



# Transport and Storage Industry Workplace Health and Safety Summit

## Summit summary June 2009

I would like to personally thank you all for showing a strong commitment to achieving our joint vision for a safer transport and storage industry by attending the Safety Summit – *Your industry, your safety: delivering in the supply chain.*

I would also like to thank the Parliamentary Secretary for Industrial Relations, Mr Simon Finn MP for attending and providing his support on the government's behalf. This demonstrated the government's commitment to developing practical industry solutions.

The Safety Summit's aim was to listen to you and draw from your practical experiences, so we can all learn and begin developing very specific solutions to the most common problems.

In 2007-08 the Queensland transport and storage industry had 22.4 serious injury claims per 1000 employees. That is above the all industries average of 14.9. Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) estimated that in 2005-06 the average social and economic cost of a single workplace injury was over \$33,300. With inflation the cost would now be almost \$40,000. It makes sense to invest in workers' health and safety.

The Safety Summit highlighted the need for industry to work together in building practical solutions to assist all members of the supply chain – manufacturing, retail and wholesale, and transport and storage industries – to manage the risks associated with musculoskeletal disorders and other serious injuries in the workplace.

Some common themes emerged throughout the Safety Summit discussions. Professor Ian Johnston AM, for instance highlighted the importance of creating a 'zero harm' climate in the workplace through safe systems of design and operation, which in turn provide the foundations for a cultural change in behaviours and attitudes.

Our ultimate aim is to change the culture of the industry by focussing attention on eliminating health and safety risks, where possible, and controlling remaining risks through higher order controls, such as designing safe work systems and work processes. We will build a culture where everyone in the supply chain supports a healthy and safe industry.

There were some very real experiences shared at the Safety Summit and I thank Bill Martin in particular for courageously sharing his personal story. It is experiences like these which reinforce the purpose of coming together and identifying solutions to ensure the safety and welfare of everyone in the supply chain, because after all the most important reason for making your workplace safe is not at work at all.

The solutions sessions were a great opportunity for you to share your ideas and as a group identify key issues, priorities and practical solutions for our industry. In particular musculoskeletal disorders are our biggest challenge, followed by slips, trips and falls and being hit by moving objects. Below is a summary of some of the issues, barriers and solutions from each of the sessions.

**Session 1: Take a load off – manual tasks in loading and unloading** discussed solutions for managing manual tasks risks associated with loading and unloading vehicles. Issues covered included the risk of musculoskeletal disorders from handling and securing loads and vehicle access.

The major barriers to controlling manual tasks risks identified included:

- supply chain issues including communication, load characteristics and risk control at sites
- safety culture including limited awareness of the risks posed by manual tasks and implementation of manual tasks safety management systems.

The proposed solutions identified:

- improving communication in the supply chain (managing customer and supplier relationships, risk assessing customer sites, information sharing at industry level)
- incorporating manual tasks information on packaging (developing standards).

**Session 2: Chain reactions – risks, responsibilities and safety systems in the supply chain** discussed solutions for managing supply chain and safety system interactions. Topics such as fitness to drive, on and off road issues, safety management systems and barriers to controlling safety risks were raised.

Three priority issues identified were lack of:

- consistency in safety standards across industry
- systemic safety management in the workplace and with client and contract workplaces
- compliance and enforcement.

The proposed solutions identified included:

- (short term) running sessions to encourage staff that it's ok to speak up
- (medium to long term) lobbying governments and top tier players to use their influence
- increasing awareness and education programs across industry to develop career paths.

**Session 3: Trucks in transit – working in and around trucks** discussed solutions for improving safety behaviour. The topics covered included traffic management, forklifts, safety at customer sites and barriers to controlling safety risks.

The priority issues raised included:

- conducting site audits at delivery points
- increasing education/customer awareness
- encouraging employer support
- accessing to lifting devices
- introducing communication/training at a younger age
- increasing support at the customer end.

The proposed solutions identified included:

- better communication
- consistency in the implementation of fines and enforcement
- more training.

With strong outcomes such as these, it is obvious that the Safety Summit was a big step in the right direction to ensuring the highest health and safety

standards are implemented across the supply chain.

### **The road ahead**

It is now up to all of us, industry and government, to commit to continue working together to ensure we implement the ideas and outcomes of this summit.

The Transport and Storage Industry Sector Standing Committee and WHSQ are committed to continuing to work with industry to develop safety solutions.

WHSQ will provide a report of the main issues and solutions raised at the Safety Summit. The report will nominate the priority solutions to be developed by industry and government.

The report will also provide an opportunity for industry to share the summit outcomes in their own workplaces. The challenge is for every attendee to share this report and spread the word across industry. As highlighted at the Safety Summit, improving communication and sharing information and ideas is vital to further developing safety solutions and best practice safety management systems for the benefit of the industry.

### **Share your ideas**

Many of you mentioned that you already had examples of good solutions to problems in your workplace. We would like to hear about these and, where appropriate, share them across the industry. Send an email with a description of the problem and your practical solution to [industrystrategyunit@deir.qld.gov.au](mailto:industrystrategyunit@deir.qld.gov.au). If you have any photos of your solution in practice send them through. It's only through knowledge sharing that the industry as a whole can learn and improve our health and safety performance.

Once again, thank you for your attendance at the summit and I look forward to working with you all in the future.

### **Peter Garske**

Chair,  
Workplace Health and Safety Queensland  
Transport and Storage Industry Sector Standing Committee

For more information visit [www.worksafe.qld.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au) or call the Workplace Health and Safety Infoline on 1300 369 915.