



# MEDIA RELEASE

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## **Workplace safety authorities focus on nationally consistent injury prevention campaigns**

Australian and New Zealand workplace safety authorities met in Brisbane on August 9 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 Territories and New Zealand workplace safety authorities to progress national consistency, harmonisation and best practice in occupational health and safety.

Initiatives focus on identified high risk areas including preventing injuries from falls, guarding of machinery used in manufacturing, promoting strategies for improving safety with amusement rides, and preventing injuries from manual handling.

HWSA acting Chair, Judy Bertram, said that workplace safety inspectors from around Australia have recently attended training on the national amusement ride audit tool which has been developed by HWSA.

"The training has resulted in a nationally consistent approach to the auditing, verification and monitoring of amusement rides as they move from State to State for the Summer Show circuit.

"Two national safety campaigns, **Large Mobile Plant in Civil Construction** and **Labour Hire in the Food Industry** have been successfully completed and the outcomes of these campaigns will be publicly available over the coming weeks," Ms Bertram said.

"The **Large Mobile Plant in Civil Construction** campaign focused on improving the safety of people working around large moving plant. Inspectors visited over 600 construction sites across Australia as part of the campaign.

"As part of the campaign inspector visits assessed the level of safety for workers and pedestrians on civil construction sites, with a focus on preventing incidents through information provision and advice," she said.

"The **Labour Hire in the Food Industry** national campaign focused on developing nationally consistent guidance material to assist labour hire agencies and host employers manage the safety of on-hired workers.

"Information sessions and workplace visits by Inspectors were conducted to improve workplace safety for on-hired workers in the food manufacturing industry and the campaign received a positive response from employers and labour hire agencies contributed to the success of the project," Ms Bertram said.

"The **Manual Handling in the Manufacturing Industry** campaign is continuing to focus on reducing injuries resulting from heavy lifting, repetitive tasks and sustained awkward posture.

"As part of the project, jurisdictions conducted telephone surveys of employers, followed by a series of educational workshops, that provided practical guidance about how to prevent the types of manual handling injuries identified through surveys and workplace visits," she said.

“Progress on the new campaign approved at the last HWSA meeting, the **Guarding of Machinery in the Manufacturing Industry** is continuing, with development of an audit tool and evaluation strategies nearing completion.

“Under this campaign high-risk sub-sectors of the manufacturing industry will be identified and nationally consistent guidance material developed to assist industry identify and manage risks associated with operating machinery in manufacturing,” Ms Bertram said.

A new campaign under development by HWSA is **Manual Handling and Slips and Trips in Hospitals**, which focuses on prevention strategies to minimise risks created by common hazards found in hospitals.

HWSA members are committed to developing nationally consistent approach to improve workplace safety processes and reduce costs for businesses, while maintaining high safety standards.

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