



Summary of meeting – 24 & 25 June 2010

Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities meet in Darwin

24 & 25 June 2010

The Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities (HWSA) met in Darwin on 24 & 25 June 2010 to discuss the progress of a range of initiatives to facilitate occupational health and safety management across Australian and New Zealand workplaces. Below is a summary of the key issues discussed at the meeting.

Members were provided with an update on the progress of campaigns being undertaken by sub-groups of HWSA. These campaigns range from Constructions-Falls-Scaffolding; Quad Bike (All Terrain Vehicles); Forklift Safety in Grocery Wholesale and Fruit and Vegetable Whole Industries; Worker Safety On or Near Public Roads. Detailed progress reports on each of these campaigns can be found on the HWSA website at www.HWSA.org.au.

Further work has been progressed on the Regulators' Harmonisation Project (formally known as the OHS Regulators in Harmony Project) to support jurisdictions and Inspectors prepare for the implementation of the new work health and safety legislation. The main focus of discussion at this meeting centered on the development and/or availability of relevant guidance material. Appropriate guidance material will be an essential tool for the implementation of Work Health & Safety legislation.

The HWSA National Workplace Inspectorate Training and Development Reference Group are working with the Regulators in Harmonisation Project to ensure timelines are met for the training and development of Inspectors.

HWSA members agreed to the establishment of two new sub-groups of HWSA, these being a group to coordinate an education and awareness campaign around the use of dog and cheater bars in the trucking industry and an information network for female Inspectors.

A number of asbestos related topics were discussed, including imported asbestos products, asbestos licensing training and government agency management and enforcement of asbestos related incidents. Members agreed to work together to share best practice across the jurisdictions.

It is anticipated that the next HWSA meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2010 OHS Inspectors Forum on 15 September 2010.