

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Information in this fact sheet relates to the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* which applies from 1 January 2012.

Public events

Safety at public events is the responsibility of the individual or group conducting the event.

Many public events are commercial enterprises, such as speedway racing, professionally run sporting events and music festivals. However, there are also other public events that are held as fund raising activities for charities or not-for-profit organisations, such as fun runs.

Duties under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* for people conducting public events

When a public event is conducted by a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU), the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (the Act) applies and the PCBU must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable:

- the health and safety of workers in the workplace
- that work carried out as part of the event does not put the health and safety of participants or spectators at risk
- the work environment is without potential risks to health and safety
- plant and structures are safe
- systems of work are safe.

In doing what is reasonably practicable, the PCBU must meet the standard of behaviour expected of a reasonable person in their position who is required to comply with the same duty and is:

- committed to providing the highest level of protection for people against risks to their health and safety

- proactive in taking measures to protect the health and safety of people.

Patrons attending an event may encounter health and safety risks when attending an event. For example, when visiting the saddling up yard at a horse racing event, or by participating in a fun run.

An event organiser needs to anticipate the likelihood that patrons will be exposed to risks to health and safety and provide reasonably practicable control measures in response.

These can include:

- increasing supervision
- providing information and signage
- providing barriers and/or restricting entry to certain areas or activities .

Workers and other persons such as patrons at public events conducted by PCBUs also have a duty of care under the Act to:

- take reasonable care for their own health and safety
- take reasonable care that they do not adversely affect the health and safety of others
- comply with reasonable instructions given by the PCBU.

For more information

Further information on workplace health and safety and the new laws is available at www.worksafe.qld.gov.au or by calling the WHS Infoline on 1300 369 915.

PN11090

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