



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities meet in Brisbane

27 May 2008

Australian and New Zealand Workplace Safety Authorities met in Brisbane last week to discuss the progress of a range of initiatives to further coordinate occupational health and safety management across 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.

HWSA Chair, John Watson, said members received updates on current campaigns and projects including the *Prevention of Falls in General Construction*, which finalised its field intervention phase in March, with results currently being analysed.

"The *Guarding of Machinery in Manufacturing* project has delivered harmonised guidance material *Machinery and Equipment Safety – An Introduction*, to be used in New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia, with South Australia working towards its implementation," Mr Watson said.

"As part of this campaign, workplace inspections are underway with results to be evaluated by the end of June 2008.

"The *National Action Plan for High Risk Plant* campaign has commenced and will focus on elevated work platforms, with the aim of developing a design registration checklist, compliance audit tool and inspector training package.

"HWSA members discussed and agreed that an Australian and New Zealand OHS Inspectorate Forum would be held annually, with the next forum expected to be held in November 2008 in Victoria," he said.

Mr Watson said the HWSA *National Workplace Inspector Training and Development Reference Group* are also working closely with inspectors across all jurisdictions to progress a range of initiatives to progress OHS harmonisation.

More information on the safety initiatives of the Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities can be found on the website at [www.hwsa.org.au](http://www.hwsa.org.au)

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