safety matters, they must give the PCBU at least 24 hours' prior notice – but not more than 14 days.

For more information visit workcover.nsw.gov.au

The caller to WorkCover's 13 10 50 helpline was upset and confused…

She'd been assaulted at work. After seven months on workers compensation the insurer said they were declining liability and stopping her benefits. Her boss wanted to discuss her future with the company.

The Information Officer, from WorkCover's Assistance Service, who took the call could hear the desperation in her voice.

'Being in such a state, the injured worker couldn't think clearly, had no idea what to do, and felt overwhelmed by her situation,' the information officer recalled.

'I was able to calm her, explain her rights, who to contact for legal and medical support, and which documents to obtain.

'By giving her a simple, step-by-step plan of action, I was able to give her hope and purpose in tackling her situation.

The information officers are committed to excellent customer service, timely support and clear communication. They are communication professionals who are knowledgeable, approachable and accountable, and take pride in delivering value to the community. Calls don't only come from workers. Sometimes it's a worried family member, a fellow worker or concerned doctor.

Recently a psychiatrist called, concerned that his patient was experiencing suicidal thoughts following a workplace injury.

The injured worker had spent seven months off work without workers compensation payments, and he was struggling both mentally and financially.

The information officer contacted the insurer to review the status of the claim. his claim was accepted by the insurer, he would receive benefits based on his award or average weekly pay for the period he was certified unfit for work.

'He was so relieved', said the information officer who took the call.

'I gave him the insurance details and information on how to lodge a claim.

'It's hard for young workers to know, and to assert, their rights. Often the employer refuses to give them the insurance details, so when we're able to help them out with this, I feel I've really made a difference'.

Some calls are less serious. One caller wanted to make a workers compensation claim for an injury sustained while on a skiing holiday!

This call was just one of over 200,000 dealt with by the WorkCover Assistance Service in 2010 – coupled with 10,400 email inquiries.

Despite such an enormous volume of calls, WorkCover's dedicated team of information officers have managed to slash average waiting times for callers from 1 minute 27 seconds in 2009, to just 26 seconds in 2010.

Within three days payments had begun, and were backdated.

A young casual worker in a new job suffered broken ribs when he slipped and fell while being harassed by fellow workers. His boss told him he could not submit a workers compensation claim because of his casual status.

After a month off work with no pay, medical bills mounting, the young man rang 13 10 50 and was told he could make a claim. If

'I told him that the injuries needed to be work-related', said the information officer.

'He said "of course it was work-related" – if he wasn't an employee, he wouldn't be able to afford to go on holiday.'

As well as providing information by phone and email, WorkCover gives face-to-face advice at its head office in Gosford.

13 10 50 the people behind the number

The WorkCover Assistance Service acts as a 'barometer' for WorkCover. It captures information on emerging issues and identifies enquiry trends. This ensures that the information and services offered by WorkCover remain relevant and timely.

Not all calls are about workers compensation claims.

One caller wanted information about the legislation he needed to comply with to import vehicle hoists and various pressure vessels. The information officer provided meticulous detail about the plant design registration requirements of the NSW legislation and the relevant Australian Standards.

The officer recommended that the caller also check with NSW Fair Trading about requirements for selling the imported products in NSW.

'He thanked me profusely', the information officer recalls.'

'You know your business,' he said.

The ultimate compliment

A customer service satisfaction survey showed that eight in 10 callers received service that met or exceeded their expectations.

Eight out of 10 customers said that information officers used language that was easily understood, and their calls were taken seriously.

The WorkCover Assistance Service has been recognised nationally for excellent customer service, winning the Best Government Contact Centre Award with under 30 full time equivalent staff in 2007, and finalist in 2009.

Whether you're an employer, worker or service provider; whether you need to know about work health and safety or workers compensation rights and responsibilities; whether you're calling for yourself or someone else, the staff in WorkCover's Assistance Service are here to help. Call **13 10 50**.

local inspector becomes local hero

Brian Dell is a principal inspector at WorkCover's Ballina Office and plays a crucial role in providing advice and assistance to businesses across NSW about how they can identify risks and reduce the incidence of injuries. A member of the Lennox Head-Alstonville SLSC for seven years, Brian is also the club captain.

Last July, Brian Dell paddled his surf ski out into the rough and chilly waters of Lennox Head on his regular 10km Sunday morning paddle. Unaware of how his day would unfold, the principal inspector from WorkCover's Ballina office and a member of the Lennox Head-Alstonville Surf Lifesaving Club, Brian had no idea he would avert a tragedy.

Like many headlands across the NSW coast, Lennox Head is dangerous. Only weeks earlier, a man and his son were washed off the rocks and miraculously survived some treacherous rips.

Swimming across the headland, Brian noticed a man fishing off a rocky ledge below Lennox Point, while his two young sons played among the rocks. One of the boys was suddenly swept off the rocks.

'The father jumped in after him, but it was very rough surf. Being fully clothed, they quickly got into trouble,' Brian said.

'I paddled over to the pair and managed to tow them back to the rock ledge,' Brian recalled. 'I was able to lift the boy up onto the rocks, but I was struggling to carry his father, who was starting to panic.

It was certainly challenging me to keep the man afloat with one arm and swimming in the rough sea with the other,' Brian explained.

Using his surf lifesaving experience and knowledge of the local area, Brian paddled the man on his ski for more than 100 metres, but then lost his paddle.

'I saw a couple of men in a boat fishing further north and I thought there is nothing else I can do but swim out to them and get help,' Brian said.

I abandoned the surf ski and ensured the exhausted man was able to remain afloat

Half an hour later, following a 1.5 kilometre swim, and with the help of the fishing boat crew, both the man and his two sons were brought to safety.

'I am ecstatic about the outcome but I did question my sanity more than a few times during the rescue drama. I was saying to myself "What are you doing? You're mad!"'

The grateful family wrote to Lennox Head surf club, thanking Brian for his life-saving intervention. Brian also won the 'rescue of the month' award.

SLSC president Wayne Jones said the incident reflects perfectly Brian's passion for lifesaving.

'He put his own life at risk and he did that showing a lot of skill and professionalism, and from the clubs point of view, we are thrilled for him and the father and sons,' Mr Jones said.

Brian said while this incident had a happy ending it serves as a timely reminder for everyone enjoying the ocean.

'It is critical to know any area where you intend to swim, surf or fish. If you are planning on rock fishing, pick a safe spot or ask a local or the surf club about the safest place to fish. Check the weather and tides, wear safe, bright clothing, and most importantly always tell someone where you're going.'

safety show & conference

puts safety in the spotlight

Safety show visitors at a glance:

- 28% of visitors from manufacturing sector
- 17% of visitors from building & construction sector
- 48% of visitors from companies with 100 or more employees
- 18% of visitors from government or local councils

For the seventh successive year, WorkCover promoted healthy and safe workplaces at the 2010 Safety Show and Conference.

Held from 26–28 October at Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush, the show attracted almost 10,000 visitors, while 320 people attended the conference

WorkCover occupied an interactive stand which highlighted Hazard a Guess, its new e-learning tool for young workers. Health and safety, training and assessment, and workers compensation insurance were hot topics of discussion. Seminars on the new national work health and safety legislation seminars were also popular. Hundreds of business owners were keen to know how they could prepare for the new laws.

WorkCover's Business Assistance Branch ran a series of free workshops that were attended by 675 people over the three days. The workshops were designed to assist small business, particularly those in the transport and storage, health and community services, and manufacturing and construction industries.

The conference boasted more than 50 Australian and international speakers, and featured presentations on the new laws and hazard identification.

The Safety Show and Conference culminated with WorkCover's 2010 SafeWork Awards (see page 10 for more information), which were held on Thursday 28 October at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour.

The 2011 SafeWork Awards are now open. Visit **safeworkawards.com.au** for more information on how you can enter

Construction contractors fined $174,000 for worker's death

The head contractor and sub-contractor of a Central Coast construction site have been fined $174,000 in the NSW Industrial Court for the death of a bricklayer.

In March 2007, a 50-year-old worker, Robert Watson, sustained fatal injuries when a brick wall collapsed on him.

Mr Watson was employed by Gallim Constructions Pty Ltd (no longer in operation) as a bricklayer. He was working at a resort development at Wyong when the incident occurred. Mainbrace Constructions (NSW) Pty Ltd, the developer and principal contractor of the site, had contracted Gallim Constructions to undertake bricklaying works.

Mr Watson was working near a 2.7-metre high wall, which was not braced and had timber scaffolding leaning on it. An engineer's report concluded that the wall was in a weakened state at the time of the collapse, and the most likely cause was the lateral load imposed by the timber scaffolding.

Justice Haylen found that the risk involved in the incident was foreseeable. Both companies failed to ensure that there was a safe system of work and Mr Watson had appropriate supervision. Nor did they ensure that an adequate risk assessment was undertaken.

Mainbrace Constructions pleaded guilty to failing to ensure the health and safety of a worker at its worksite and was fined $165,000. The director of Gallim Constructions was fined $9000 for failing to ensure a person in their employment was not exposed to risk.

In handing down judgment, Justice Haylen said that both companies had cooperaed with the WorkCover investigation, and work practices and systems had been improved at the site after the incident. Mainbrace Constructions had also taken steps to improve its safety systems and procedures across all of its worksites in NSW.

Masonry wall safety during construction work (catalogue no WCO02225) provides practical advice on how to improve the safety of masonry walls during construction work by planning, risk management and using temporary supports.

Safety Alerts

WorkCover has issued the following safety alerts since the last edition of WorkCover News

To receive early notification of these alerts, subscribe to WorkCover eNews at **workcover.nsw.gov.au**

Preventing structural collapse during construction

This safety alert follows a recent incident where a covered outdoor learning area (COLA) collapsed during its construction. The COLA nearly struck a worker and caused major property damage.

To avoid such incidents, WorkCover reminds employers and principal contractors to ensure the stability of buildings and other structures at every stage of their construction. This can be achieved by installing lateral supports according to prescribed erection procedures.

During erection of buildings or structures, the person in control of the work must:

- ensure that work is supervised by competent person(s) and done safely
- if they are not included in the original structural drawings, obtain the engineer's written approval before loads are placed on structures
- where temporary bracing is used, ensure that it is installed according to the manufacturer's instructions
- in accordance with the engineer's specifications, verify the stability of the building.

Falling objects from scaffolding

This safety alert outlines the control measures to prevent hoists interfering with buildings and other structures during operation. The alert highlights the potential risks of moving plant interfering with scaffolding, and provides general guidance on prevention measures.

Control measures to prevent hoists being hindered when operating near buildings and structures, including:

- installing hoists as per the designers, manufacturers and suppliers specifications
- when installation is complete, obtaining a 'handover' certificate that certifies compliance with AS 1418.1, AS 1418.7 and the site-specific design
- when the hoist landing area is based on a scaffold working platform, ensuring the scaffolding is verified as safe to use in this manner
- establishing and maintaining 'no-go zones' where objects may fall.

To download a copy of these and other safety alerts, or for more information, visit **workcover.nsw.gov.au**

mentor program helps small business improve safety

December saw the launch of the 2010/11 Safe Business is Good Business Mentor Program, an initiative that will see some of the state's biggest companies help small businesses improve workplace safety.

In the program, large organisations partner with small businesses to help them reduce injuries and develop a sustainable safety culture.

Now in its fifth year, the program allows small businesses to gain hands-on, industry-specific advice from large employers and learn how to meet their workplace safety, injury management and workers compensation obligations.

Nearly 250 small businesses across a range of industries including retail, consumer services, community services, transport and agriculture, have taken part in the program since it commenced in 2006.

Almost 80 people attended the launch, where WorkCover CEO, Lisa Hunt, and Work Health and Safety Division General Manager, John Watson, welcomed 36 mentor businesses and 42 mentees to the 2010/11 program.

The program involves a series of site visits, advisory sessions and workshops to help businesses improve their capability to develop safety systems. Investment in work health and safety provides real financial benefits to businesses and the Mentor Program will help small employers become more productive and cost effective.

Focus on regional NSW

Almost 70 per cent of small businesses in the current program are from regional areas across NSW.

Griffith-based disability service provider, Ningana Enterprises, took part as a mentee in the 2009 program. Ningana's Compliance Officer, Judith Chant, said the program had a positive impact on her business.

'We learnt how to identify and address any gaps in our safety systems.

'We were given overwhelming support from our mentor. As a result, we have introduced new safety procedures and more effective safety systems,' Ms Chant said. (pictured left)

Their mentor, Bega-based business, Tulgeen Disability Services, is pleased the program is reaching regional NSW.

'This program is particularly beneficial to businesses in rural areas. We received guidance in our role as a mentor from our local WorkCover office,' Tulgeen Disability Services President, Gae Rheinberger, said.

'Knowledge sharing with large employers in the same industry helped us provide our mentee partner with a deeper insight into how to make real improvements to safety,' she said.

Services Manager for Family Support Centre at Kanwal on the NSW Central Coast, Seanne Colbert-Smith, spoke at the launch and recounted her experience in the program.

'OHS suddenly became a high priority for me. During my time on the program I managed to get all my policies and procedures updated and working. I learnt how to adapt safety principles to my specific workplace and business operations.'

Steve Gambrill, (pictured right) Senior Safety Specialist from mentor company Eraring Energy, congratulated all the participants in the 2010/11 program for demonstrating their commitment to improving safety and productivity in their business.

'Eraring Energy is proud to share what it has learnt about safety and play a leadership role for workplace safety principles within the Mentor Program.

The chance to improve the focus and systems within a small business and successfully interact with bigger businesses in developing tangible safety outcomes is what makes this program rewarding. It is an opportunity for small businesses to gain an insight into expertise and experience they may never have been exposed to,' he said.

During the launch, John Watson commended the mentor organisations for their commitment to passing on their expertise to enable small businesses to develop greater capacity to reduce workplace injuries.

'While workplace injuries in NSW are at their lowest levels in two decades, there is still more work to be done. The Mentor Program is another example of how fostering partnerships between businesses, industry and government can deliver successful workplace safety and workers compensation outcomes in New South Wales,' Mr Watson said.

To find out more about other free services to help businesses improve safety, visit **workcover.nsw.gov.au** or call **13 10 50**.

doing the hard yards in the meat industry

Despite high-tech facilities, meat industry work is tough. It requires concentration and endurance, coupled with speed and accuracy on 'disassembly lines', in temperatures below 10c.

The average cattle carcass weighs about 330kg. On an average day, workers at the Cargill Wagga Wagga abattoir process about 1250 carcasses.

At Cootamundra, another abattoir, GM Scott, processes about 1400 sheep carcasses a day.

These challenging working conditions come at a hefty price for workers, employers and the wider community.

In 2007/08, there were 632 major injuries in the meat industry, costing the NSW Workers Compensation Scheme over $9.3million.

Manual handling injuries in the industry are the highest in NSW, with 77 injuries per 1000 workers in 2006/07.

This compares with injury rates of about 15 per 1000 workers for all other NSW industries.

Last year, WorkCover, with assistance from the Australian Meat Industry Employees Union and the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service, published *Safe working at heights from work platforms in the meat industry.* It was produced in conjunction with WorkCover Queensland and WorkSafe Victoria.

This year, in partnership with the Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC), WorkCover is engaged with leading processing companies to reduce injuries in the meat industry and develop a much-needed benchmark for abattoirs.

Cargill's and GM Scott invited WorkCover and AMIC representatives to visit their premises, to evaluate their management of musculoskeletal risks and discuss safety issues with management, medical staff, work health and safety committees, and workers.

The repetitive actions and physical force required to cut a carcass into small pieces can lead to a wide variety of injuries, such as sprains and strains, cuts and lacerations, slips, trips and falls, and carpal tunnel syndrome.

The meat industry has an insatiable demand for unskilled and semi-skilled workers who can be trained on-the-job. Local labour shortages means employers often recruit 457 visa holders.

Cargill's efforts in reducing injuries saw the company reach the finals of the 2010 WorkCover Safe Work Awards in October

The CEO of AMIC, Kevin Cottril, said the partnership would help industry members make their businesses more productive by raising awareness of safety risks and effective injury management.

'We look forward to a strengthening relationship between WorkCover and our members that will ensure the development of a sustainable workplace safety culture,' said Mr Cottril.

'This partnership directly addresses the OHS challenges facing the meat industry,' he said.

The partnership has allowed WorkCover to assess manual handling risks, specifically those affecting boners and slicers.

Cargill's has experienced a notable reduction in manual handling injuries and a consequent drop in workers compensation claims, since the construction of its new Wagga Wagga fabrication facility.

It has been achieved through risk assessments, health and safety training and induction programs, improved operating procedures and, most notably, through leading-edge ergonomic design.

WorkCover's long-term plan is to work with the meat industry to co-produce educational material on preventing and managing sprains and strains in processing plants.

This issue will be incorporated into industry workshops, to be delivered jointly by WorkCover and AMIC in 2011.

Safe working at heights from work platforms in the meat industry (catalogue number WC05624) and *Work in Cold Environments: Factsheet* (catalogue number WC00334) are available on the WorkCover website.

For more information on working in the meat industry, visit **workcover.nsw.gov.au** or call WorkCover on **13 10 50**.

focus on safety in metal fabrication

WorkCover Principal Inspector, Wayne James, demonstrating machinery safety features to participants during the metals fabrication safety workshop - the machine was not in operation at the time of tour

It's a sad fact that mechanical and fabrication engineering tradespeople have one of the highest workplace fatality figures in the state.

Key safety risks, including plant and machinery, manual handling and welding, have been the focus of a practical workshop for medium to large businesses involved in various aspects of metal fabrication. Held at the Chullora TAFE NSW campus, the workshop attracted participants from a wide range of metal fabrication operations.

A highlight of the day was a tour of the TAFE machine shop, where machine guarding and safety features on a range of brake presses, bending machines, and lathes were shown in operation. Good safety practice in welding bay design was also on display, prompting many participants to modify their own welding areas using the principles and layouts at the TAFE machine shop.

In addition to the knowledge gained from WorkCover presenters and TAFE teachers, participants received a copy of WorkCover's safety guides for metal fabrication, and machinery and equipment safety. Businesses can also request an advisory visit from a WorkCover business advisory officer, to review their particular workshop processes, plant and equipment and to prioritise their safety improvements.

For further information, or to arrange an advisory visit to your worksite, contact WorkCover on **13 10 50**.

WorkCover's *Guide to safety in the metal fabrication industry* (catalogue No WC05303) is available at **workcover.nsw.gov.au**

sports safety showcased at annual awards

Major sporting organisations and regional clubs – and schools – were in the running at the 13th annual NSW Sports Safety Awards.

The awards are coordinated by the NSW Sporting Injuries Committee and recognise outstanding achievement in sports medicine research, injury prevention and promotion of safe sport practices. The 2010 winners were rewarded for a range of innovate projects, from cycling safety to football safely for children with a disability, and safety activitiesfor juniors in surf life saving and rugby league.

Fourteen awards were presented across three categories, at a ceremony at Sydney Olympic Park on December 14, 2010.

The Royal Life Saving Society of NSW receivied gold and bronze awards for projects designed to raise awareness of water safety and resuscitation. Terrigal Surf Life Saving Club also won gold for a program to help nippers understand what to do if they are caught in deep surf. A research award was presented to the University of NSW for developing a sports safety policy.

NSW Rugby League, and Balmain and Penrith District Junior Leagues, were recognised for their commitment to player and spectator safety via a range of code of conduct initiatives. Four NSW schools won awards for innovative injury prevention initiatives, and Gymnastics NSW and Triathlon NSW were acknowledged for outstanding education and promotion of safe sport practices.

Winners received vouchers to purchase sports equipment from Peter Wynn's Score, a major supporter of the event, and winners of research awards received cash prizes
up to $2,000.

The NSW Sporting Injuries Committee works closely with the sports community to improve safety, increase participation and reduce injuries.

Visit **sportinginjuries.nsw.gov.au** for more information on the 2010 awards.

2010 Sports Safety Award Winners

Congratulations

Royal Life Saving Society and NSW Rugby League

Outstanding Education and Promotion of Safe Sport Practices (statewide)

Joint Gold - Congratulations to Royal Life Saving Society of NSW – Australia's largest CPR initiative (Sydney)

An education program to celebrate 50 years of CPR in Australia. More than 50,000 NSW residents were trained in three months during 2009. The program was conducted at swimming pools, schools and community organisations. The Award was received by Mr David Macallister from Royal Life Saving Society (NSW)

Joint Gold - Congratulations to NSW Rugby League – Club Administration Manual (Sydney)

A comprehensive operations manual developed in consultation with junior district leagues clubs. It includes regulatory requirements, policies and guidelines for risk management. The Award was received by Ms Lauren Coltman & Mr Michael Asensio from NSW Rugby League.

Bronze Triathlon NSW – Cycling safety at triathlon events (Sydney)

New competition rules to improve safety at more than 400 annual triathlon events. An education program was conducted at 56 affiliated clubs, to ensure compliance.

Congratulations

NSW Football

Outstanding Implementation and Adoption of Safe Sport Practices (statewide)

Gold Football NSW – Football4All Special Needs Program (Sydney)

An initiative to ensure players with a disability have an opportunity to play safely in a mainstream club-based program, via a support network and resources for modified skills, drills and games.

The Award was received by Ms Michelle Hanley from NSW Football.

Silver Gymnastics NSW – Quality Assured School Providers (Sydney)

An accreditation program, including lesson plans and risk assessment strategies that certifies those who provide gymnastics training in NSW schools.

Bronze Royal Life Saving Society of NSW – 5-Star Water Safety Partner Program (Sydney)

A program that assists NSW schools to identify aquatic centres that have met stringent safe pool operation guidelines, through the use of a logo indicating completion of the society's swimming pool safety assessment.

Congratulations

Terrigal Surf Life Saving Club

Outstanding Implementation and Adoption of Safe Sport Practices (club or region)

Gold Terrigal Surf Lifesaving Club – Surf Rescue Day (Terrigal)

An event to raise awareness among nippers of what to do if caught in deep surf. The event included rescue simulation activities and resuscitation skills.

The Award was received by Mr Greg Rippon from Terrigal Surf Life Saving Club.

Silver Balmain District Junior Rugby League – Be a Sport, Just Support (Balmain)

A program to enhance player safety and reduce conflict among spectators at junior league matches. A parent from each team is made responsible for monitoring the behaviour and safety of spectators associated with their team during the match.

Bronze Penrith and District Junior Rugby League – Watch Your Language Program (Penrith)

Australia's largest junior league introduced a program targeting code of conduct among players, parents and spectators, to reduce conflicts and offensive language.

Congratulations
Pymble Ladies College

Outstanding Implementation and Adoption of Safe Sport Practices (school)

Gold Pymble Ladies College – Injury Reduction and Management program (Pymble)

An injury database that allows injury correlations between sport and type of activity to be identified, which enables students to be screened for risk of potential injuries. It also identifies strength and conditioning opportunities for sustainable athlete development.

The Award was received by Ms Skye Haliday & Ms Jenny O'Loughlin from Pymble Ladies College.

Silver St Paul's Catholic College – Aiding Sports Injury Prevention (Greystanes)

A program of sports safety initiatives, such as safe play guidelines, first aid training and equipment, and accredited trainers for contact sports.

Joint Bronze St Joseph's Central School – Paddock Swimming Bronze Medallion (Oberon)

A water safety program – one-third of students were awarded their bronze swimming medallion.

Joint Bronze St Anne's Central School – Rolling Wheels Safety Program (Temora)

A program to increase awareness of the regulations and risks associated with cycling safety on the road.

Congratulations
University of Sydney

Outstanding Achievement in Applied Sports Medicine by a Research Team

Gold University of NSW – Developing a state-wide sports safety policy (Kensington)

A project that investigated the role of multi-agency partnerships in sports policy development. It resulted in the creation of a safe sports policy for NSW.

The Award was received by Ms Ros Poulos and Mr Alex Donaldson from University of NSW.

critical incidents

1 July – 30 September 2010

Fatalities in the workplace should never happen. Sadly, they do. There were seven fatalities in NSW during the three months from 1 July to 30 September 2010.

Fatalities

- A fuel tank driver appears to have been crushed between his tanker and a fuel loader.
- The deceased was hit by a forklift carrying pulp bales.
- A delivery driver reversed down the private road of an aged-care facility. A person was run over and died on the way to hospital.
- A worker was felling trees at a private property. Part of a tree fell on him.
- A worker was installing metal purlins on a roof frame, while standing on a platform built on the tines of a forklift. He slipped and fell four metres to the ground.
- A worker was taking part in a search warrant relating to the sale of prohibited drugs. He was hit by a volley of gun fire from a neighbouring apartment.
- A worker was excavating a trench when he came into contact with earthing conductors.

Disclaimer: This report should be considered a preliminary estimate of work-related fatalities since it is based on initial reports from authority inspectors. The number of notified fatalities and/or the circumstances involved may change later after further investigation.

C&V Engineering

Case Study: support, safeguards and solutions

For Mario Pizzolato, owner of C&V Engineering (C&V) in Sydney, the motivation for workplace safety is not only about doing what's legal, but also about keeping people he cares for healthy and able to work.

Like many family-operated businesses, C&V has a strong safety culture and a genuine concern for staff.

'My father started out on his own about 35 years ago at a small site in Cabramatta. Over time, the business has grown – from one person to two, two to three, and so on.'

'Our workers are like family, so naturally safety is a top priority for us.'

C&V has a team of 25, including some subcontractors. The majority of work is conducted from the Mascot workshop, with larger jobs taken offsite. At the workshop, a principle well-known to C&V workers is 'treat it like you would your home.'

'Even the small things – like debris left on the floor, or a loose lead – can have a major impact on someone's safety, so we emphasise the importance of keeping the workplace clean and tidy.'

Safety induction processes, signage, protective equipment and regular toolbox talks are part of the many safety measures in place at C&V.

A little help on safety

Mario knows that when it comes to safety, there is always more to learn, which is what he hoped to do when C&V signed up for the Mentor Program last year.

The program connects small businesses with more experienced business mentors, who share their time, expertise and resources to help improve work safety, workers compensation and injury management performance.

'We had been working with the 'big boys' of construction for some time, like Bovis Lend Lease,' Mario said.

'They are such large organisations with dedicated work health and safety teams. When it came to talking safety, it sometimes felt we were speaking different languages – the Mentor Program acted as a kind of translator.'

'It gave us an opportunity to sit down one-on-one, with the big end of town, and tap into their knowledge and resources.'

MORE GUARDS!

Following a site visit from their mentor, Jan Gardner from 3M Australia, C&V installed additional guards on potentially dangerous workshop equipment, to help minimise risk to their workers.

'Our band saw is used to cut steel members. A guard was placed around the wire brush, which cleans all metal shavings from the blades.'

'The guard was put into place to stop anyone from injuring or losing a finger.'

'Another guard was placed around our very large radial drill to prevent workers getting too close and being dragged into the machine.'

This was not the first time C&V had found a practical solution to a real safety problem.

When Mario heard of a construction worker being killed after falling through a penetration hole, he decided that he needed to do more to protect his workers.

'With falls through holes you need to address three elements: making people aware of the hole, providing a guard to prevent falls when the hole is in use, and covering it when it is not,' Mario said.

'The solution we came up with is an easy-to-use, portable barrier which tackles each of these penetration problems.'

What's next

After successfully completing the Mentor Program in 2009, Mario is keen to press ahead with the quest to achieve 'best practice' in work health and safety.

For more information visit **workcover.nsw.gov.au** or call **13 10 50**.

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Risk Management	Plant Requirements	Traffic Management
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- Heights (on behalf of RTO 91173)

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Advance OHS

April 2011- October 2011 COURSE CALENDAR

OHS Consultation for Safety Committees and Representatives (4 days)

Cost: $570 (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 effective OHS management.

Month	Days	Location
April	Thursday, 11 Friday, 12 Thursday, 18 Friday, 19	Parramatta
May	Monday, 12 Tuesday, 13 Monday 19 Tuesday, 20	Sydney - City
May	Thursday, 23 Friday, 24 Thursday, 30 Friday, 31	Parramatta
June	Thursday, 9 Friday,10 Thursday, 16 Friday, 17	Sydney - City
June	Monday, 20 Tuesday, 21 Monday, 27 Tuesday, 28	Parramatta
July	Thursday, 7 Friday, 8 Thursday, 14 Friday, 15	Parramatta
July	Monday, 18 Tuesday, 19 Monday, 25 Tuesday, 26	Sydney - City
August	Thursday, 18 Friday, 19 Thursday, 25 Friday, 26	Parramatta
August	Monday, 22 Tuesday, 23 Monday, 29 Tuesday, 30	Sydney - City
September	Thursday, 8 Friday, 9 Thursday, 15 Friday, 16	Parramatta
September	Monday, 19 Tuesday, 20 Monday, 26 Tuesday, 27	Sydney - City
October	Monday, 17 Tuesday, 18 Monday, 24 Tuesday, 25 x	Sydney

Apply First Aid (formerly senior first aid)

Cost: $130 (gst free)

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

Month	Days	Location
April	Saturday, 30	Parramatta
May	Monday, 9	Parramatta
May	Saturday, 14	Parramatta
May	Monday, 23	Parramatta
May	Saturday, 28	Parramatta
June	Monday, 6	Parramatta
June	Saturday, 11	Parramatta
June	Monday, 20	Parramatta
June	Saturday, 25	Parramatta
July	Monday, 4	Parramatta
July	Saturday, 9	Parramatta
July	Monday, 18	Parramatta
August	Monday, 1	Parramatta
August	Saturday, 13	Parramatta

This course is conducted in partnership with allens training ntis 90909

OHS Risk Management for Supervisors and Managers

Cost: $350 (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
April	Thursday, 28	Parramatta
May	Friday, 27	Parramatta
June	Thursday, 30	Parramatta
July	Thursday, 28	Parramatta
August	Thursday, 25	Parramatta
September	Thursday, 29	Parramatta
October	Friday, 28	Parramatta

Introduction to RTW Coordination (2 days)

Cost: $470 (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
April	Wednesday, 6 Thursday, 7	Parramatta
May	Wednesday, 11 Thursday, 12	Parramatta
June	Wednesday, 8 Thursday, 9	Parramatta
July	Wednesday, 20 Thursday, 21	Parramatta
August	Wednesday, 17 Thursday, 18	Parramatta
September	Wednesday, 21 Thursday, 22	Parramatta
October	Wednesday, 19 Thursday, 20	Parramatta

Manual Handling

Cost: POA

course conducted onsite

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.

Green / White Card CPCCOHS1001A Induction for Construction (1 day) Cost: $100 (gst free)

This course is aimed at all workers carrying out construction work, including self-employed persons, labourers, apprentices, trainees, tradespersons, supervisors and project managers. It is a legal requirement to complete this course.

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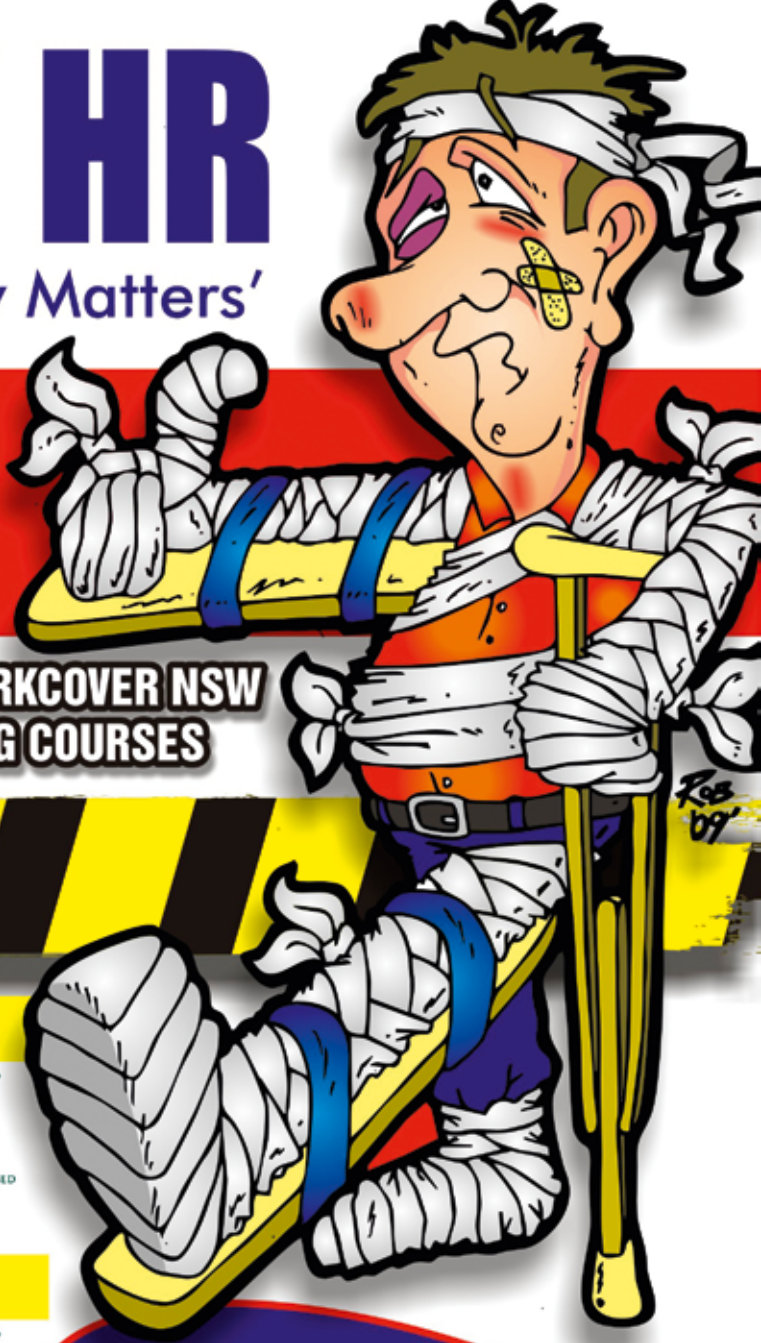

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