



# MEDIA RELEASE

13 November 2007

## **Three new national occupational health and safety campaigns announced**

Australian and New Zealand Workplace Safety Authorities met in Hobart on 9 November 2007 to discuss the progress of a range of initiatives to further Occupational Health and Safety management in Australian workplaces.

The Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities (HWSA) brings together senior executives from Australian Commonwealth, State and Territory workplace safety authorities to progress national consistency, harmonisation and best practice in occupational health and safety.

The Chair of HWSA, Mr John Watson, reported that HWSA has agreed on three new national campaigns that will be conducted by Australia's OHS authorities in 2008/09. The campaigns will target: manual handling and moving objects in the Retail Wholesale Transport and Storage industry; new and young workers in the Hospitality and Service industries; and issues associated with violence in the Healthcare industry.

Mr Watson said that the new HWSA website will soon go live and will provide information about the activities of HWSA including copies of completed national campaign reports.

"This website will provide a great opportunity for industry to review the results of campaigns conducted by HWSA."

HWSA members received updates on HWSA's current campaigns and projects including the Manual Handling in the Manufacturing Industry, Guarding of Machinery in the Manufacturing Industry and the Manual Handling and Slips and Trips in Hospitals, which focuses on prevention strategies to minimise risks created by common hazards found in hospitals. More details about these campaigns will be available on the HWSA website in the near future.

The HWSA Small Business Network will be undertaking a project to develop a national set of OHS requirements for franchise sector agreements in close consultation with the Franchise Council of Australia.

The HWSA Construction Implementation Working Group will be working to identify and overcome jurisdictional obstructions to the implementation of national standards and codes of practice. The group will initially consider the following:

- National Construction Standard;
- National Code of Practice for Induction for Construction Work;
- National Code of Practice for the Prevention of Falls in General Construction;
- National Code of Practice for the Prevention of Falls in Housing Construction; and
- National Code of Practice for the Safe Handling of Tilt-up Wall Panels and Concrete Elements in Building Construction.

"The meeting received information on two other national safety campaigns, Large Mobile Plant in Civil Construction and Labour Hire in the Food Industry. These campaigns have been successfully completed and the campaign final reports will be available on the HWSA website once it goes live" Mr Watson said.

**Media Contact: John Kirby or Wendy McKenzie (02) 4321 5474 or 0413 186 799**