The knock-on OHS impacts of COVID-19

In closing the national conference on Wednesday, Alena Titterton challenged us all to build our voice as a profession. Yesterday the Institute, working with a coalition of other organisations, released a guide to purchasing P2 and equivalent respirators, and called on the Federal Government to immediately establish a national register to deal with the large scale inflow onto the Australian market of counterfeit, fake and non-compliant respirators. This is becoming an issue bigger than COVID-19 because these respirators are finding their way into other workplace uses where they're supposed to protect against other airborne contaminants. People are at risk. Time to act.

Have a great week.
David Clarke

INDUSTRY NEWS
Employers told to stop asking for COVID-19 clearance certificates

Employers should stop asking workers to provide a “medical clearance” or certificate stating that they do not have the COVID-19 virus, according to The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP).

Read full story

How to boost mental resilience on the COVID-19 frontlines

Lessons about post-traumatic stress disorder from Australia's emergency workers and bushfire fighters indicate it is essential frontline healthcare workers, as much as possible, be given adequate time to process, rest and recover after each shift caring for COVID-19 patients, according to recent research.

Read full story

Queensland introduces tough new safety laws for mining executives

Queensland recently passed Australia's toughest mine safety laws, with executives facing up to 20 years' jail if Queensland mine and quarry workers die because of criminal negligence.

Read full story

Jobseekers misled by ‘introductory’ construction industry courses

Jobseekers wanting to work in the WA construction industry may be misled by a company offering introductory online safety training courses, according to WorkSafe WA.

Read full story
New guidance issued to reduce risks of working with lead

Employers at workplaces where lead processes are carried out are being urged to follow updated guidance as new lead exposure standard and monitoring requirements came into force on 5 June 2020.

Read full story

Safety alert issued over exposure to asbestos during demolition works

WorkSafe WA recently issued a safety alert after it identified instances where demolition work was conducted without first removing asbestos-containing materials.

Read full story

Safety alert issued over collapse of free-standing scaffolding

SafeWork SA recently issued a safety alert reminding businesses to ensure safe systems of work are in place when using free-standing scaffolding to minimise the risk of a collapse.

Read full story

Safety warning over precast pile falls from piling rigs

WorkSafe Victoria recently issued a safety alert about the importance of managing risks associated with precast piling operations.

Read full story
**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Webinar: HSR's as leaders**

Join us on **Wednesday 8 July** for a webinar presentation titled: **HSR's as Leaders**. Presented by Vasalia Govender, HSR. The panel will share their experiences and learning along with practices to bridge the gap in understanding the role of the HSR role and primarily focus on how employers and HSRs can work together to improve health and safety outcomes.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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<td>Webinar: Contractor Management series - Webinar 2</td>
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<td>14 July</td>
<td>Online Workshop: Apply the Science of Safety with Usability Mapping</td>
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**Support for the profession in tough times**

The AIHS is ensuring the profession is getting the support it needs in what has been some very tough times by offering initial free counselling to members.
INCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS

Building company fined $25,000 over 6-metre stair void fall
A developer in Mount Waverly Victoria has been convicted and fined $25,000 following an incident in which a sub-contractor fell six metres through a stair void.

Read full story

Incident alert issued after multiple falls in Queensland
Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) recently issued an incident alert following a number of falls which left workers with a range of injuries.

Read full story
Construction company accepts $1.855 million enforceable undertaking

A construction company recently accepted a $1.855 million enforceable undertaking over a 2017 incident at the Manning Base Hospital in Taree when a crane tipped over and came to rest with all four wheels off the ground, resting on scaffolding and two rear outriggers.

Coal miner fined $210,000 after worker fatally injured

A major coal mining company operating in Western Australia’s south-west was recently fined $210,000 and ordered to pay $23,000 in costs after a worker suffered a fatal injury while operating a tracked mobile shovel.