Telling it like it is.

The work of health and safety has many ethical dimensions, with WHS people at all levels regularly facing a host of ethical pressures which, if not handled correctly, may lead to poorer health and safety outcomes. This is a big part of the job, and yet another part of the job that isn't simple. In the next three weeks in every state and territory, we’re running launches of the new ethics chapter in the OHS Body of Knowledge, with some great speakers and discussions involving the audience. On May 27-28 at #SAFETYSCAPE for our National Conference, I’m pleased to announce that our special guest Keynote Speaker is Mary Gentile PhD, an international expert in business ethics, and author of ‘Giving Voice to Values’. See you there.

Have a great week.
David Clarke, CEO

INDUSTRY NEWS
Multiple regulators issue safety warnings over coronavirus outbreak

Safe Work Australia and a number of WHS regulators across the country have issued safety warnings in the wake of an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (2019-nCoV) first identified in Wuhan, China.

Read full story

WHSQ urges caution over bushfire damage and asbestos

With many parts of Australia reeling in the wake of this summer's bushfire devastation, rural workers and their communities recovering and cleaning up after the terrifying blazes have been urged by WHS regulators to be vigilant about exposed asbestos.

Read full story

Mental health of doctors in training suffering under long hours

Long working hours and fatigue are putting the future medical workforce at greater risk of poor mental health and suicide ideation, new research has found.

Read full story

Regulator targeting safety at major events across SA

In the lead up to South Australia's major festival season, SafeWork SA has announced that it is working with major event organisers to help ensure the safety of workers and patrons.

Read full story
VIC: safety alert issued over security of explosives

WorkSafe Victoria recently issued a safety alert about ensuring the security of stored explosives following a number of incidents in which thieves have targeted magazines containing explosives.

Read full story

WA: safety warning issued over noise-induced hearing loss in mines

Western Australia’s Department of Mines Industry Regulation and Safety (DMIRS) recently issued a safety bulletin advising operators of the dangers regarding noise-induced hearing loss in mines.

Read full story
Guidance notes updated on risks of working with trees

Employers in the amenity tree and gardening services industry have been urged by WorkSafe Victoria to follow updated guidance and a new safety checklist to reduce risks to their workers after a number of deaths and serious incidents.

SafeWork SA to audit high-risk construction work

SafeWork SA's inspectors will be undertaking compliance audits on Safe Work Method Statement (SWMS) for high-risk construction work (HRCW) from February 2020 onwards.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The AIHS has produced a new chapter on Ethics & Professional Practice in the OHS Body Of Knowledge created in conjunction with the Board of Canadian Registered Safety Professionals. This chapter explores the ethical challenges faced by OHS professionals and practitioners in their multiple duties. We invite all SA health and safety practitioners and professionals to join us in celebrating the launch of the new chapter on Monday 10 February at the Department of Transport, Planning & Infrastructure.
Do you have a good understanding of your business health and safety maturity? Are your business leaders aware and enabled to exercise effective safety and risk governance? If the answer to either question is “Unsure” or “No” then Safe365 will be great for your business.

Safe365 is a cost-effective, easy to use software solution that enables rapid maturity measurement, interactive dashboards that provide a continuous improvement pathway
and ongoing monitoring as well as the ability to benchmark your business against the market. Start a free trial here or watch the overview video here.

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**AIHS LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP**

The Australian Institute of Health & Safety is pleased to announce that nominations for the 2020 AIHS Life Membership Award are now open.

Life Membership is one of the highest AIHS awards that can be bestowed on a member of the Institute. It is a National Award and is awarded to a member who has at least fifteen years of continuous service with the Institute and has given a minimum of ten years of outstanding service.

Learn more about the award and how to nominate here.
Nominations close 5:00pm (AEDT) on Saturday 7 March, 2020.

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**INCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS**

Paint manufacturer fined $75,750 after worker burnt while cleaning

An industrial paint mixing and manufacturing company in NSW was recently fined $75,750 for two breaches of the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 and ordered to provide essential safety training to key staff after a worker was seriously burnt during cleaning activities.

$513,880 enforceable undertaking for Blue Mountains City Council

Blue Mountains City Council recently accepted a $513,880 enforceable undertaking after it allegedly contravened sections 425(1), 429(2), 445(1) and 479(1) of the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 in NSW.

Read full story
NSW: company enters into $334,000 enforceable undertaking

Rivalea (Australia) Pty Limited recently entered into an enforceable undertaking with a total expenditure of $334,136 following an incident in which a subcontractor conducting work on a roof stood on a sheet of mini-orb ceiling material and fell through the roof onto the concrete floor below, suffering serious injuries.

VIC: company charged over chemical stockpiles in Campbellfield

WorkSafe Victoria has charged Bradbury Industrial Services Pty Ltd over alleged breaches of the Dangerous Goods Act for chemical stockpiles at a Campbellfield warehouse.

Read full story