

SPORTS SAFETY
AWARDS PAGE **15**



ONLINE PREMIUM
ESTIMATOR PAGE **12**

The workplace safety and injury management magazine

WORKCOVER

NEWS

ISSUE

86

SAFEWORK
AWARDS
WINNERS

PAGE **4**





WHS Training Calendar 2012

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

JANUARY to MARCH 2012

Watch our website for the remainder of our 2012 public course dates www.courtenell.com.au

Health & Safety Representative 5 Day Course

Course Fee: \$720 (\$792 incl. gst)

Course Length: 5 days (9am - 4pm)

January	Tue 10	Wed 11	Tue 17	Wed 18	Thu 19	Parramatta	PARHSR1
	Mon 23	Tue 24	Wed 25	Mon 30	Tue 31	City	CITHSR1
February	Wed 1	Thu 2	Wed 8	Thu 9	Fri 10	Parramatta	PARHSR2
	Mon 6	Tue 7	Mon 13	Tue 14	Wed 15	City	CITHSR2
	Mon 13	Tue 14	Mon 20	Tue 21	Wed 22	Parramatta	PARHSR22
	Thu 16	Fri 17	Wed 22	Thu 23	Fri 24	City	CITHSR22
March	Thu 1	Fri 2	Wed 7	Thu 8	Fri 9	City	CITHSR3
	Mon 5	Tue 6	Mon 12	Tue 13	Wed 14	Parramatta	PARHSR3
	Mon 12	Tue 13	Mon 19	Tue 20	Wed 21	City	CITHSR32
	Thu 22	Fri 23	Wed 28	Thu 29	Fri 30	Parramatta	PARHSR32

This WorkCover 5 Day Health and Safety Representative Course is available to train elected HSR officers.

1 Day HSR Gap Course

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

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

January	Fri 20	City	CITG1	From the 1st of January 2012, existing OHS Representatives and others who have completed the current WorkCover 4 Day OHS Consultation Course within the last 2 years, can do the WorkCover 1 day HSR Gap course instead of doing the 5 day HSR course.
	Tue 24	Parramatta	PARG1	
February	Thu 2	City	CITG2	
	Tue 7	Parramatta	PARG2	
	Tue 28	City	CITG22	
	Wed 29	Parramatta	PARG22	
March	Wed 7	Parramatta	PARG3	
	Thu 15	City	CITG3	
	Mon 19	Parramatta	PARG32	
	Wed 28	City	CITG32	

Work Health Safety Act Information Session

Course Fee: \$200 (\$220 incl. gst)

Course Length: 3.5 hours

January	Fri 27	City	CITHSI1
	Mon 30	Parramatta	PARHSI1
February	Fri 3	Parramatta	PARHSI2
	Fri 10	City	CITHSI2
	Tue 21	City	CITHSI22
	Mon 27	Parramatta	PARHSI22
March	Fri 2	Parramatta	PARHSI3
	Tue 6	City	CITHSI32
	Thu 22	City	CITHSI32
	Mon 26	Parramatta	PARHSI32

This information session addresses the changes in the law and how they affect your business and its systems.

It covers duty holders and their responsibilities, consultation requirements, risk management and your WHS systems.

Intro to Return to Work Coordination

Course Fee: \$570 (gst free)

Course Length: 2 days (9am - 4:30pm).

January	Mon 16	Tue 17	City	CITR1
February	Thu 23	Fri 24	Parramatta	PARR2
March	Thu 29	Fri 30	City	CITR3

Advanced Return to Work Coordination

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

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

March	Mon 5	City	CITE3
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WHS Risk Management for Supervisors & Managers

Course Fee: \$550 (\$605 incl. gst)

Course Length: 2 days (9am - 4pm).

February	Wed 8	Thu 9	City	CITS2
March	Thu 15	Fri 16	Parramatta	PARS3

WHS Committee Chairperson

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

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

February	Mon 20	City	CITC2
March	Tue 27	Parramatta	PARC3

ON-SITE Training Courses

The following courses can be delivered at your premises.

- Health & Safety Representative Course (5 days)
- Gap Course (1 day)
- Work Health & Safety Information Session (3.5hrs)
- WHS Risk Mgmt for Sups & Mgrs (1 or 2 days)
- WHS Risk Management (1 day)
- WHS Law for Officers (2 hrs)
- WHS Responsibilities for Sups & Managers (2 hrs)
- WHS Committee Chairperson (1 day)
- WHS Committee Refresher Update (1 day)
- Intro to Return to Work Coordination (2 days)
- Advanced Return to Work (1 day)
- Senior First Aid (2 days)
- First Aid Recertification (1 day)
- Incident Investigation (1 day)
- Developing Workplace Safety Culture (1 Day)
- Workplace Substances (1 day)
- WHS Induction for Employees (4 hrs)
- BackBasics Manual Handling (2 hrs)
- BackBasics Workstation Set-up & M/H (2 hrs)

Construction General Induction

Public courses
6 days a week.

Onsite courses
when you need them.



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

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

Call us today for
information & booking!

National Provider Number: 91325

Visit our website
www.courtenell.com.au

for information on our courses,
WHS information & recent
editions of our publication
"Your Safety Matters".

02 9516 1499

www.courtenell.com.au

...we are here to help you.



WorkCover Assistance Service

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

Subscription Enquiries

Ph: 1300 799 003

Advertising Enquiries

Ph: (02) 4321 5236

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Safety in action

More than 9500 visitors flocked to the WorkCover NSW stand at the 2011 Safety Show and Conference held at Sydney Showground, Olympic Park, Homebush.

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Winners of the WorkCover NSW SafeWork Awards

The state's highest accolade for work health and safety, were announced on 27 October 2011 at a special ceremony in Sydney.

new

Online Premium Estimator

WorkCover NSW has launched an innovative online tool to help businesses estimate their annual workers compensation costs.

NSW Sports Safety Awards

Major sporting organisations, regional clubs, schools and universities were among the 18 winners at the annual NSW Sports Safety Awards.

2012 the year ahead

In eight months Australia's Paralympians will do battle with the world's best in the pursuit of excellence and glory.



Asbestos awareness week

Last year 273 people died due to an asbestos-related disease they contracted while at work.

Be aware and be prepared
Asbestos

WorkCover alliance with StateCover and the Local Government and Shires Association

WorkCover
Offices

Disclaimer: This publication contains industry recommended action or information regarding occupational health, safety, injury management or workers compensation. It includes some of your obligations under the various workers compensation and occupational health and safety legislation that WorkCover NSW administers. To ensure you comply with your legal obligations you must refer to the appropriate acts. This publication may refer to WorkCover NSW administered legislation that has been amended or repealed. When reading this publication you should always refer to the latest laws. Information on the latest laws can be checked at www.legislation.nsw.gov.au. The use or representation of a product or particular brand of product in a WorkCover NSW publication (whether the use or representation appears in an advertisement, illustration, photograph or other form) is not to be taken to imply WorkCover's approval or endorsement of the product or brand.



It has been successful and productive three months since the last WorkCover News, and there have been some significant initiatives carried out in the lead up to Christmas.

CEO MESSAGE

SafeWork Awards

The State's highest accolade for work health and safety, the SafeWork Awards, were awarded in late October.

The eighth annual awards night was a huge success with 47 finalists, from Ballina to Wagga Wagga, representing NSW's best workplace safety projects, practices and people.

Congratulations to the finalists, six winners and four highly commend recipients, and everyone who submitted nominations.

Premium estimator

In a significant initiative for businesses, WorkCover has launched a new online tool to help businesses estimate their annual workers compensation costs.

The Premium Estimator makes it easier for start-ups, businesses looking to diversify or those looking to expand, to check their workers compensation premiums.

This is part of WorkCover's customer-focused approach to helping NSW employers.

It also enables businesses to plan for the future by testing what happens to their workers compensation premiums if they add or change business activities, change staffing levels or have a claim.

Asbestos awareness

In August this year, the NSW Government established the Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities (HACA), chaired by WorkCover.

HACA will ensure that NSW Government agencies and local councils effectively coordinate the safe management of asbestos in all stages of its lifecycle, and raise awareness about the dangers of asbestos.

Asbestos Awareness Day was held this year on 25 November 2011, and formed part of Asbestos Awareness Week (21-27 November 2011).

It was a time to highlight the risks of being exposed to asbestos, its safe management, and the support services available for asbestos disease sufferers and their families.

At the launch, Carol Klintfeld, an asbestos-disease sufferer gave a personal account of her journey since diagnosis.

Her courage reminds us of the impact so many families experience, and of the people taken from friends and family too soon.

NSW Sports Safety Awards

I would like to congratulate the winners of the 14th annual NSW Sports Safety Awards held in mid-November.

Major sporting organisations, regional clubs as well as schools and universities were among 18 winners in awards that recognise outstanding achievement in research, injury prevention and promotion of safe sport practices.

The award winners represented a wide variety of initiatives from safety swing gates for cricket training nets, to improving sweep accreditation practices for dragonboating.

I hope you enjoy this latest edition of WorkCover News and for more information go to our website:

WORKCOVER.NSW.GOV.AU
OR CALL 13 10 50

Lisa Hunt

NEW INSURANCE PREMIUM ESTIMATOR

Business can check their premiums online with our new online premium estimator. Businesses can now plan for the effect on their premiums from:

- changes to wages and claims costs
- growing or adding a new business.





Preparing for new Work Health and Safety laws

As part of its comprehensive program to prepare NSW businesses for the introduction of new work health and safety laws on 1 January next year, WorkCover NSW has hosted a roadshow of information sessions during November and December.

More than 2150 employers and workers attended the free information sessions which covered key areas of the new laws, what the changes mean for NSW businesses and workers, and how businesses and workers can prepare for the introduction of the new laws.

The information sessions were run by WorkCover health and safety experts who outlined how the new laws affect industry.

General Manager of WorkCover's Work Health and Safety Division, John Watson, said WorkCover was committed to supporting business and industry prepare for the new arrangements.

"These information sessions will help local employers and workers develop a greater understanding of the impact of

the new work health and safety laws on their workplaces," Mr Watson said.

"While what is safe now will continue to be safe under the new arrangements, it is important businesses, industry and workers understand the key changes."

WorkCover also held a webinar on the new laws in December.

"Those who couldn't make it to an information session or were unable to secure a place were able to participate in December's webinar," he added.

WorkCover has also developed a range of guidance materials on the new laws, including fact sheets, tools and Frequently Asked Questions. VISIT **WORKCOVER.NSW.GOV.AU** OR CALL **13 10 50** FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

"WorkCover is committed to supporting business and industry prepare for the new arrangements."

JOHN WATSON
GENERAL MANAGER - WORK
HEALTH & SAFETY DIVISION



WorkCover NSW

SafeWork

A W A R D S

MEET THE 2011 WINNERS

Winners of the WorkCover NSW SafeWork Awards, the state's highest accolade for work health and safety, were announced on 27 October 2011 at a special ceremony in Sydney.

More than 500 people joined the Parliamentary Secretary, the Honourable Marie Ficarra, and

WorkCover General Manager of Work Health and Safety, John Watson, for the eighth annual awards night at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour.

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

Six winners were announced, 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 120 entries.

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



Allied Mills
Ballina Shire Council
Boulderstone Pty Ltd
Boating Industry Association of NSW
Brett Davis, Downer EDI Engineering
Cessnock Correctional Centre
Coal Services Pty Ltd
Construction Safety Education Forum
Darley Australia
Department of Family & Community Service
Ageing Disability & Home Care, Hunter Region
Eco Smart Lighting Pty Ltd
Emir Mujcinovic, WP Projects
Endeavour Energy
Essential Energy
Glenfield Junction Alliance
Hansen Yuncken
Hornsby Shire Council
Inghams Enterprises
Kempsey Bypass Alliance
Lake Macquarie City Council
Lismore City Council
Macfab Engineering
Michael Foulkes, Carbra-Vale Diggers Group

Mid North Coast Group
of Councils (MIDGOC) OH&S Group
Mirvac Hotels & Resorts
Orange City Council
PaQS People and Quality Solutions
Peer Lehwess, Presbyterian Aged Care
Perilya
Peter Rogers, Jeff Hort Engineering
Powerdata Technologies Pty Ltd
Production Automotive
Regional Project Managers Australia Pty Ltd
Roads and Traffic Authority NSW
SewerFix Wet Weather Alliance
St Vincent de Paul Society NSW
State Transit Authority of NSW
State Water Corporation
Sydney Ferries
TAFE NSW, Illawarra Institute
Tey's Australia, a Cargill joint venture
The City of Newcastle
Visy
Watpac Construction (NSW) Pty Ltd
Youthsafe

Category

1

BEST WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



Inghams Enterprises

A household name in food, particularly poultry, Ingham employs 2300 people and deals with more than 250 contractors in NSW. Inghams was a finalist in 2010 and went on to win the Award in 2011.

Inghams work health and safety (WHS) management system is based on the national self-insurer WHS tool (NAT). Each work site is audited on an 18-month rotating basis against the NAT while the system is externally audited every 12 months for improvement and benchmarking purposes.

Over the past three years Inghams has achieved a five per cent reduction in claims, a 38 per cent reduction in the number of incidents and a 35 per cent reduction in lost time injuries.

"The company is always willing to learn from others and assist others where possible from a work health and safety and workers compensation perspective."



Orange City Council

The impetus for better management of workplace health and safety came from the Australian Government's promise of funding for completion of a distributor road network by the Council contingent on its accreditation to safety standard AS/NZS4801. Several years down the track and the Council have become the first local government authority to achieve accreditation under the Office of the Federal Commissioner for its work health and safety management system.

Workers compensation claims have declined since the initial commitment to developing a systematic approach to managing workplace safety. In taking its focus on work health and safety to a new level, the Council has also identified a pathway for other organisations to follow.

"Our system is clearly boosting our safety culture...and evidence of commitment is coming from all levels of the organisation."

Category 2

State Transit Authority

In maintaining its fleet, State Transit employees must change the air spring bags on the pistons of each bus's suspension system – a task which comes up around 3000 times a year and requires significant manual force. Employees are exposed to manual handling risk in the process.

After considering a number of options, State Transit and Indertek Industrial Technologies developed a solution. This is the bus suspension airbag assembler, a pneumatic airbag press designed to fit rubber airbags onto the piston for installation to buses. Pressing occurs as the plate attached to the pneumatic arm moves upwards, compressing the top of the airbag against the piston. When the pressing cycle has finished the airbag is ready to be installed.



"The final solution has significantly reduced the hazards associated with the task through engineering controls."

BEST SOLUTION TO AN IDENTIFIED WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY ISSUE

"Consultation has been an integral element in development of the solution."



Endeavour Energy

Endeavour Energy is one of the largest state-owned energy corporations in NSW. Their work health and safety issue was unique - preventing helicopter wire strike incidents on pre-summer bushfire inspections of service lines.

The solution lay in the use of high definition digital cameras that are infrared capable and have 360° line of sight; the introduction of 'moving map' technology to plot a flight which can be overlaid with the company assets, ground support systems to store and analyse data; and cockpit hardware allowing an operator to log the flight and altitude in real time. With this system in place helicopters can fly well above the level where wire strike is a hazard.

Category 3

BEST WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY PRACTICE IN A SMALL BUSINESS

Regional Project Managers Australia

Wagga Wagga company Regional Project Managers Australia (RPMA) was engaged to restore the historic St Carthage's Cathedral in Lismore. Due to heritage issues, the number of contractors at work on site and the risks posed by working at heights, it adopted a systematic approach to work health and safety.

RPMA developed project management and site specific plans six months out, which detailed safety requirements. Among the safety measures were appointment of a project safety team, weekly site safety audits and monthly safety meetings. Daily toolbox talks were held with everyone on site and, to alleviate the hazard of working at heights in the sun, RPMA limited such work to 50 minutes per hour and provided water containers.

"As a result of the success of the project, the owners have chosen to repeat this methodology across their business."

Production Automotive

While skilled in automotive repair, Production Automotive knew little about work health and safety and so opted to join WorkCover's Safe Business is Good Business Mentor Program.

Their mentor was Andrew Porter from the State Transit Authority. With his help, the business identified major areas for improvement and set about implementing corrective action. For example, safe work procedures were simplified as they had proved too detailed, a formal induction program was introduced and, to make safe work procedures visible to all staff, work health and safety was included on the agenda for weekly team meetings. These and other measures have increased awareness of safety requirements and strengthened management commitment to a safe work environment.

"We are now confident that we are implementing best practice procedures by learning from and working with an industry expert."



Category

4

BEST INDIVIDUAL CONTRIBUTION TO WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY



An employee who does not have formal responsibility for work health and safety management

Peer Lehwiss – Presbyterian Aged Care

When Peer Lehwiss joined Presbyterian Aged Care as a Maintenance Officer, he was charged with addressing a vexing work health and safety issue to which no internal solution had previously been found. The issue was safe handling and transport of waste bags through the aged care home to an external skip.

Peer designed a waste chute from the first storey of the home to bins on the ground, eliminating the infection control issue and the need for staff to first lift full waste bags from bins then carry the bags through the grounds of the home and lift them again for dumping. With the external skip no longer required, the home has also reduced its waste management costs.

“Peers’ contribution to solving the problem was inspiring, simple, cost effective and achievable.”



An outstanding contribution by an OHS manager or a person with formal responsibility for work health and safety

Peter Rogers – Jeff Hort Engineering

Peter initially joined this regional company on the manufacturing production line but soon became a leading hand. He distinguished himself by taking on development and implementation of a quality management system which, two years later, was certified against international standard AS/NZS 9001:2008. Peter later assisted the WHS superintendent with the documentation for accreditation of a WHS management system, assuming increased responsibility when the superintendent resigned.

Jeff Hort Engineering received their accreditation in June 2011. Peter, who has completed a number of WHS qualifications to increase his skills, will next take on the challenge of designing and implementing an environmental management system to ISO 14001:2004 by mid 2013. To better equip himself for the role, he intends to study a Certificate IV in environmental management.

“Unquestionably, Peter’s work has had an amazing impact on our company’s profile and its level of compliance with quality and workplace health and safety requirements.”



Category 5

WORKCOVER NSW SAFETY LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Safety Leadership Award promotes and recognises excellence in leadership in work health and safety, workers compensation and injury management.

This Award acknowledges any external organisations (including NSW registered businesses, unions, sole traders and industry associations) that are working in partnership with either WorkCover NSW or an external organisation to promote safer workplaces in NSW industry.

This Award category differs from all other categories in that the nominations are submitted by WorkCover senior management and not external participants.

Boating Industry



The Association is the voice of the boating and marine industry. Members include boat builders, yacht brokers, charter boat operators and marinas. Significant among their safety initiatives was the development of the Marine Card OHS General Induction Course. The Association also developed the Managing Environment, Health and Safety Course, which uses practical exercises to teach managers how to meet their legal obligations and implement industry best practice.

The drop in boating fatalities and serious injuries on the previous year is the result of several factors, not least of which is the Boating Industry Association's diligence and focus on safety.

"The drop in boating fatalities and serious injuries on the previous year is the result of several factors, not least of which is the Boating Industry Association's diligence and focus on safety."



Construction Safety Education Forum

The Forum, which comprises major stakeholders across the construction sector aims to improve safety by promoting education and sharing best practice. It holds at least one educational forum every two months.

The Forum's strengths are the enthusiasm and willingness of its members to give their time, expertise and resources. Many larger companies, often at great expense to themselves, transport plant to field days to give smaller companies hands-on experience that would not have been possible otherwise. They also act as mentors and assist in identifying and solving health and safety issues. Currently the Forum is working on development of competency-based training for users of swing stages.

"The Forum participants set an example to industry about working together, regardless of background, to benefit work health and safety across the construction sector."

Safety in action

More than 9500 visitors flocked to the WorkCover NSW stand at the 2011 Safety Show and Conference held at Sydney Showground, Olympic Park, Homebush, from 25-27 October.





More than 9500 visitors flocked to the WorkCover NSW stand at the 2011 Safety Show and Conference held at Sydney Showground, Olympic Park, Homebush, from 25-27 October.

As principal sponsor for the eighth consecutive year, WorkCover's stand provided help and advice to visitors on how they could make their workplaces safer.

At WorkCover's fully interactive stand visitors were able to speak with WorkCover staff and ask questions about the transition to new work health and safety laws.

Attendees were able to order further information from the WorkCover stand and sign up to WorkCover's suite of publications such as WorkCover News, eNews and Construction eNews.

WorkCover's Work Health and Safety Division also held 18 free workshops, which were attended by more than 800 people over the three days – a significant increase from the 675 attendees last year.

The workshops provided information and advice on how workplaces could prepare for the new *Work Health and Safety Act*, which will take effect from 1 January 2012.

The remainder of the workshops offered information for small business, as well as industry-specific advice for people working in the construction and manufacturing industries.

WorkCover also played a large role in the conference, with General Manager of WorkCover's Work Health and Safety Division, John Watson, speaking on the transition to harmonised legislation.

WorkCover's Safety Ambassadors were also on hand to share their experiences with WorkCover NSW.

The Safety Show and Conference gives visitors the opportunity to keep up to date with new developments in work health and safety. More than 9500 trade visitors attended this year and more than 300 exhibitors were featured.

WorkCover's sponsorship of the event helps to enhance robust safety cultures within NSW workplaces, thus helping to ensure workers return home safely to their families at the end of the day.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WORKCOVER'S PRODUCTS OR SERVICES **VISIT WORKCOVER.** NSW.GOV.AU OR **CALL 13 10 50**

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE 2012 SAFETY SHOW AND CONFERENCE, **VISIT** THESAFETYSHOW.COM.AU

FAST FACTS

THE SAFETY SHOW AND
CONFERENCE ATTRACTED

9488

VISITS DURING THE THREE-DAY EVENT

15%

OF VISITORS REPRESENTED THE BUILDING
AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

26%

OF VISITORS CAME FROM THE
MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

21%

OF VISITORS CAME FROM
GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL COUNCIL

53%

OF VISITORS CAME FROM A COMPANY
WHICH HAD MORE THAN 100 WORKERS

33%

OF VISITORS WERE SERVICE
PROVIDERS OR CONSULTANTS



New!

online premium estimator

WorkCover NSW has launched an innovative online tool to help businesses estimate their annual workers compensation costs.

Based on a similar concept to the Motor Accident Authority's successful Green Slip Calculator, the Premium Estimator is located on the WorkCover NSW website and helps employers to estimate their workers compensation premium.

Businesses can identify their WorkCover Industry Classification using the Premium Estimator and can also test what happens to their workers compensation premiums if they add or change business activities, change staffing levels or have a claim.

WorkCover NSW CEO, Lisa Hunt said the Premium Estimator was designed to provide a service to employers where they were working – online.

"With highly mobile workforces, business owners and workers are spending more and more time working online," Ms Hunt said.

"As any business owner will tell you, time is money and the ability to easily get an estimate of your workers compensation premium will save both time and money.

"The Premium Estimator makes it easier for start-ups, businesses looking to diversify or those looking to expand, to check their workers compensation premium and is part of WorkCover's customer-focused approach to helping NSW employers."

Ms Hunt said WorkCover sought feedback from employer groups and

businesses during the development of the Premium Estimator.

"We acknowledge that managing workers compensation premiums can be a source of frustration and confusion for many small businesses," Ms Hunt said.

"The Premium Estimator can help businesses better understand their workers compensation premiums and plan for the future, while being assured they are properly classified.

"The Premium Estimator can also be used by vision or mobility impaired people because it meets the World Wide Web Consortium's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines.

"WorkCover worked with an accessibility specialist to ensure people with different levels of vision impairment could use the premium estimator and participants with a range of impairments physically tested the Premium Estimator during development.

"We have ensured the needs of our customers have been incorporated into the Premium Estimator and believe it is an excellent resource that will help employers better understand and manage their workers compensation insurance."

General Manager – Workplace Solutions at the NSW Business Chamber, Greg Pattison said the Premium Estimator was an important step in improving

business understanding of workers compensation.

"Workers compensation premiums can be complex and difficult to understand," Mr Pattison said.

"The Premium Estimator gets inside the black box of workers compensation premiums which isn't generally available to the average employer.

"Providing a simple tool which estimates workers compensation premiums can help employers understand what is happening with their premiums and why, and we will be encouraging our members to use it."

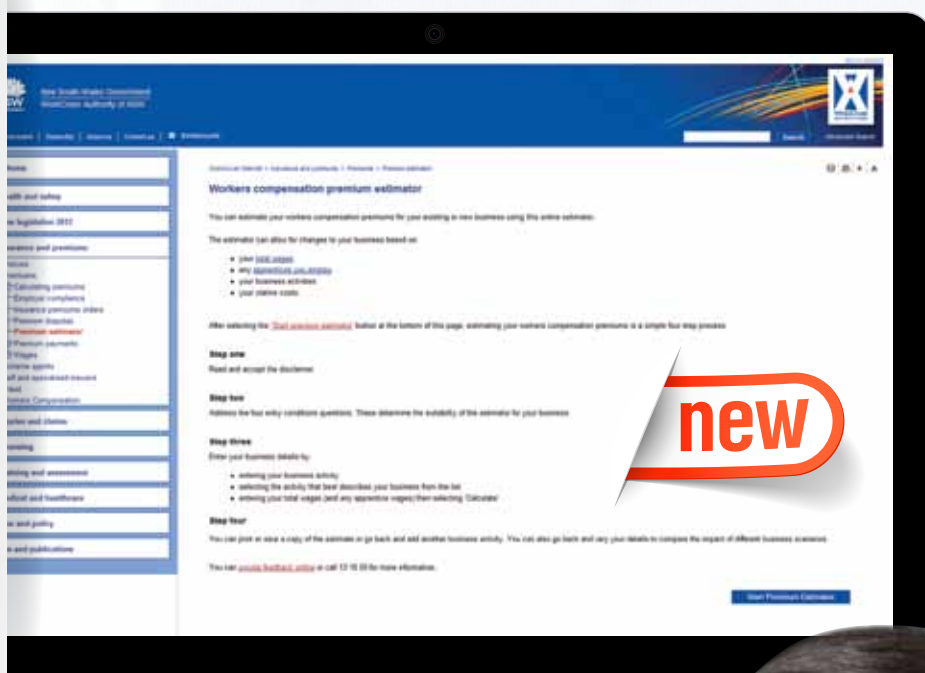
Darrin Pride from IFE Forklifts at Ingleburn has used the Premium Estimator and said it would save small businesses time and effort.

"The ability to get an estimate of your premium online is a great concept," Mr Pride said.

"If we hire new staff or any staff leave the Premium Estimator will enable us to see what impact a change in staffing levels will have on our premium.

"The consistency and transparency in premium estimates offered by the system will be welcomed by many small business owners like myself."

THE PREMIUM ESTIMATOR
CAN BE ACCESSED AT
WORKCOVER.NSW.GOV.AU



‘ The Premium Estimator gets inside the black box of workers compensation premiums which isn’t generally available to the average employer. ’

GREG PATTISON
General Manager –
Workplace Solutions at the
NSW Business Chamber





Working towards a common goal

WorkCover NSW continues to work with industry to achieve safer workplaces in NSW. Fostering these relationships with industry associations and peak unions creates safer workplaces, effective recovery, return to work and security for injured workers across the state.

1

The University of Wollongong (UOW) recently signed an alliance to further improve awareness of work health and safety (WHS) at its campuses. The Alliance will involve WorkCover and UOW working in partnership to prevent workplace injuries and illnesses for staff, students, visitors and contractors as well as ensuring effective injury management systems are in place.

2

Saw milling company Tasco have also formed an alliance with WorkCover to enhance the safety of their staff across the state. Both organisations will work in partnership, not only providing a safe, productive workplace, but creating a safe environment and effective injury management for mill workers.

3

WorkCover and NSW Public Works have signed an interagency agreement to improve WHS standards across more than a billion dollars of public assets. The large amount of work carried out by Public Works means that the agreement will have wide ranging benefits and ensure consistency and cooperation in safety standards.

4

WorkCover is also working with councils such as Orange City to develop practical approaches to workplace safety and injury management. WorkCover inspectors will work in partnership with Council staff to further develop workplace safety practices that will also reach the wider community.

5

WorkCover and the Master Builders Association recently renewed their partnership agreement for improving WHS and injury management across the construction industry. The two organisations will work in partnership to identify leading injury and illness types and their causes, and develop responses to address them.

6

LEARN MORE ABOUT WORKCOVER'S INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS AND AGREEMENTS AT WORKCOVER.NSW.GOV.AU.



Sports Safety on show at Annual Awards

Major sporting organisations, regional clubs, schools and universities were among the 18 winners at the annual NSW Sports Safety Awards held at Sydney Olympic Park in November.

The 14th annual awards, held by the NSW Sporting Injuries Committee, recognise outstanding achievement in research, injury prevention and promotion of safe sport practices. The 2011 winners were acknowledged for a range of initiatives that included developing safety swing gates for cricket training nets, development of a hot weather policy for football and improving sweep accreditation practices for dragon boating.

Catholic schools were acknowledged for their commitment to safe sport initiatives taking five out of the six awards available in the schools category. These included training injury management volunteers to support school teams, involving students in design of safety rules for playground sports and encouraging students to become formally accredited as officials to understand safe ethical play.

NSW Rugby League took out two awards for a project designed to reduce spectator aggression and for their 'Tough Love in League' program to reduce violent player behaviour and to encourage safe participation in junior leagues.

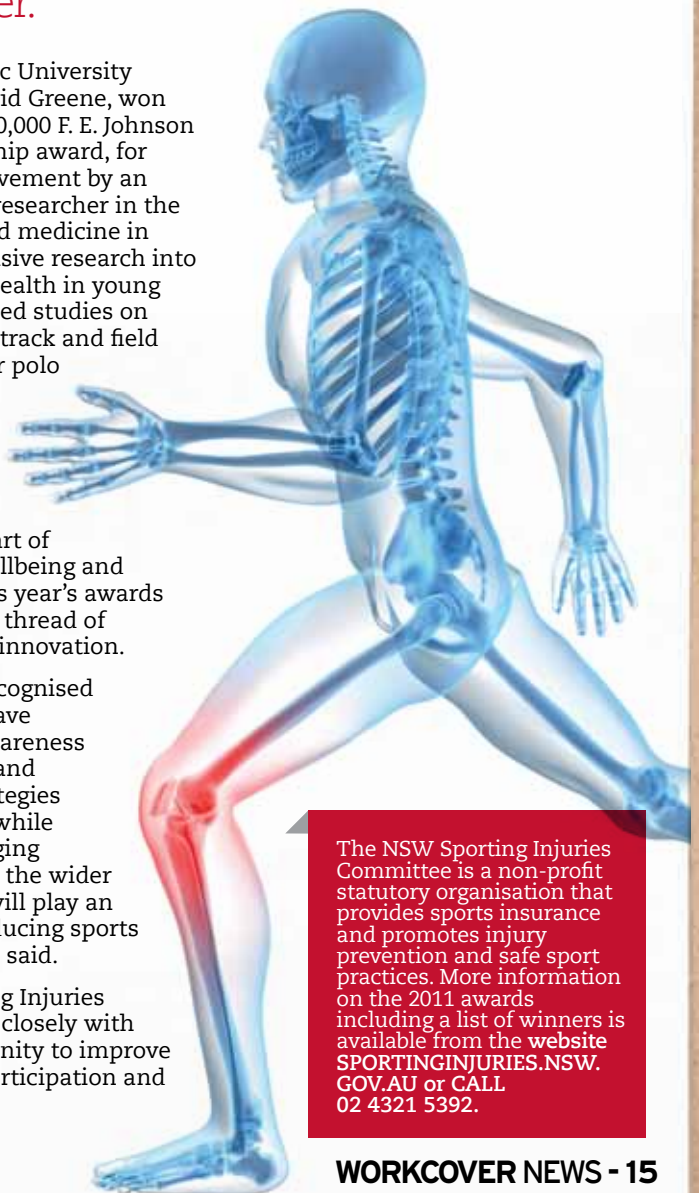
YouthSafe won the team research award for their project in collaboration with Basketball NSW analysing injury statistics to develop a comprehensive safety awareness campaign for basketball clubs across New South Wales.

Australian Catholic University researcher, Dr David Greene, won the prestigious \$20,000 F. E. Johnson Memorial Fellowship award, for outstanding achievement by an established NSW researcher in the field of science and medicine in sport for his extensive research into musculoskeletal health in young people that included studies on female gymnasts, track and field athletes and water polo players.

Acting NSW Sporting Injuries Chair, Geniere Aplin, said sport is an important part of our health and wellbeing and the winners of this year's awards shared a common thread of collaboration and innovation.

"The initiatives recognised in these awards have both increased awareness of safety hazards and implemented strategies to mitigate these while successfully engaging clubs, schools and the wider community, and will play an integral role in reducing sports injuries," Ms Aplin said.

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



The NSW Sporting Injuries Committee is a non-profit statutory organisation that provides sports insurance and promotes injury prevention and safe sport practices. More information on the 2011 awards including a list of winners is available from the website SPORTINGINJURIES.NSW.GOV.AU or CALL 02 4321 5392.

Outstanding Safe Sport Practices, Peter Wynn's Score Award (club)

GOLD St Ives YMCA

Girls Levels Gymnastics Program (St Ives)

The artistic gymnastics girls squad designed more than 30 posters with safety messages and displayed them around the gym, taking accountability to catch out their peers for safety breaches. A training program for trainee coaches to identify and address injury risks was also introduced.

SILVER Valentine Eleebana Cricket Club

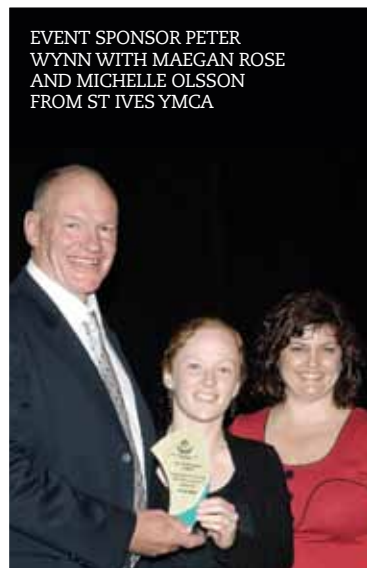
Cricket net safety swing gates (Hunter)

The club designed a swing gate to increase the areas of protection around the cricket nets at their training facility. The gate helps to minimise balls from bouncing off or outside the net and shields players in adjoining nets.

BRONZE NSW Rugby League & NSW Sport and Recreation Spectator Anger Education Program (Western Sydney)

The program is designed to directly assist crowd spectators who exhibit unacceptable expressions of anger in a sports setting. Spectator and parents who have been suspended from matches were invited to learn about triggers for anger in a sport setting and their consequences.

EVENT SPONSOR PETER
WYNN WITH MAEGAN ROSE
AND MICHELLE OLSSON
FROM ST IVES YMCA



Outstanding Implementation and Adoption of Safe Sport Practices (school)

GOLD St Paul's Catholic College

Prepare and Prevention – (Greystanes)

The program was designed to reduce the number of preventable injuries in contact sports played at the school through the adoption of adequate preparation and training techniques. Twelve senior students volunteered to learn preventative techniques and be accountable for safety and player welfare in the school's contact football teams.

SILVER St Joseph's High School Aberdeen

Sun, Fun and Safety Awareness Day and Bronze Medallion Program (Hunter)

A mandatory water safety program for all year seven staff to expose students to a real beach environment and strengthen their knowledge, confidence and skills about safety issues such as rips, waves and sun safety as well a bronze medallion program offered as part of the sports curriculum for year 10 and senior students.

BRONZE St Joseph's Catholic School

Refereeing Certificate Program (Sydney)

A program that supports its students to become more involved in understanding their sport and safety rules by participating in courses that provides them with a formal referee qualification.

FE Johnson Memorial Fellowship

Dr David Green, Australian Catholic University (Strathfield)

Musculoskeletal health in active young populations

Dr Greene reviewed more than 500 bone scans to identify markers of injury risk in young athletes by examining tibial and radial bone characteristics and nutrition levels. Dr Greene is one of the first researchers in Australia to look at bone strength using 3-dimensional bone-imaging technology.



Outstanding Education and Promotion of Safe Sport Practices (statewide)

GOLD Basketball NSW

Sports Safety Campaign (Homebush)

The implementation of an awareness campaign that involved improvements to injury reporting systems, the development of a new reporting form to ensure statewide consistency and the distribution of guidance material specific to the safe management of soft tissue and head injuries.

SILVER Royal Life Saving Society (NSW)

Aquatic Safety Training Academy (Seven Hills)

The new Academy hosts a range of water safety awareness activities including formal training and education programs, junior lifeguard clinics and Indigenous learn-to-swim programs.

BRONZE Football NSW

Hot Weather Policy (Glenwood)

Developed a statewide policy for recommended hot weather play stating cancellation temperatures of 32 degrees for children and 37 degrees for adults.

Outstanding Education and Promotion of Safe Sport Practices (school)

GOLD Merrylands High School

Keeping myself safe (Merrylands)

An education program for Year 8 students to identify and manage risks and learn how to make safe decisions that extend beyond safe participation in sport to include bike safety, beach safety and drug and alcohol awareness.

SILVER St Michael's Catholic Primary School

Keep cool, play by the rules (Nowra)

To encourage greater participation and safety in their rugby league programs the school worked with students to enhance their safe sports policy and tackle aggression and ensure all games of footy are played by the rules including playground rules. Students self-regulate games and are accountable for their behaviour.

Outstanding achievement in applied research by a research team

GOLD Youthsafe and Basketball NSW

Review of injury records and reporting (Sydney)

Analysis of injury data and injury recording systems to identify priority areas for injury prevention activities across the sport of basketball.

SILVER University of Wollongong, Biomechanics Research Laboratory

Breast elevation and compression decrease exercise-induced breast discomfort (Wollongong)

As part of a wider research project into the health and safety benefits of proper breast support while exercising, the University developed a patented sports bra design to decrease exercise induced breast discomfort based on research findings.

BRONZE Holy Spirit Catholic Primary School

5 must have rules (North Ryde)

Introduced a physical education program that helps simplify the rules of each of the sports in their curriculum to encourage safe participation in all sports. The '5 must have rules program' are simplified versions of the actual rules for different sports.

REGIONAL CLUBS ACKNOWLEDGED

The Pony Club Association of NSW won gold for their comprehensive technical checklists for horse riding activities that include campdrafting, showjumping and dressage.

Dragon Boats NSW, Valentine Eleebana Cricket Club and St Ives YMCA Gymnastics were recognised for projects to enhance safety and risk management in their respective sports.

Basketball NSW, The Royal Life Saving Society and Football NSW won awards for their commitment to education and promotion of safe sport practices.

SPORTING INJURIES COMMITTEE
MEMBER JASON HELLWIG AND NSW
RUGBY LEAGUE'S STUART STANTON



Be aware and be prepared

Some people might think the incident rate of asbestos-related diseases is decreasing, but sadly it's not. Last year 273 people died due to an asbestos-related disease they contracted while at work.

It is estimated that up to 20,000 Australians could be affected by asbestos-related disease in the next 20 years. This figure is multiplied when you consider the effect on families.

Although the dangers of unsafe handling of asbestos has been known for years, the long period between exposure and the initial onset of symptoms signalling a disease means the number of people with an asbestos-related condition is expected to increase every year until at least 2018.

The community needs to be aware of the dangers of asbestos and to ensure that asbestos remaining in the community is safely managed. That's why Asbestos Awareness Week and Asbestos Awareness Day are so important – they highlight the risks of being exposed to asbestos, its safe management, and the support services available for asbestos

disease sufferers and their families are highlighted.

An official launch of Asbestos Awareness Week was held in Sydney on Monday 21 November 2011 at the Bernie Banton Centre in Sydney.

The Hon Greg Pearce MLC, Minister for Finance and Services attended Asbestos Awareness Day on 25 November 2011 as part of Asbestos Awareness Week.

The launches were particularly poignant, as those assembled also heard from Carol Klintfeld, an asbestos-disease sufferer who most likely became exposed to asbestos many years ago while working for a design and renovation company.

Ms Klintfeld spoke with great courage of her personal journey from diagnosis - where she was told by her doctor that she had at best 150 days to live - to today, five years on and still defying the odds.

The community needs to be aware of the dangers of asbestos and ensure that asbestos remaining in the community is safely managed.



Did you know?

- **273 people died from an asbestos-related disease they contracted while at work in NSW.**
- **Up to 20,000 people could be affected across Australia by 2018**
- **Although asbestos has been banned in Australia since the 1980s, the rate of asbestos-related disease is still climbing.**
- **It can take more than 40 years in some cases between exposure and the onset of symptoms.**



Photos from top to bottom:

WORKCOVER'S PETER ROBINSON SPEAKS AT THE LAUNCH OF ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK IN SYDNEY

ASBESTOS-RELATED DISEASE SUFFERER CAROL KLINTFELD SPEAKS OF HER PERSONAL EXPERIENCES AT THE LAUNCH OF ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK.

GUESTS LISTEN TO ASBESTOS SUFFERER CAROL KLINTFELD TELL HER STORY.



Avoid exposure to asbestos by:

- **Visiting asbestosawareness.com.au for a host of important information, especially the types of the asbestos materials commonly found in homes.**
- **Being aware of asbestos materials in your surroundings.**
- **Not disturbing asbestos materials.**
- **Having a register of asbestos materials at your workplace**
- **Using asbestos removalists licensed by WorkCover to ensure asbestos is safely and properly removed.**



Heads of asbestos coordination authorities announced

The NSW Government has established an interdepartmental group and allocated \$1 million for new prevention programs to improve the management of asbestos.

Minister for Finance and Services Greg Pearce announced the establishment of the Heads of Asbestos Coordination Authorities (HACA) group in August to improve the way the Government manages, monitors and responds to asbestos.

"The NSW Government is committed to keeping people safe from asbestos-related diseases," Minister Pearce said.

"Chaired by the Chief Executive of WorkCover, Lisa Hunt, representatives include staff from the Office of Environment and Heritage, Department of Health, Division of Local Government, the Dust Diseases Board, Department of Planning and Infrastructure and a nominee of the Local Government and Shires Associations.

"The group has been tasked with developing a statewide Asbestos Plan and will oversee the development of a model asbestos policy and a support program to build the capacity of local councils to address asbestos issues.

"The group will also develop an extensive educational campaign to raise public awareness and help prevent the risk of exposure.

"The new group is backed by an additional \$1 million over four years for new prevention programs to secure the safe management of asbestos in NSW.

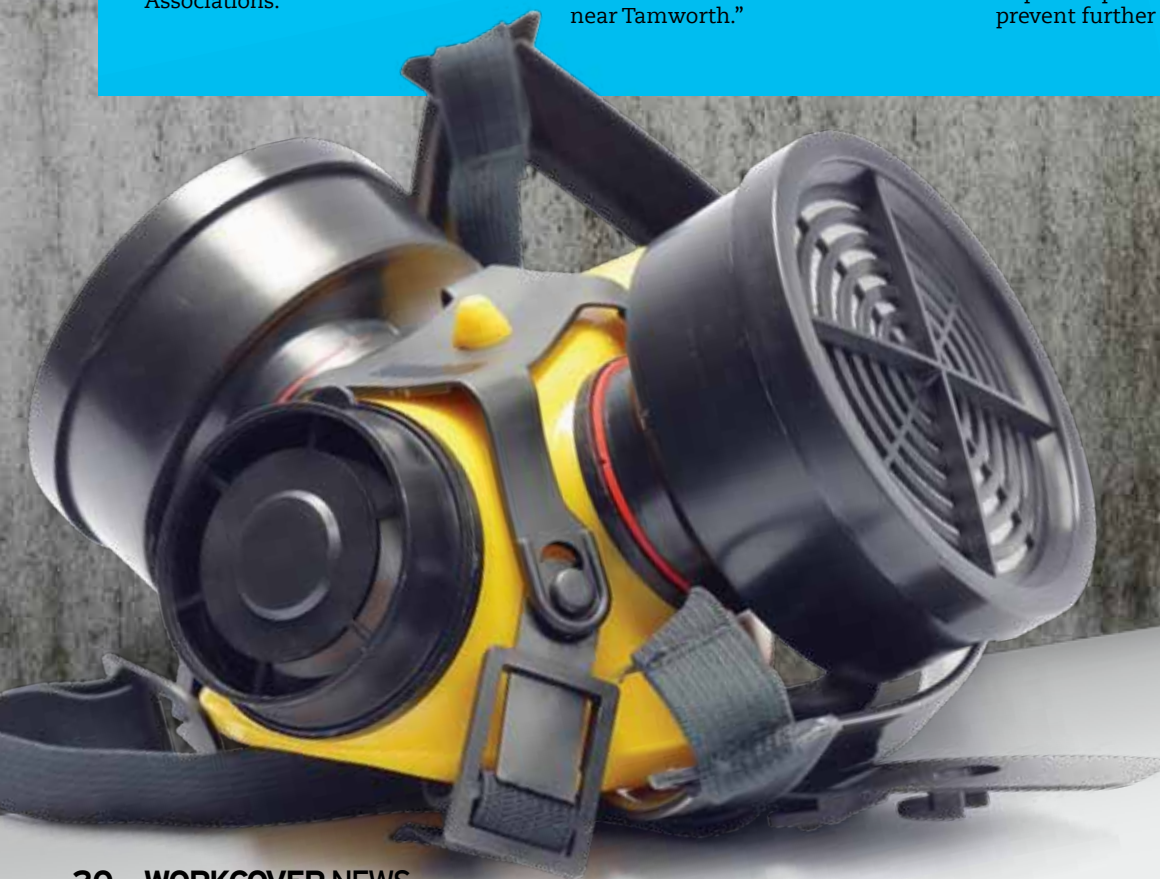
"A further \$6.3 million has been provided over three years for a risk mitigation program at the abandoned Woods Reef Mine site near Tamworth."

While the dangers of unsafely handling asbestos are now well known, last year the Dust Diseases Board reported 273 deaths due to an asbestos-related disease.

"Sadly, this number is expected to rise due to the considerable lapse of time between exposure and the onset of symptoms," Mr Pearce said.

"Last year the NSW Ombudsman highlighted a number of concerns with the level of coordination between intergovernmental agencies. This announcement directly addresses those issues.

"I cannot emphasise enough the importance of the safe removal and management of asbestos. Only through better coordination and improved public awareness can we prevent further exposure."



Workplace incidents and fatalities

IN JULY

- A 41-year-old worker died after he was crushed by sheets of glass he was loading onto a truck at Condell Park.
- An 80-year-old man who was a customer in an auto repair shop sustained fatal head injuries after his car jerked, knocking him to the ground and his head was struck by a wheel.
- A man fell 3-4 metres from a cherry picker while installing signage in Sydney's west.
- A male worker suffered spinal and head injuries after he fell two metres while attaching a tarp to a skip bin at a waste recycling centre at Mortdale.
- Two workers at Parkes suffered serious burns when a light inside the tank they were working in reportedly short-circuited, causing fumes inside the tank to ignite.

DURING AUGUST

- A 53-year-old worker sustained serious injuries after he fell around eight metres through a ceiling onto concrete floor. It's understood that the sheet metal worker was in the roof cavity of a manufacturing complex at Moorebank while cleaning ducting when he fell through a gyprock ceiling.
- A 24-year-old woman had three fingers from her right hand amputated after her hand became trapped in a juicing machine in a juice bar at Westfield Hurstville.
- A 43-year-old road worker was injured when he was run over by a heavy roller at road works in Beresfield

IN SEPTEMBER

- A 49-year-old male worker died and another was seriously injured in a forklift incident at the Patrick Port Logistics Transport and Depot Facility, Port Botany. The worker, who was a mechanic, and a forklift operator were conducting a service on a container forklift when a split-rim tyre exploded while it was being replaced, fatally injuring the mechanic and causing serious injuries to the forklift operator.
- Strong winds caused part of the roof at WIN stadium to become unstable. The stadium remained closed while associated demolition and construction works were undertaken with WorkCover inspectors overseeing that remediation work was conducted safely.
- WorkCover sent an inspector to the scene of an incident at Old Bar Fair on the NSW Mid North Coast where an ultra light plane crashed into an operating Ferris wheel to help ensure it is made safe before the operator puts it back into service

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.



2012 the year ahead

In eight months Australia's Paralympians will do battle with the world's best in the pursuit of excellence and glory.

In eight months, years of hard work and dedication will be put to the test in front of packed out stadiums and millions of television viewers. Some athletes will reach dizzying heights while others will deliver the worst performance of their lives. Triumph, joy, pride, excitement and adrenaline will be mixed with controversy, pressure, disappointment and tears. The London 2012 Paralympic Games will be a showcase of emotion and the greatest sporting competition the Paralympic movement has ever seen. And Australia is getting ready.

In August next year, the Australian Paralympic Committee (APC) will send Australia's largest ever team to an overseas Paralympic Games, with approximately 170 athletes and 135 staff across 13 sports. Australia's athletes will face the toughest competition ever, with many Beijing gold medallists forced to push above and beyond just to be in medal contention in London.

Jason Hellwig, Chef de Mission of the 2012 Australian Paralympic Team, says the enormous level of growth in Paralympic sport is changing the landscape of the medal tally's top 10 and Australia is not immune.

"Competition will be red hot in London and the one thing I really do worry about is people not understanding just how difficult it's going to be to win medals, especially gold medals," said Hellwig.

"We've got emerging countries like Brazil and many other South American countries, Ukraine, Germany and Great Britain, not to mention the likes of China, USA and Russia all pouring resources into their Paralympic sports

and getting the results. The top five and top 10 places on the medal tally will be hard fought for."

As athletes continue to push themselves to the limits, the level of public, media and commercial interest in international Paralympic sport also continues to grow.

"People like to watch good sport and good entertainment and Paralympic sport delivers that," said Hellwig.

"There's an X-factor, a back story to Paralympic sport that is really compelling. It has characteristics that people like and don't often see in sport any more. The market's there, it's only a matter of time before the broadcasters and the commercials realise that and get their head around the fact that the Paralympics is a genuinely emerging force across the world.

To remain competitive, the APC relies on government funding, commercial sponsorship and the generous donations of Australians. The cost of sending a successful Team to a Paralympic Games has risen from \$3.5 million in Beijing to \$7.8 million in London with funds for the team currently sitting on \$5.8 million. Financially, Australia is not yet ready. "Australians are proud of our Paralympians, want to see them achieve and are willing to financially help them to do so. We hope this will continue into next year," said Hellwig.

WorkCover NSW is a major partner of the APC and supports the Paralympic movement through the WorkCover NSW Speakers Program and the Scholarship Program.

WorkCover sponsors six athletes who despite suffering permanent

disabilities in the workplace have gone on to achieve outstanding sporting success. The Speakers Program aims to raise awareness about the importance of workplace safety while helping these athletes to realise their dreams.

These athletes are available to share their stories and regularly appear at businesses, organisations, schools, conferences, seminars and other workplace events to promote workplace safety. They are excellent examples of people who have returned to work and returned to life after a workplace incident with the support of their family, friends, employers, medical rehabilitation specialists, the Australian Paralympic Committee and WorkCover.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WORKCOVER.NSW.GOV.AU**

WorkCover also provides four development scholarships as financial support to NSW based Paralympians and aspiring Paralympians to achieve their full potential.

On August 29, the Paralympic Games Opening Ceremony in London will signal the start of 11 days of elite competition involving more than 4,200 athletes from 150 countries across 20 sports.

The London 2012 Paralympic Games begin 29 August and run through until 9 September, 2012.

Help our athletes get to the 2012 Paralympic Games by making a donation. Visit www.paralympic.org.au/fundraising-and-donations/ donate to donate now.

WorkCover sponsored
adaptive rower Ben Houlison
in competition



It's a big year ahead but an exciting one. The Paralympic Games is what Paralympic sport is all about and I can't wait to share it with Australia

JASON HELLWIG

Chef de Mission of the 2012
Australian Paralympic Team,

WorkCover
sponsored
Paralympian
Liesl Tesch
in action



LONDON 2012 PARALYMPIC GAMES BY THE NUMBERS

305

members of the 2012
Australian Paralympic Team

4,200

athletes expected to compete in London

80

countries will broadcast the Games live

3.8

billion viewers expected worldwide

7.8

million dollars is needed to send the
Australian Team to London

14

million Australians tuned in to watch
the Beijing Games in 2008

WorkCover alliance with StateCover and the Local Government and Shires Association

Following approaches to both StateCover and the Local Government and Shires Association by WorkCover, the three agencies agreed to combine resources to deliver a series of work health and safety legislation (WHSL) workshops to local government throughout NSW.

A joint agency planning task force was established to develop a workshop model that would target local government with case studies being developed from real life scenarios faced by the diversity of operations typically found in the sector.

As a result, in partnership with StateCover and the Local Government and Shires Association, WorkCover was able to deliver a series of workshops from August to October, in 14 separate locations across the state. The workshops targeted mayors, elected members, general managers and general work health and safety decision makers within local government including directors, managers, supervisors, OHS/WC/human resources professionals, workers and OHS committee members.

The workshops were entirely funded by StateCover and proved to be extremely

successful with sessions being held at Coffs Harbour, Ballina, Tamworth, Hexham, Moree, Orange, Kiama, Dubbo, Wagga Wagga, Griffith and Cobar and three very large forums held in Sydney, Holroyd and Ryde.

A total of 130 Councils and 840 people attended the events. Nearly 80 per cent of attendees indicated that the events gave them a good to very good understanding of WHS legislation and the changes being implemented.

This success would not have been achieved without the great cooperation and partnership arrangement between StateCover, the Local Government and Shires Association and WorkCover. The successful partnership represents a milestone in bringing the parties together with both StateCover and the LGSA keen to pursue a range of future partnering projects.

WORKSHOP SESSIONS:

- Coffs Harbour
- Ballina
- Tamworth
- Hexham
- Moree
- Orange
- Kiama
- Dubbo
- Wagga Wagga
- Griffith
- Cobar
- Sydney
- Holroyd
- Ryde



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. Control measures listed below are not comprehensive – visit the WorkCover website for full details.

WC03425

PREVENTING ELECTRIC SHOCKS WHEN USING CHAFING DISHES

The release of this alert follows an incident at a hotel involving a worker who received an electric shock from a chafing dish. The chafing dish was a stainless steel bowl that had an electrical element attached to its bottom, which included a cord and a thermostat.

The cord was plugged into a power point that was located under a buffet and workers were required to lift the chafing dish off the buffet to adjust its thermostat. When this was done on one occasion, the worker accidentally placed the chafing dish's electrical element on top of a part of the cord, which melted the cord's insulation. When the worker touched the chafing dish again, they received an electric shock.

WC03507

WORKING ON VEHICLES WITH AIR-SUSPENSION SYSTEMS

This alert outlines the potential for crush injuries when working on vehicles with air-suspension systems. An apprentice mechanic, working underneath a bus, received crush injuries when a leak in the air-suspension system caused the bus to lower unexpectedly. The young worker was replacing a steering dampener, and had performed this task previously using a maintenance pit. However on this occasion, the pit was unavailable.

In an attempt to free the trapped apprentice, other workers activated the ignition, which initially caused the bus to lower further before raising automatically. Initial enquiries indicated the bus had an air-suspension system that lets the bus lower when air is released and that supports were not used to prevent the bus lowering.

The task had been performed from the maintenance pit on previous occasions, but the apprentice and other workers may have been unfamiliar with safe work methods required when the pit was not used.

WC03441

TREE FELLING

This safety alert highlights the dangers of manual tree felling and provides information on safer timber harvesting practices.

Since July 2001, 22 workers have been fatally injured in tree felling operations. Fifteen of these fatalities occurred during manual tree felling operations. Three deaths have also been attributed to mechanical harvesting operations. This safety alert follows two recent incidents where timber workers were struck and fatally injured by falling branches or nearby saplings while conducting manual tree felling operations.

Because these fatalities occurred on private property during native hardwood harvesting operations, this alert is specifically directed at private property forest harvesting operators. However, because it highlights the potential risks of manual tree felling and mechanical harvesting operations in general, the information is relevant to Forests NSW hardwood harvesting operations.

WC03472

CRANE SAFETY ON RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION SITES

This alert reminds employers and those who control railway construction sites to keep workers clear of crane loads that are under tension. The alert follows an incident where one worker died and four were injured while they were replacing railway tracks and concrete sleepers with a pre-assembled switch track panel. It appears rails sprang from the partially suspended panel striking the workers.

Although the switch track panel load was touching the ground at the time of the incident, most of its weight was suspended by a mobile crane. When a number of the clips were removed the rails sprang from the panel and struck nearby workers.

CORRECTION

There was an error in the published safety controls listed for switchloading (WC03350) in edition 85 of WorkCover News. Please refer to the correct safety controls for switchloading when transferring flammable liquids at workcover.nsw.gov.au, publication number WC03350.



Prosecutions

Work health and safety regulation in the workplace has evolved from the simple inspection regime of the early 20th century, to now incorporate a variety of information, advice and enforcement strategies. As a modern regulator WorkCover embraces these strategies as effective measures to secure compliance with legislative obligations.

As part of its role, WorkCover prosecutes businesses or individuals who breach work health and safety laws. However, this generally only occurs in the most serious incidents, and where a deterrence factor is considered necessary given relevant public interest considerations.

In the past three months, WorkCover has successfully prosecuted a number of cases involving death or serious injury. These included:

- A maritime construction company was fined \$130,000 after a man was crushed to death by heavy machinery while trying to transport a boat from Rozelle.
- A Western Sydney manufacturing company and its director were fined a total of \$127,400 after a high powered industrial blender was turned on with a man still inside it causing fatal injuries.
- Four companies and a director were fined \$452,750 after a worker had his left arm severed while working on a rail construction project at Sandgate, in the Hunter Valley.
- A heavy-duty labour and machinery hire company was fined \$125,000 after a ramp on one of the company's industrial trucks collapsed in Kiama severely injuring a 42-year-old worker who was left a paraplegic.
- An appeal lodged against an \$185,000 fine and conviction following the death of a Prestons woman crushed in Mascot, was dismissed.

WorkCover has also prosecuted a number of cases of fraud, including:

- A 48-year-old woman was fined \$7,500 and ordered to repay \$25,000 in compensation after making false claims about an alleged injury.
- A 49-year-old man was found guilty of workers compensation fraud, fined \$9,900 and ordered to repay more than \$8,000 after a WorkCover investigation found he was hiding income from a second job and forging medical receipts.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WORKCOVER'S SUCCESSFUL PROSECUTIONS GO TO WORKCOVER.NSW.GOV.AU



WHERE DO YOU GO IF YOU WANT TO...

- ✓ Find what parts of the **new safety laws** apply to your business?
- ✓ Be able to identify any **gaps in your safety system** arrangements?
- ✓ Access **templates on systems, procedures and other documentation** to help you bridge those gaps?
- ✓ **Save thousands** in consultancy fees?



WHS | ACT **HELP**
the name says it all

www.whsacthelp.net.au

The website dedicated to giving Australian businesses WHS Act support.

At **WHS Act HELP** you can search by:

The **Series** List

The standard requirements for customary business classes like **Construction, Retail, Manufacturing, Transport, Hospitality** and many more.

The **Business Assessment** Tool

For looking at specific aspects of your workplace, like **forklifts, noise management, importing, remote work** etc.

The **Fast Find** Index

With **over 2,300 industry listings**, you will find how the WHS Act applies to your operation.

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- * Risk Assessments
- * Safety Management Systems



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Combined Training & Consulting Pty Ltd.

Phone: (02) 9979 7888
www.ctcsafety.com.au



Work safe. Home safe. on Facebook provides Australian workplace health and safety regulators, employers, workers and their families with an online space where they can share their ideas and reasons for staying safe at work.

Visit the WorkCover Facebook site:
www.facebook.com/worksafe.homesafe



Creating Innovation in Safety and Injury Management

Mend Services is a specialist provider of Injury Management, Return to Work, Training Services & OHS. Our team are specifically trained for heavy industries such as construction, building, mining, manufacturing and health.

Products and services with Mend:

- Pre-employment assessments and health assessments.
- Ability pain management coaching for injured workers to improve outcomes with musculoskeletal and psychological injuries (research supports objective gains in return to work outcomes with difficult cases).
- OHS inspections, risk assessments, auditing and systems development.
- Various on site training packages and online courses (in partnership).
- RTW coordinator services utilising our unique system including site incident management, return to work services, company specific reports and results in reduction in lost time injuries.
- Psychological treatment services including trauma debriefing, employment assistance program (EAP) and mediation.
- Workplace rehabilitation with an evidenced based approach.

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AT ONE OF THESE
CONVENIENT
LOCATIONS

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F: (02) 6681 6100
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BALLINA 2478

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CHATSWOOD 2067
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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
Post: PO Box 242
GOULBURN 2580

GRIFFITH

Suites G06 & G07
Government Office Block
104-110 Banna Avenue,
GRIFFITH 2680
P: (02) 6962 8900
F: (02) 6964 1738

HURSTVILLE

Level 2, 12 Butler Road,
HURSTVILLE 2220
P: (02) 9598 3366
F: (02) 9585 0261

LIVERPOOL

Level 3, 33 Moore Street,
LIVERPOOL 2170
P: (02) 9827 8600
F: (02) 9824 0348
Post: PO Box 959
LIVERPOOL 1871

MAITLAND

19 Mitchell Drive,
GREEN HILLS 2323
P: (02) 4931 6800
F: (02) 9287 4796
Post: PO Box 2360
GREEN HILLS 2323

NARRABRI

Suite 6, Level 1,
100 Maitland Street,
NARRABRI 2390
P: (02) 6792 8720
F: (02) 6792 3532
Post: PO Box 134
NARRABRI 2390

NOWRA

Level 1, 5 O'Keefe Avenue,
NOWRA 2541
P: (02) 4428 6700
F: (02) 4422 4997
Post: PO Box 1597
NOWRA 2541

ORANGE

74 McNamara Street,
ORANGE 2800
P: (02) 6392 7600
F: (02) 6362 8820
Post: PO Box 1056
ORANGE 2800

PARRAMATTA

Level 4, 128 Marsden
Street,
PARRAMATTA 2150
P: (02) 9841 8550
F: (02) 9891 1474

PORT MACQUARIE

Suite 5, 53 Lord Street,
PORT MACQUARIE 2444
P: (02) 6588 7000
F: (02) 6584 1788
Post: PO Box 1646
PORT MACQUARIE 2444

TAMWORTH

126 Marius Street,
TAMWORTH 2340
P: (02) 6767 2500
F: (02) 6766 4972
Post: PO Box 396
TAMWORTH 2340

TWEED HEADS

Units 25 & 26,
Corporate House
8 Corporation Circuit,
TWEED HEADS SOUTH
2486
P: (07) 5506 1800
F: (07) 5524 6300
Post: PO Box 3214DC
TWEED HEADS SOUTH
2486

WAGGA WAGGA

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