It’s our month – and things are not OK.

For anyone with an interest in seeing Australian workers healthy and safe, October – National Safe Work Month – is a month we can shine some light on health and safety issues, promote good practice, and explore how we can all do better. We certainly need to. We (the wider health and safety community in this country, including regulators, government policy makers, employers, unions and our own profession) are too weak in our health and safety performance nationally and we are too slow to respond to urgent issues (quad bikes, silicosis, consistency in the law, poor quality VET WHS education and weaknesses in chain of responsibility to name just a few). People have died – and are dying – in this country because of the slow pace of change and lack of urgency. If you can’t call that out in National Safe Work Month, when can you?

I invite you all to use the month to get better informed about issues that can help you be better at your job in your own workplace, and to also consider the wider context of your role. The state and territory regulatory authorities do a great job putting on a wide range of events across all regions, and we have our own events as well. Keep your eye out.

Have an informative month.
David Clarke, CEO
BHP strengthens contractor safety management following several fatalities

BHP has made significant changes to the way it engages and manages contractors – who comprise two-thirds of the company’s workforce – as the last seven fatalities across its operations involved contractors or subcontractors.

Read full story

Small business takes aim at Boland review into WHS laws

The Council of Small Business Organisations Australia (COSBOA) has expressed concern about the Boland review of the model WHS laws commissioned by Safe Work Australia and called for it to be withdrawn.

Read full story

Queensland records highest number of on-farm deaths and injuries

Queensland had more non-fatal injuries in rural workplaces than the rest of Australia combined, according to research into deaths and injuries for the first six months of 2019.

Read full story

NT industrial manslaughter laws to include life imprisonment

The Northern Territory Government recently introduced industrial manslaughter laws into parliament, with a goal of having them debated and enacted by the end of year.
Beyond Blue has developed a guide to help you support the small business owners you know or work with. There are many challenges that can affect the mental health of small business owners, including long work hours, social isolations, customer demands, cash flow issues, work-life balance, job insecurity, lack of administrative support and more.

Check out the guide at [here](https://www.aihs.org.au/civicrm/mailing/view?reset=1&id=1569) and get tips to help you support the small business owners you know.

**POLICY & LEGISLATION**

Safe Work Australia releases prefabricated concrete guide

Safe Work Australia recently released a guide on prefabricated concrete elements in the construction industry.

Queensland introduces Code of Practice for stone benchtop industry

Queensland will introduce Australia’s first Code of Practice for the stone benchtop industry, according to the state’s Industrial Relations Minister Grace Grace.
Safe Work Australia launches National Return to Work Strategy

Safe Work Australia recently launched the National Return to Work Strategy 2020-2030, which sets an agenda to minimise the impact of work-related injury and illness and optimise workers’ recovery and capacity to work.

Feedback sought on NT amendments to introduce industrial manslaughter

The Northern Territory Government is seeking comments and feedback on the Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Amendment Bill 2019 which will introduce the new offence of industrial manslaughter.
We invite you to join us for the complimentary 2019 OHS Construction Forum which will be held on Monday 28 October at RMIT University. This year's topic is: “High Risk Work License Training – Perceptions, Practices, Problems and Progress”. Hear from speakers Gloria Kyriacou Morosinotto, Director at Contract Safety Solutions, Kate Maheras, Head of Construction Division at WorkSafe Victoria, Stephen Ryan, Operations Safety Manager VIC/SA/TAS Building at John Holland and more!

Register here

The 2019 SA Safety Symposium: "Major developments in work health and safety regulation and practice" is coming up in exactly two weeks from today on 17 October and being held at the Adelaide Zoo. We look forward to hearing experts touch on a variety of issues including contractor management, an update on silicosis, a look at how to declutter health and safety and lots more!

Register here

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

4 October Perth Safety Symposium 2019
5 October Perth Klaus Hofer's Workshop - Session 2 : System Usability Mapping
16 October NSW - The Central Coast Safety Group meeting October 2019
17 October The North West Sydney Safety Group meeting October 2019
23 October WA Workers Compensation - Enough is Enough
27 October Adelaide ANZSOM Annual Scientific Meeting 2019
31 October Brisbane AIHS Members Table - Safe Work Month Breakfast Forum
INCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS

Workers electrocuted and hospitalised after crane contacts powerlines

A worker was electrocuted while another suffered serious injuries and a third required hospital treatment following an incident in Queensland in which a mobile crane contacted overhead powerlines.

Apprentice jockey fatally injured after fall from horse

An apprentice jockey in Victoria has sustained fatal head injuries after falling from a horse while undertaking trackwork.

Otraco International enters into $458,219 enforceable undertaking

Tyre contractor Otraco International has entered into an enforceable undertaking in which it will pay at least $458,219 including the

BHP fined $50,000 after failure to close damaged road

BHP was fined recently $50,000 in the Perth’s Magistrate Court after pleading guilty for a
funding and delivery of safety and community projects at a minimum cost of $385,570.

charge arising from an incident that injured a worker on 27 January 2016.

Read full story  
Read full story