



Zeroharm atwork

Communiqué #1 – Construction May 2009

Welcome members to the Zero Harm at Work Leadership Forum.

I would like to personally thank you all for showing the strong commitment to providing the necessary leadership for us to achieve our joint vision of Zero Harm at Work – no harm to anyone, anytime.

Improving Queensland's workplace health and safety culture requires industry leaders like you to ensure change can occur from the top down.

The concept of Zero Harm at Work has been identified by the Queensland Workplace Health and Safety Board as the underlying philosophy for workplace health and safety in Queensland over the next 10 years and beyond.

It's a visionary goal, but one worth aspiring to.

The construction industry is a priority for the WHS Board and the Queensland Government. In 2008, 18 construction workers per 1000 were injured at work. This compares to an all industry rate of 15 workers injured per 1000.

Zero Harm at Work aims to build a positive safety culture in Queensland workplaces, to help reduce the number and severity of these workplace health and safety incidents.

At the forum we heard that there are no such things as "accidents" when it comes to workplace health and safety, because that implies they can't be prevented. We need to have the core belief that we can make a change for the better, clear away any of the obstacles that put worker health and safety below organisation's profit and loss and prevent these incidents from ever occurring.

I think you would all agree that David McAdam's talk was very passionate, powerful and personal, a message from a leader who has been impacted by a workplace fatality. I am sure we all took away something different from his speech but a common theme resonated, if you are not committed to workplace health and safety, to zero harm then as the leader you're in the wrong job. As David said the buck stops with you, the leader.

In the discussion sessions there were plenty of great ideas but also challenges that must be overcome for this to be successful. Your ideas included such things as:


- Management must engage in proactive communications with workers.
- Input into safety should always be welcome, especially in these economic times when zero harm can increase productivity.
- Near misses should be seen as a free lesson.
- Be a good leader. Be seen, be proactive.

It is up to industry, unions and government to all work together to ensure we implement these ideas.

I would like to thank the Honourable Cameron Dick, Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations who has thrown his own personal commitment behind the program. As he said the government can not do it alone. Governments are not in the business of running business but can help facilitate a positive workplace health and safety culture in Queensland.

It is up to us, each organisation, and each leader to make workplace health and safety a key priority in the board room.

This forum is a big step in the right direction, by gathering industry leaders from across the construction industry to make a public commitment



to accepting nothing less than a culture of Zero Harm at Work.

We know the statistics, each year in Queensland: there are about 100 work-related fatalities and nearly 30,000 serious injuries and diseases with workers requiring more than five days off work.

Workplace incidents cost the Queensland economy more than \$5.2 billion a year. We cannot let things go on as they have. We need to tackle this issue.

The work starts now!

The program

Participating in this program will demonstrate a public commitment by you to ensure your workers can return home at the end of each working day safe and healthy.

Through the Zero Harm at Work Leadership Forum program you are being asked to share your experience and knowledge as an industry leader with your peers and identify ways to influence other organisations within your supply chain.

We want your organisation to provide hands on assistance to your industry partners and suppliers, such as mentoring, holding group toolbox talks, participating in all-industry forums and share your best practices to improve the industry as a whole.

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland asks that you report back to the Forum within a year on progress against a set of five criteria.

How have you:

1. Provided an ongoing forum to foster and promote leadership in workplace health and safety?
2. Provided examples of good practices and lessons learnt that can assist other workplaces to improve?
3. Motivated and encouraged workplaces to voluntarily strive for zero tolerance workplace health and safety?
4. Promoted the adoption of a zero harm at work culture through co-operation and knowledge sharing?
5. Provided leaders with materials and tools to promote a culture of Zero Harm at Work?

More information on the reporting process will be sent out in the next couple of weeks.

Your public showing of commitment

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland has already put all member organisations names up on their website – www.worksafe.qld.gov.au.

A challenge I wish to set all members is to formally sign-up two more organisations in your supply chain to the Zero Harm at Work Leadership Forum. Notify us of these two organisations so that we can then list those names under yours on the website. This will publicly show just how committed you are to the program.

We hope that from there those two organisations will then sign-up two more creating an industry movement, a culture of accepting nothing less than zero harm.

Thank you once again for your commitment to the Zero Harm at Work Leadership Program. I, the WHS Board and Workplace Health and Safety Queensland look forward to working with you all to achieve no harm to anyone, any time.

Vince O'Rourke

Chair,
Workplace Health and Safety Board

Zero Harm at Work Leadership Forum Members

- Australand Holdings Ltd
- Australian Industry Group
- Australian Workers Union
- Boulderstone Hornibrook
- Bovis Lend Lease
- Builders Labourers Federation
- Building Services Authority
- CFMEU
- Coral Homes Pty Ltd
- Department of Justice and Attorney-General
- Department of Public Works
- Department of Transport and Main Roads
- Fairfield Plumbing and Fire
- FKP Limited
- Fulton Hogan Pty Ltd
- Golding Contractors Pty Ltd
- Grocon
- Laing O'Rourke Australia Pty Ltd
- McNab Constructions
- Mirvac Group
- Queensland Master Builders Association
- Queensland Trucking Association
- SafeWork Queensland
- Thiess Pty Ltd
- Watpac Constructions
- WorkCover Queensland.

For more information visit www.worksafe.qld.gov.au or call the Workplace Health and Safety Infoline on 1300 369 915.