

NATIONAL HOSPITAL INTERVENTION AND COMPLIANCE CAMPAIGN



Preventing slip, trip &
manual task injuries



MEDIA RELEASE

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National campaign to reduce hospital worker injuries

A national campaign aimed at reducing the number of slip, trip and manual task injuries sustained by non-clinical hospital workers is now underway.

Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities Chair, John Watson, said the health and community services industry is a key contributor to the high levels of slip, trip and manual task injuries in Australia.

"Nationally, 17,400 compensation claims were made by workers in the health and community services industry during 2004–2005," Mr Watson said.

"The majority of the injuries sustained by these workers were caused by muscular stress due to manual tasks or repetitive movement and falls and trips," he said.

Mr Watson said the *Safe Steps—National Hospital Intervention and Compliance Campaign* focuses on helping non clinical workplaces in the health and community services industry to increase awareness of and manage slip, trip and manual task risks.

"The campaign, led by Tasmania, has been developed by occupational health and safety authorities throughout Australia and will involve workplace health and safety inspectors auditing hospitals nationally, focusing on the control of manual task and slip and trip risks.

"Non clinical hospital workers include those performing kitchen, laundrette and clinical sterilisation duties.

"During the hospital audits, workplace inspectors will also provide practical OHS guidance and information," Mr Watson said.

At the same time as the audits, the Office of the Australian Safety and Compensation Council will conduct an employee survey to assess the effectiveness of the audit and the provision of information.

The *Safe Steps* safety audits will run from April to June with results expected by the end of 2008.

For more information about the *Safe Steps* campaign, log on to the Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities (HWSA) website at http://www.hwsa.org.au/activities/activities-projects_and_current_campaigns.aspx

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