



MEDIA RELEASE

Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities meet in Sydney

20 October 2009

The Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities (HWSA) met in Sydney on 14 October 2009 to discuss the progress of a range of initiatives to further occupational health and safety management across Australian and New Zealand workplaces.

Members considered a number of new campaigns aimed at improving occupational health and safety and agreed on priority areas for 2010 -11. The purpose of HWSA campaigns is to raise awareness of a particular occupational health and safety issue or hazard in a particular industry.

HWSA agreed to conduct the following two campaigns in 2010:

- Safe supply of plant with a focus on imported machinery
- Worker safety on or near public roads.

Members noted the progress of the 2009 campaigns, which are designed to improve awareness and compliance in a number of industries. The campaigns for 2009 include *Construction Scaffolding, Manual Tasks and Moving Objects in the Retail and Wholesale and Transport and Storage Industries* and *Managing Aggressive Behaviour in Healthcare*.

The development of a national instrument for the assessment of high risk work licensing was also discussed. This initiative is part of HWSA's commitment to progress national consistency, harmonisation and best practice in occupational health and safety.

HWSA discussed licensing arrangements for asbestos removalists and training for removalists and auditors, with a view of developing a national approach as part of the harmonisation process.

HWSA brings together senior executives from Australian Commonwealth, State and Territory workplace safety authorities, and New Zealand, to progress national consistency, harmonisation and best practice in occupational health and safety.

Information on projects and initiatives can be accessed on the web at www.hwsa.org.au.

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