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to employees from members of

the public

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ACTU takes cautious approach to Hardies vote

SYDNEY, February 8 2006

The ACTU has welcomed a \$4 billion compensation deal agreed to by James Hardie shareholders but cautioned that the company could still be wound up in the long-term.

ACTU secretary Greg Combet said today the deal had been achieved through the persistence of unions and the Asbestos Diseases Association.

But he warned that overseas companies which carried large liabilities had often gone

He said he hoped this would not prove to be the case with James Hardie and that the company would adhere to the commitments it had entered into.

"I'd like to see the company restore its reputation, I'd like to see it restore its market share in Australia," Mr Combet said.

"I want to see it continue to grow its business in the United States and I want to work together with the company and its directors and executives in a constructive way." AAP

Workchoices compromises road safety: lemma

February 10 2006

The federal government's Work Choices legislation is compromising safety on Australian roads, the NSW Premier Morris lemma says.

Mr lemma said a Senate Inquiry submission indicated long haul truck drivers were pressured to drive further and work longer hours.

"The report is showing ... that the pressure of Work Choices to cut paypackets, to reorganise schedules and rosters is compromising safety and this is a major concern," Mr lemma said.

He said the NSW Ministry of Transport submission suggested drivers were being pressured to cash in their leave entitlements to undertake more jobs and pressure was being placed on them to speed.

Transport Workers' Union Secretary Tony Sheldon said some truck drivers were being forced to accept individual contract work for \$12.95 per hour.

"Either take it, or no job, either do the hours, which are extraordinary hours, or no job," Mr Sheldon said.

The pressure on drivers working longer hours away from their families was causing many of them to leave the industry, Mr Sheldon said.

Auto mechanic seriously burned in car explosion February 8 2006

An auto mechanic has been badly burnt after the car he was working on burst into flames in Sydney's west, a NSW Ambulance spokesman said.

The 45-year-old man was lying underneath the car at a service station in Beaconsfield Street, Revesby, when the car caught fire and exploded. He was believed to have been carrying out welding when the accident happened about 12.15pm (AEDT).

He was taken to Concord Hospital with third-degree burns to half his body, and his condition was described as serious.

No one else was injured in the accident, the spokesman said.

AAP Continued on page 2



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Continued from page 1

Henderson confirms NT WorkSafe investigation

8 February 2007

The Minister for Employment, Education and Training has confirmed that NT WorkSafe is conducting an investigation into the road train incident 130 kilometres north of Tennant Creek

"NT WorkSafe personnel, who were at the scene from this morning, will be investigating whether the incident was caused by a breach to safety legislation," said Minister Henderson. "These laws impose obligations requiring dangerous goods to be transported in a safe manner. Serious penalties are in place if an offender is found guilty for breaching their duties and responsibilities under the Dangerous Goods (Road and Rail Transport) Act including heavy fines and other penalties for serious breaches.

"I am advised that the investigation is only at a preliminary stage so it would be premature to conclude the events were caused by unlawful conduct," said Minister Henderson.

Source: Minister For Employment, Education And Training

Man crushed in pressing machine

MELBOURNE, February 6 2006

Employers are being urged to take more care of young workers after a 22-year-old man was crushed and critically injured in a pressing machine in Melbourne today.

The man suffered multiple back and pelvis injuries while working at a car parts factory, in Somerton Park Drive, Campbellfield, shortly before 10am (AEDT).

WorkSafe spokesman Michael Birt said the man was believed to have been setting up a robotic plastic moulding machine when he was injured.

Ambulance spokesman Phil Cullen said the man was crushed inside the machine and rushed to Royal Melbourne Hospital in a critical condition.

Mr Birt said there was a rising number of people under 24 being injured in the workplace, with 11 per cent needing to be hospitalised for at least a day, 35 per cent suffering fractures, 35 per cent open wounds and 13 per cent crushing wounds.

"We are calling on industry and workers to go back to basics, particularly with young people, who are relatively inexperienced," Mr Birt said. "They need supervision, good training and good knowledge of workplace risks and procedures."

Knackery workers offered antibiotics after anthrax scare

MELBOURNE, February 6 2006

Workmates of a Victorian knackery worker infected with anthrax while handling affected cattle carcasses have been given antibiotics as a precautionary measure, authorities say.

Several workers at the Stanhope facility who were considered at risk had been provided with medications by their own doctors, Department of Human Services (DHS) spokesman Bram Alexander said.

"The knackery worker has been up and about today and is recovering well," Mr Alexander said. "He is expected to leave hospital in a few days and he has been keen to let people know that he is okay."

The 34-year-old was diagnosed with a skin infection early last week, the first such case in the state for 10 years, but has responded well to antibiotic treatment at Goulburn Valley Health Hospital.

At least 25 head of cattle on four farms around Stanhope, in Victoria's north, have died as a direct result of the disease, prompting fears among neighbouring farmers of a widespread epidemic.

Continued on page 3

DRAFT STANDARD

The following draft standard is out for comments and closes on 10 April 2007. SIA does not plan to put in an official submission unless enough members express interest.

DR 07091 : Controlled environments - Part 2: Biological safety cabinets class II - Design Jonathan Amies

Chemical update for members

Formaldehyde exposure to tighten up In December 2006 NICNAS (NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS NOTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT SCHEME) finalized their review of formaldehyde. Their recommendations are contained in the report on the following website. http://www.nicnas.gov.au/

(There are a number of other interesting papers on this site including nanomaterials)

This will have significant impact in the next few months when the ASCC alters the HSIS so that ALL industrial chemical products with 0.1% or greater become classified as TOXIC with R49 - May cause cancer by inhalation.

The permissible atmospheric exposure level will drop from I ppm to 0.3 ppm which is the current level in USA Formalin and formaldehyde are widely used and can be found in a wide range of workplaces

NICNAS will prepare a number of Safety Information Sheet in consultation with industry, organisations representing the workers and relevant state/territory government, specifically for safe use of formalin a number of industries including undertakers and patholgy laboratories. It is recommended that employer industry associations and unions distribute this information widely to their members and workers.

Jonathan Amies National Technical Chair nationaltechnicalchair@sia.org.au

S.I.A.

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Today, Victoria's Department of Primary Industries (DPI) said there was no cause for alarm as anthrax was a common occurrence in Australia and had been for 150 years. However, as many as 5,000 head of cattle would be vaccinated by the end of the week, a DPI spokeswoman said.

"The vaccination program is targeting all farms and cattle within an eight-kilometre radius of the outbreak in Stanhope," she said. "It's important to understand that this a routine precautionary measure. There is no public health risk, only an occupational risk for those who work in the industry. Anthrax is not contagious as far as concerns over humans contracting it from live cattle go."

Toodyay Wildfire Electrical Incident report released February 7, 2007

Energy industry safety regulator EnergySafety has released its Electrical Incident Report on the wildfire of Saturday February 3, 2007 near Chatcup Road, Toodyay, with findings showing that clashing conductors of a Western Power 22,000 volt power line caused the fire.

Director of Energy Safety Albert Koenig said today that EnergySafety had worked with Western Power, the Fire and Emergency Services Authority (FESA) and the WA Police Service to investigate the incident.

"EnergySafety investigated the fire and found a short circuit fault had resulted from conductors clashing on a Western Power 22kV overhead power line north of Toodyay," Mr Koenig said. "However, the reason for the clashing hasn't yet been determined. In the strong gusty winds the red phase conductor and the underslung earth conductor made direct contact with each other, short circuiting and dropping hot

3rd Annual ent Systems * Return To Work Str * Psychological Claims * Health A * Long-Term Injuries * Mental He NEW CASE STUDIES HEAR FROM AUSTRALIA'S MOST IMPRESSIVE LINE-UP OF INJURY MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS.. BP Australasia Linfox Laing O'Rourke RailCorp
 Rio Tinto Coal Australia Merrinn Chilvers, General Manager Compliance, Enforcement and Self-InsuranceBranch, Comcare Lindsay Holt, Group Selety Manager-Pail, Laing O'Rourk Julian Hodder, National Return to Work & Claims Manages Heather Ann Budd, Injury Management Advisco, its District Pacific Brands Australian air Express
 CSIRO Minerals SunRice
 MacMahon Contractors Australia
Dr Catherine Hamilton, Medical Adviser, BP Australasia
Dr Armand Casolin, Chief Health Officer, RailCorp
Dominic Andreacchio, General Manager Human Resourc
Australian air Express 13 **LEARNING OBJECTIVES** Australian air Express
Dr Clive Sher, Medial Director, Pacific Brands
Dr Angelica Vecchio-Sadus, OHS&E Manager, CSIRO Min
Greg Brown, Workplace Injury Manager, SunRice
Stuart Harrison, National Workers' Compensation Co-ordina
MacMahon Contractors Sharen Cameron, Manager, Workers Compensation, Reflections Group Services
Dr David Allen, Occupational Physician and Managing Directo Quality Occupational Health Quality Occupational Health Kristy Edser, Partner, Minter Ellison Chris Rabba, Managing Director, Peak Health Manage Dawn Piebenga, Managing Director, Injury Management and Rehabilitation Richard Kasperczyk, Managing Director, RTK Corporate Christina King, Director Clinical Services, Injury Management and Rehabilitation

DON'T MISS 3 ESSENTIAL QUICK WORKSHOPS ON:

Workshop A Minimising your costs and risks through self-insurance
Led by:
Ratherine Morris, Senior Associate, Deacons
Workshop B Overcoming psychological risks through pro-active risk management strategies
Led by:
Richard Kasperczyk, Managing Director, RTK Corporate Workshop B Your essential guide to best practice injury management
Led by:
Reflections Group Services
Reflections Group Services

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Endorsed by:

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metal particles, igniting dry stubble underneath the power line. What is significant is that this power line is of a construction that is different to other power lines that in recent times have caused wildfires due to conductor clashing".

Mr Koenig said that further major engineering investigations will be required by Western Power, in conjunction with EnergySafety, to assess and determine what action needs to be taken to prevent other incidents of this type.

The Electrical Incident Report on the power line fault and wildfire near Chatcup Road Toodyay is now available on EnergySafety's website at www.energysafety.wa.gov.au.

Source: DOCEP

Safety Campaign On Labour Hire In Food Manufacturing

9 February 2007

Workplace safety authorities across Australia and New Zealand have launched a coordinated campaign today focusing on the safety of labour hire workers in high-risk sectors of the food manufacturing industry. In South Australia, SafeWork SA will target general food manufacturers, and labour hire agencies which place workers in this high-risk industry.

SafeWork SA inspectors will visit a number of workplaces in the labour hire industry and general food manufacturers across the State during May to verify the level of compliance with legislative obligations.

The enforcement campaign will focus on a number of areas, including:

- Familiarity of labour hire agents with the risks at host employer workplaces;
- Induction and task-specific training provided by the both the agent and host employer;
- · Appropriateness of placements of labour hire workers; and
- Consultation between the agent and the host employer.

"The campaign is aimed at protecting labour hire workers and educating both the labour hire and general food manufacturers to jointly ensure the safety of labour hire workers", says the Executive Director of SafeWork SA, Michele Patterson.

Source: Safework SA



February 12, 2007



Employer responsibilities regarding risks to employees from members of the public

Written by Rena Marguerite

Two recent decisions! handed down by the Industrial Court of New South Wales are the latest in a series of cases which highlight the occupational health and safety responsibilities of employers to address risks to their employees from members of the public. The courts have held employers liable for breaches of the legislation where employees including nurses and bank customer service employees – have been assaulted by members of the public.

In these recent cases, a cleaning contractor company and its related entities were successfully prosecuted following separate attacks on 2 of its female employees who were cleaning school premises in isolated areas during early morning shifts. The employer was found on both occasions to have failed to ensure the health, safety and welfare at work of its employees.

Facts

The WorkCover Authority of New South Wales (WorkCover) initiated proceedings against Tempo Services Ltd and its two subsidiaries (Tempo) following incidents in November 2003 and October 2004. In the first incident, a cleaner working alone in a classroom at about 6.00am was approached by a man who had entered the premises without authorisation, demanded money from the employee and assaulted her. In the second incident, a cleaner, again working alone in a classroom sometime after 5.30am was sexually assaulted by a man who was on the premises without authorisation.

Decision

Foreseeable risk to employees

Justice Haylen determined that the nature of the risks to cleaners working in relatively isolated areas was foreseeable and that the defendants failed to adopt proper risk management strategies to address these risks. Tempo had failed to:

- provide an adequate communication system for cleaners working alone;
- inform cleaners of the risks of working alone; and
- provide cleaners with adequate training in safe systems of work.

Tempo argued that the absence of violent attacks in the long history of the two respective schools where the cleaners were working meant that Tempo could not have foreseen the risk to its employees. Justice Haylen remarked in relation to the Llandilo incident (the second incident) that Bonnells Bay (the first incident) had also been considered a quiet, safe place until the incident there in 2003. Accordingly, His Honour said that Tempo could not rely on such an argument.

General risk was not outside Tempo's control

Tempo also argued, in relation to the Llandilo incident that nothing short of a personal and armed security guard could have prevented the sexual assault of the cleaner (by a man who was later found to be suffering a psychiatric disorder and who claimed to be acting on directions from voices). In both cases, Tempo sought to rely on a statutory defence, that the assaults were 'due to causes over which it had no control and against which is was impracticable to make provision.'

Following previous decisions of the Industrial Relations Court, Justice Haylen drew a distinction between the specific risk of action by a member of the public, occurring independently of the employer, and the general class of risk to employees created by the circumstances of their workplace. His Honour held that even though Tempo did not have control over the violent actions of particular members of the public, it was practicable for Tempo to address the general class of risk to its employees.

Risk assessment and practicable measures

Since 1996, employees of Tempo had expressed concerns about their safety in working alone in remote locations. In response to these concerns, Tempo produced discussion papers, staff memorandums and safe work practices documents about workplace safety. The Court held that this combination of documents indicated that there was a risk to cleaners

Inspector Sara Bestre v Jontari Pty Ltd; Inspector Sara Bestre v Tempo Services Ltd [2006] NSWIRComm 373 and Inspector Jessica Doyle v Gignen Pty Ltd; Inspector Jessica Doyle v Tempo Services Ltd [2006] NSWIRComm 374







Continued from page 4

of assault and that Tempo was aware of such a risk.

Further, the Court held that following the incident at Bonnells Bay and an incident at Mitchell High School in 2002, Tempo was on clear notice that such risks to its employees existed. Nevertheless, Tempo implemented no additional measures in workplaces (other than in Bonnells Bay) until after the Llandilo incident almost 12 months later.

Justice Haylen found that there were some basic and low-cost options available to Tempo which, if adopted, would have obviated the general risk of assault to its employees. These options included:

- introducing a team working schedule;
- reducing work done outside of school hours;
- locking doors of classrooms while cleaning;
- locking school gates until later in the morning;
- providing all cleaners with effective personal alarms and/or walkie-talkies.

His Honour noted that Tempo had, in fact, identified and implemented some of these measures following the Llandilo incident.

Implications for employers

In light of the continuing line of decisions in which employers have been found in breach of occupational health and safety legislation due to assaults on employees or other conduct by members of the public, employers should:

- consider whether their employees, due to the solitary nature of their work or their work in close
 proximity to, or on a one-on-one basis with customers or clients, could be at risk from members of
 the public;
- conduct a risk assessment of workplaces where such a general risk to employees is identified;
- implement practical measures to address the risk to employees working alone including, if necessary, the introduction of team working schedules and the provision of adequate safety equipment such as alarms and communication devices.

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Safety At Work publishers are now allowed to distribute the latest edition of Acrobat Reader on a CD. If you want a copy of Acrobat Reader 7.08 please email me at jonesk@sia.org.au and include your full postal address. A CD will be mailed to you shortly after.

The CD won't be pretty as it is a burnt copy of the software that Adobe permits us to distribute. It is not allowed to be given to anyone other than the person requesting the CD and all CDs will be checked for viruses before distribution. For those readers who are unconcerned about download limits, the latest version of Acrobat Reader is available for free from http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html

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Register
2 people and
the 3rd comes
FREE!

3rd Annual FREE SAME INJURY Management Roundtable

Injury Management Systems * Return To Work Strategies * Doctor Negotiations * Audits * Employee Health * Psychological Claims * Health And Wellbeing Programmes * Contractors * Long-Term Injuries * Mental Health * Stress Claims

28th - 30th March 2007 * The Grace Hotel, Sydney

10 NEW CASE STUDIES

- BP Australasia Linfox
- Laing O'Rourke RailCorp
 - Rio Tinto Coal Australia
 - Pacific Brands
 - Australian air Express
- CSIRO Minerals SunRice
 - MacMahon Contractors

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

HEAR from *Comcare* on how to avoid fines of up to \$50,000 through health and safety leadership

UNCOVER how Laing O'Rourke reduces workers' compensation costs by implementing a systematic injury management programme LEARN how Rio Tinto improves their injury management process through effective communication

ANALYSE how *SunRice* ensures compliance through injury management audits

GAIN insight into how *BP Australasia* adds value to their business by enhancing employee health

EXPLORE how *MacMahon Contractors* reduces case times and simplifies claims through early intervention

FIND OUT how *Linfox* enhances site engagement to reduce the number of cases reaching 10 days unfit by 19%

DISCOVER how CSIRO gets ROI when implementing organisational health and wellbeing strategies

OBSERVE how RailCorp minimises health and safety risks when employing contractors EXAMINE how Australian air Express slashes injury rates by turning around their safety culture

SLASH workers' compensation claims by implementing *Pacific Brand's* health education programme

FAST-TRACK your injury management process by fine-tuning your negotiation techniques with doctors

DETERMINE how to manage injured workers during performance management and the termination process

HEAR FROM AUSTRALIA'S MOST IMPRESSIVE LINE-UP OF INJURY MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONALS...

- Merrilyn Chilvers, General Manager Compliance, Enforcement and Self-InsuranceBranch, Comcare
- Lindsay Holt, Group Safety Manager-Rail, Laing O'Rourke
- Julian Hodder, National Return to Work & Claims Manager, Linfox
- Heather Ann Budd, Injury Management Advisor, Rio Tinto Coal Australia
- Dr Catherine Hamilton, Medical Adviser, BP Australasia
- Dr Armand Casolin, Chief Health Officer, RailCorp
- Dominic Andreacchio, General Manager Human Resources, Australian air Express
- Dr Clive Sher, Medial Director, Pacific Brands
- Dr Angelica Vecchio-Sadus, OHS&E Manager, CSIRO Minerals
- Greg Brown, Workplace Injury Manager, SunRice
- Stuart Harrison, National Workers' Compensation Co-ordinator, MacMahon Contractors
- Sharen Cameron, Manager, Workers Compensation, Reflections Group Services
- Dr David Allen, Occupational Physician and Managing Director, Quality Occupational Health
- Kristy Edser, Partner, Minter Ellison
- Chris Rabba, Managing Director, Peak Health Management
- Dawn Piebenga, Managing Director, Injury Management and Rehabilitation
- Richard Kasperczyk, Managing Director, RTK Corporate
- Christina King, Director Clinical Services, Injury Management and Rehabilitation

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DON'T MISS 3 ESSENTIAL QUICK WORKSHOPS ON:

Workshop A

Minimising your costs and risks through self-insurance

Led by:

Katherine Morris, Senior Associate, Deacons

Workshop B

Overcoming psychological risks through pro-active risk management strategies

ed hv:

Richard Kasperczyk, Managing Director, RTK Corporate

Workshop G

Your essential guide to best practice injury management

Led by:

Sharen Cameron, Manager, Workers Compensation, Reflections Group Services

Endorsed by: OT AUSTRALIA

3rd Annual Mjury Managen

CONFERENCE DAY ONE 28th MARCH 2007

8:30 Registration

9:00 Opening remarks from the Chair Dawn Piebenga, Managing Director, **Injury Management and** Rehabilitation

9:05 Avoiding fines of up to \$50,000 through health and safety REGULATOR PERSPECTIVE leadership

Striking the right balance between education, compliance and enforcement

Mitigating risk by promoting and employing a systematic approach to workplace safety

Developing and implementing national standards and practices

Examining the human and financial cost of workplace bullying Merrilyn Chilvers, General Manager Compliance, Enforcement and Self-Insurance Branch, Comcare

How to reduce workers' compensation costs by implementing a systematic injury management programme

Examining the past history implementing an effective safety management system

Implementing an injury management program to cater for injured workers

Analysing the implementation of a return to work program throughout construction projects undertaken

Assessing the need for consultation with all parties to facilitate an early return to work

Scrutinising the implementation of the procedure when an injury is incurred Lindsay Holt,

Group Safety Manager-Rail, Laing O'Rourke

10:30 Morning Tea

9:45

STUDY

10:50 **Bringing the wellness revolution** to the workplace to reduce CASE STUDY injuries

What is wellness at work

Examining the effectiveness of wellness initiatives within the workplace

Exploring the formats and implementation strategies of wellness

Fostering and maximising employee involvement in workplace well-being programmes

Improving productivity and staff retention through employer involvement

Chris Rabba, Managing Director,

Peak Health Management

Enhancing innovative return to work strategies through site engagement

Overcoming challenges of diversity and remoteness of sites, workers' compensation stigma, availability of alternative duties

Developing tools to enhance site engagement of rehabilitation and return to work

Reporting over 90% of claims within 5 working days

Reducing the number of cases reaching 10 days unfit by 19%

Achieving substantial workers' compensation savings Julian Hodder, National Return to Work & Claims Manager, Linfox

Reducing workers' compensation claims by raising 12:10 CASE STUDY awareness and health education

Considering employees' health and wellbeing as main drivers for health programme implementation

Reducing health risks by introducing free annual health assessments

Sustaining the current workforce and decreasing absenteeism by improving awareness

Overcoming fatigue through employee education

Measuring the return on investment for the programme Dr Clive Sher, Medical Director, **Pacific Brands**

12:50 Luncheon

NTERACTIVE

2:00 **Fast-tracking your injury** management process through SESSION fine-tuning your negotiations when dealing with doctors

This interactive session will examine the best methods to deal with doctors in order to fast-track your injury management process. Delegates will be divided into groups where they will discuss how to improve their negotiation skills for efficient claims resolution. You will leave this session having a greater understanding of how to advance the injury process and save time and

Negotiating with treating doctors to achieve return to work or upgrade

Applying evidence-based medicine in the negotiation framework

Examining the negotiation principles applied to workers' compensation

Preparing for negotiations with doctors

Exploring special techniques and tactics

Facilitated by:

Dr David Allen,

Occupational Physician and Managing Director,

Quality Occupational Health

3:30 Afternoon Tea

3:50

STUDY

Your practical guide to ensuring compliance through injury management audits

Reaching maximum awareness with the injury management process

Examining the return to work system and suitable duties practices

Ensuring execution of return to work plans as per procedures Monitoring claims management

- redeployment, retraining and Workcover programmes

Increasing payroll compliance by checking wages and claims Grea Brown.

Workplace Injury Manager, SunRice

4:30 Top 10 tips for dealing with injury management cases

Taking ownership and responsibility of the process

Understanding the business drivers for the employer's decision making

Overcoming the difficulties in dealing with various stakeholders Achieving satisfactory results for the

parties concerned Sharen Cameron, Manager, Workers Compensation, Reflections **Group Services**

5:10 Closing remarks from the Chair

5:15 Close of Day One

CONFERENCE DAY TWO 29th MARCH 2007

Opening remarks from the Chair **Dawn Piebenga,** *Managing Director,* 9:00 Injury Management and Rehabilitation

> How RailCorp minimises health and safety risks when employing contractors Managing the health assessment

process throughout the organisation Examining the obligations, law and

standards relating to rail industry contractors

Analysing RailCorp's achievements in improving health assessments for contractors

Dr Armand Casolin, Chief Health Officer, RailCorp

Increasing employee value to

your business by enhancing health

Why bother worrying about the health of employees? Exploring strategies that work and the

reasons why

Examining the impact of health programmes in recruitment and retention

Dr Catherine Hamilton, Medical Adviser, BP Australasia

10:30 Morning Tea

9:05

CASE STUDY

9:45

CASE STUDY

CASE

Implementing a successful organisational health and 10:50 STUDY wellbeing strategy
- a CSIRO perspective

Setting up a health and wellbeing programme Your best practice guide to funding

and structuring the programmes

Integrating with other work areas and with safety programmes

Getting return on investment on your programme

Dr Angelica Vecchio-Sadus, OHS&E Manager, CSIRO Minerals

11:30 **Avoiding long and difficult** claims by adopting early CASE STUDY intervention

Examining the use of early intervention programmes in the early intervention and rehabilitation process

Minimising the claims made through early intervention

Determining how injured workers are to be handled in difficult and prolonged cases

Identifying the need for expert or independent advice Stuart Harrison,

National Workers Compensation Co-ordinator,

MacMahon Contractors

Slashing over \$100,000 12:10 in psychological injury compensation claims through evidence-based medicine

Understanding evidence-based medicine and how it relates to your

injury management processes Examining the psychological factors

affecting return-to-work results Motivating workers to overcome

stress, depression and anxiety

Utilising various tools to predict poor results and identify psychological issues

Christina King, Director Clinical Services, Injury Management and Rehabilitation

11:30



Roundtable

28th - 30th March 2007 * The Grace Hotel, Sydney

12:50 Luncheon

2:00 CASE STUDY

Improving injury management by effective communication between the injury management advisor, the employer and the insurer

- Determining an agreed course of action for each claim
- Preventing parties acting at cross purposes
- Providing the insurer with timely information to defend cases
- Ensuring the employer has an understanding of the progress of cases
- Enabling those involved in the IM process to achieve agreed results Heather Ann Budd, Injury Management Ádvisor, Rio Tinto Coal Australia
- 2:40 Minimising risk and workers' compensation claims by managing psychological risks
 - Analysing the main causes for psychological injuries
 - Assessing psychological risks related to the identified causes
 - Controlling the risks to prevent harm
 - Reviewing intervention and response strategies

- Implementing strategies to educate and assist affected colleagues
- Overcoming psychological barriers to returning to work after injury Richard Kasperczyk, Managing Director, RTK Corporate

3:20 Afternoon Tea



OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY AND INJURY MANAGEMENT

Occupational therapy is a health profession which provides evaluation, consultation and treatment for those people with physical, psychological and neurological dysfunction. Occupational therapy aims to assist workers to reach and maintain their highest level of functioning by treatment of worker limitations, education and modification of the work environment. www.ausot.com.au

3:40

Examining the legal framework for managing injured workers to minimse risk: Employed in sickness and in health?

- Defining the legal framework in which we operate
- Analysing the impact of Work Choices
- Examining the implications of recent decisions, including Nicholich v Goldman Sachs
- Determining how to manage injured workers during the employment relationship, performance management and the termination process

Kristy Edser, Partner, Minter Ellison

4:25

STUDY

CASE

Improving your injury rates by turning around your safety culture

- Changing long-accepted work practices
- Overcoming high injury rates and escalating costs
- Dealing with productivity and morale
- Achieving significant improvements Dominic Andreacchio, General Manager Human Resources, Australian air Express

5:10 Concluding remarks from the Chair

5:15 Close of Conference

QUICK WORKSHOP DAY 30th MARCH 2007

QUICK WORKSHOP A

Overcoming psychological risks through pro-active risk management strategies

Benefit in attending this Workshop

With the rise of psychological injury claims and their significant cost, businesses recognise they have to do more to deal with workplace stress and other psychological health risks. Attend this workshop to learn how to systematically manage psychological risks and save money by reducing unplanned absences and staff turnover.

8:30 Registration

Workshop Agenda

9:00 Psychological health in the workplace

- Integrating psychological health into the OH&S system
- Reviewing policies, documentation and audit tools
- Analysing intervention and response strategies
- Developing common understanding through training everyone in psychological risk management
- Identifying people outcome measures that are relevant to your organisation
- Engaging leadership and decision makers
- 10:45 Close of Workshop A

Richard Kasperczyk, Managing Director, **RTK Corporate**

QUICK WORKSHOP B

Minimising costs and controlling risks through selfinsurance

- assessing the pros and cons of State or Federal selfinsurance models

Benefit in Attending this Workshop

With an ongoing debate on the merits of self-insurance, employers are exploring this option to manage and bear the cost and risks of their claims. Attend this interactive workshop to discover how to minimise costs and improve your injury prevention and rehabilitation performance.

Workshop Agenda

11.00 **Assessing the self-insurance**

- Examining the criteria for entry into each of the self-insurance schemes
- Analysing the pros and cons of each model
- Determining the feasibility of the theoretical pros and cons
- Reducing compliance and administrative costs
- Producing faster rehabilitation and better safety performance

Close of Workshop B 12:45

Katherine Morris, Senior Associate, **Deacons**

(Lunch is provided to delegates attending both Quick Workshops B and C)

QUICK WORKSHOP C

Your essential guide to best practice injury management

Benefit in attending this workshop

Considering the complexities when dealing with so many stakeholders in the injury management process and the costs that businesses incur as a result, best practice injury management can save significant time and money throughout the process. Attend this workshop to learn how.

Workshop Agenda

Injury Management 1:15

- Exploring the early stages notification of Injury
- Following best practice methods - early notification
- Examining the provisional liability for the injured worker
- Gaining insight into the decision making process
- Overcoming the difficulties in dealing with various stakeholders
- Ensuring you follow the best practice checklist

3:00 Close of Quick Workshop C

Sharen Cameron, *Manager, Workers Compensation,* **Reflections Group Services**

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