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Campaign to improve safety for workers in hospitality industry

Workplace safety authorities across Australia have launched a national workplace safety campaign targeted at new and young workers in the hospitality industry.

The Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities (HWSA) will develop nationally consistent guidance material to help employers provide safer workplaces and better understand their obligations to new and young workers.

HWSA Chairman, John Watson, said the campaign was designed to increase the awareness of new workers and those under 25, about their workplace health and safety rights and responsibilities.

“Often new workers, although experienced, may lack familiarity with the workplace, receive inadequate induction and training or have insufficient OHS representation and as a result young workers may be vulnerable with a higher risk of injury,” Mr Watson said.

“Inexperience and in some cases a reluctance to speak up or ask questions, can increase the risk of injury,” he said.

The guidance material will provide practical information on a range of workplace health and safety issues for new and young workers including:

- maintenance of a hazard free working environment
- adequate provision of information, instruction and training
- adequate supervision
- consultation and ongoing communication about OHS issues

As part of the targeted intervention program, workplace safety inspectors and advisory officers will visit about 200 workplaces across Australia to provide practical advice and assistance about safety requirements specific to new and young workers,” Mr Watson said.

“The national campaign is another example of the States working together to harmonise key areas of workplace safety to reduce injuries and improve outcomes for employers and workers across the board,” he said.

Further information about keeping new and young workers safe is available from the website workplace safety authority in your state.

Information about the campaign is available from www.hwsa.org.au