

Workplace Health and Safety Board Report 2007–08

The Workplace Health and Safety Board is established under Section 44 of the *Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995* to give advice and make recommendations to the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations regarding policies, strategies, allocation of resources, and legislative arrangements for workplace health and safety.

Through the board, key industry representatives work collaboratively to assist WHSQ in developing workplace health and safety strategies, legislation and advice.

Membership

The board is comprised of 13 members representing employer and worker associations and experts. Members are selected by the Minister for their knowledge and experience in workplace health and safety.

Members were appointed to the board for a three year term from 1 January 2008.

During the year, resignations were received from Ms Grace Grace from the Queensland Council of Unions, Mr Garry Ryan from the Australian Workers' Union and Ms Susannah McAuliffe from the National Retail Association. There are currently two vacancies on the board. Current membership is as follows:

Chair

Mr Vince O'Rourke

Representing employers

Mr John Crittall
Director, Construction Division, Queensland Master Builders Association

Ms Wendy Erhart
Co-Owner, Withcott Seedlings

Mr Peter Garske
Chief Executive Officer, Queensland Trucking Association

Representing workers

Mr Glenn Goyen
Executive Officer, Safework Queensland

Mr Wallace Trohear
Representing the CFMEU Construction Division

Ms Amanda Richards
Assistant General Secretary
Queensland Council of Unions

Mr Tom Jeffers
Queensland Branch President and Southern District Secretary, Australian Workers' Union

Other members

Ms Kelli Stallard
Partner, Dibbs Abbott Stillman Lawyers

Mr Tony Hawkins
Chief Executive Officer, WorkCover Queensland

Meetings

The board formally met five times during 2007–08.

Members also participated on a number of working parties and sub-committees including:

- Review of WHS Enforcement and Prosecution Framework
- Review into Alcohol and Drug Testing at Work.

The board's work plan

The Board has developed a work plan for 2008–10 that has a focus on building a culture of safety leadership in Queensland workplaces.

The work plan includes strategies which facilitate:

- a Zero Harm@Work focus, an important initiative demonstrating the board's leadership in workplace health and safety in Queensland
- the development of joint initiatives between the department and WorkCover to assist companies in injury prevention and injury management through some specific intervention strategies
- forging strategic alliances with appropriate government agencies and industry organisations to better communicate and leverage safety messages
- overseeing the implementation of the Industry Action Plans 2008–10.

Round table meetings with the Minister

A key action item of the board's work plan for 2007–08 was to hold a number of round table meetings where CEOs from targeted industry groups met with the Minister and senior departmental officers to discuss significant workplace health and safety issues in these sectors. Meetings were held

with representatives of the manufacturing and transport sectors.

Industry leaders' forum

The board held a very successful luncheon at the Marriott Hotel in September 2007 attended by more than 150 CEOs and senior managers. The event focused on building workplace health and safety leadership and culture in the workplace.

Mr John Prescott, Chairman of QR and former CEO of BHP Billiton addressed the group, sharing his experience and insights for driving business growth and organisational change focusing on leadership to achieve a culture of health and safety in the workplace.

Industry Sector Standing Committees

The board is supported by six industry sector standing committees:

- Construction Industry Sector Standing Committee
- Health and Community Services Industry Sector Standing Committee
- Manufacturing Industry Sector Standing Committee
- Retail and Wholesale Industry Sector Standing Committee
- Rural Industry Sector Standing Committee
- Transport and Storage Industry Sector Standing Committee

The standing committees provide advice and make recommendations to the board about workplace health and safety in the specific sectors.

During the year the committees focused on the implementation of the Industry Action Plans 2008-10 for their respective industry sectors.