Support yourself and others, lead when you can, stay connected

It’s no surprise what our feature article is and by the time you read it, just like the exponential growth of the COVID-19, exponential changes in the news make yesterday’s look like last year’s. In the coming months, we’re going to keep presenting standard health and safety material because it matters - but right now the elephant is squeezing everything out of the room.

There is deep anxiety and fear in our community. The virus will pass, but in the meantime support those around you, listen to their concerns. Be a leader when you can. If you’re struggling yourself, reach out to those around you for their support. The mental health effects of this period will persist for a long time, and our own profession will have a much greater role to play in addressing this than ever before.

In the coming weeks and months the Institute will not only be up and running, we’ll be a place where the profession is working together to build entirely new, long-term ways to connect health and safety people, share experiences and learn new things. Anyone can be part of that new thinking. Meanwhile – through the hardest part of this over the next 3 months - pace yourself, and if you need to, lean on your personal and professional support groups. Don’t think you’re alone, because you’re not.

Warmest regards,
David Clarke

INDUSTRY NEWS
Safe Work Australia underscores PCBU responsibilities with COVID-19

Exposure to COVID-19 is a potential hazard for workers and other people at workplaces and PCBUs must have measures in place to protect worker health and safety and manage these risks, according to Safe Work Australia.

Read full story

WHO calls for 40 per cent increase in PPE for healthcare workers

Severe and mounting disruption to the global supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) – caused by rising demand, panic buying, hoarding and misuse – is putting the lives of healthcare workers at risk from the new coronavirus and other infectious diseases, according to The World Health Organization.

Read full story

What to do when disposable respirators run out?

There is currently a shortage of disposable particulate respirators in Australia due to an increase in demand from health care workers and from the public and because many Chinese manufacturers have temporarily shut down.

Read full story

How workers’ compensation stacks up across Australia

WHS authorities across Australia undertook 230,054 workplace interventions, issued 46,472 notices for WHS breaches and finalised 289 legal proceedings between 2013-14 and 2016-17, resulting in $18.9 million in fines ordered by the courts, according to a recent Safe Work Australia report.

Read full story
Manage exposure to solar ultraviolet radiation (UVR)

A guide has recently been published targeting sun safety, particularly solar ultraviolet radiation (UVR), which can be deceptive because it cannot be seen or felt, does not depend on temperature, and can be high even on cool and cloudy days.

Read full story

NT: 10 new codes of practice approved

Ten new Codes of Practice for use in the Northern Territory have been approved by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Natasha Fyles.

Read full story

Safe Work Australia amends model WHS Act for prohibited asbestos

The model WHS Act has been amended to ensure WHS regulators have appropriate powers to deal with prohibited asbestos when it is found in a workplace, according to Safe Work Australia.

Read full story

Report puts livestock supply chain safety in focus

The National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) is calling for feedback on future safety reforms across the livestock supply chain.

Read full story

AIHS and Safety On Tap to deliver 'Office Hours Together'

The AIHS is pleased to announce its new partnership with Andrew Barrett from
Safety On Tap to deliver ‘Office Hours Together’ a free virtual session, happening once a week. Office Hours Together is a virtual meeting space where you can learn, share, and get support from colleagues who know what it’s like to be in your shoes right now.

Office Hours Together has been created for individuals within our profession to come together and work towards finding solutions to situations, requests and changing circumstances which have never been faced before and to learn from one another.

Click here to secure your spot.

INCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS

$220,000 fine after excavation causes next-door building collapse

A company and its director were convicted and face total fines of almost $220,000 after a neighbouring building collapsed due to the company’s excavation works.

Wholesale bakery fined $90,000 for breakdown of safety procedures

Darra wholesale baker Wild Breads has been sentenced and fined $90,000 in the Richlands Magistrates Court for breaches of Queensland’s WHS Act.
Defence fined $300,000 over cadet fatality

The Department of Defence has been convicted and fined $300,000 after a Sydney high school student was seriously injured during an army cadet camp.

Read full story

QLD: Hewitt Cattle Australia charged over fall from height

NT WorkSafe has charged Queensland based company Hewitt Cattle Australia Pty Ltd with one breach of section 32 of the Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act 2011 (the Act) for failing their primary duty of care, and one breach of section 38 of the Act for failing to notify NT WorkSafe of a notifiable incident.

Read full story