

# **Work Health and Safety Advisory Council**

*Work Health and Safety (National  
Uniform Legislation) Act*

## **Annual Report 2015-2016**

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## Function and Purpose of the Advisory Council

The Work Health and Safety Advisory Council (WHSAC) is a tripartite body, established to provide advice on the administration of the *Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act* (the Act) and standards of work health and safety in the Northern Territory.

In accordance with schedule 2(3) of the Act, the functions of the Council are:

- (a) to keep under review the operation of this Act;
- (b) to make recommendations to the Minister on possible changes to:
  - (i) the administration of this Act; or
  - (ii) standards of work health and safety in the Northern Territory;
- (c) at the request of the Minister, to investigate and report to the Minister on matters relating to work health and safety; and
- (d) to perform any other advisory functions relating to work health and safety as the Minister directs.

## Membership of the Advisory Council

Schedule 2(4) of the Act outlines membership of the Council as follows:

- (1) The Council consists of:
  - (a) the person constituting the Authority under section 4(3) of the *Work Health Administration Act*; and
  - (b) not more than 10 other persons appointed by the Minister.
- (2) The members appointed under subclause (1)(b) must:
  - (a) include persons with a wide range of experience extending as far as possible across all major industry sectors in the Territory; and
  - (b) as far as practicable, consist of equal numbers of representatives of organisations representing employees.

There is no legislative requirement for meetings to be held on a regular basis.

## Members of the Council for 2015-2016

On 23 July 2015, the former Minister for Business approved membership of the Council to remain vacant until the proposed amendments of the Work Health and Safety legislation were considered. Following the public submission process in October 2015 for proposed amendments to the Work Health and Safety legislation, the invitation for nominations for Council proceeded.

On 16 December 2015, the invitation was approved for nominations from interested persons and organisations to the Council due to the expiry of all members on 31 May 2015. The nomination period ended on 29 January 2016 and the current Council was appointed on 22 April 2016 for a two year period.

**Neilia Ginnane, Executive Director Housing Industry Association (HIA) – Chair**

Mr Ginnane is currently the Executive Director of the Housing Industry Association (HIA) which is Australia's peak residential building, renovation and development industry association, with over 40,000 members across Australia including Builders, Manufacturers, Suppliers and building-related Trades. In the Northern Territory HIA represents 400 members with most of these being business owners and employers. Ms Ginnane has for many years been involved in the implementation and managements of safety systems in a number of industries including aviation, local government and vocational education and training.

**Mr Stephen Gelding, NT WorkSafe – Work Health Authority**

Throughout 2015-2016, Mr Gelding was the Work Health Authority and the Northern Territory representative for Safe Work Australia.

**Marita Wilson, Work Health Safety and Environment Manager, Halkitis Brothers**

Ms Wilson is currently the Work Health Safety and Environment Manager for the Halkitis Brothers Group. Ms Wilson has 10 years' experience on major local projects including the Strategic Indigenous Housing and Infrastructure Project (SIHIP) and the Darwin Correctional Centre at Holtze.

**Scott Lawton, Road Transport Industry representation**

Mr Scott Lawton brings 25 years of experience to the industry. Mr Lawton was nominated by the Traffic Management Association of Australia, who has a focus on improving traffic safety in the Northern Territory. Mr Lawton is an experienced Site and Project Manager, Estimator and Operations Manager who has managed key sites in Darwin. Mr Lawton runs a successful business named Diggamen Civil Contracting, which was founded in Darwin in 2006 and expanded into Alice Springs on 2009.

**Jeff Huyben, Accommodation and Food Industry and Regional representation**

Mr Huyben is currently the Resort General Manager at Chifley Alice Springs Resort, specialising in accommodation, conference and food business units. His role is responsible for focusing on accountability of standards and policies, compliance with relevant human resource and management of 70 staff.

**Bryan Wilkins, Manufacturing Industry and Union representation**

Mr Wilkins is currently employed by the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union (AMWU) as the NT organiser. AMWU represents workers in a range of industries including manufacturing, automotive, construction, mining, printing and technical services. As an organiser with AMWU, Mr Wilkins is required to advise members on Work Health and Safety and Workers Compensation matters.

**Sean O'Connor, Remote and Indigenous Employment Industry representation**

Mr O'Connor is currently based in remote Nhulunbuy, East Arnhem Land and has coordinated Work Health and Safety for Yolngu Business Enterprises for the past five years. He has ten years' experience in the Northern Territory in offshore mining, gas and oil sector.

### **Shenal Basnayake, Agriculture Industry representation**

Mr Basnayake is the Chief Executive Officer for NT Farmers. He is accountable and responsible to the Board for the management of all operations for the association where he identifies and harnesses opportunities that ensure the sustainability of all plant based industries in the Northern Territory. He represents the interests of members at various forums in the Northern Territory and nationally.

### **Bruce Anderson, Resource and Mining Industry representation**

Mr Anderson has worked as a health and safety professional for 27 years. His experience covers construction, mining and on and off shore drilling. Mr Anderson has been with INPEX for the past 10 years and has recently relocated to the NT to take up the position of onshore HSW Manager at Bladin Point.

### **Skye Lee, Health Care and Social Assistance Industry representation**

Ms Lee is the Assets, Infrastructure and Maintenance Manager for Somerville Community Services. Ms Lee oversees Work Health and Safety for the organisation including chairing quarterly meetings reviewing and updating policies and procedures, and implementing Work Health and Safety changes where necessary. Mr Lee holds a Certificate IV in Occupational Health and Safety.

### **Brian Fowler, Resource and Mining Industry representation**

Mr Fowler was nominated on behalf of the Minerals Council of Australia; he is the General Manager NT and Sustainability, Arafura Resources. Mr Fowler has an extensive knowledge of Work Health and Safety matters in the Northern Territory in the minerals sector, and has a proven ability to network effectively with a diverse range of stakeholders.

## **Activities of the Advisory Council for 2015-2016**

The Council met on one occasion during 2015-2016 following Council appointment in April 2016:

- 8 June 2016

The members addressed the role and functions of the Council under the *Work Health and Safety (National Uniform Legislation) Act*, Schedule 2 – Work, Health and Safety Advisory Council.

## **Planned Activities of the Advisory Council for 2016-2017**

The following priority areas have been identified by the Council and may form part of future activities:

- Work Health and Safety education in the Agriculture Industry.
- Personal Protective Equipment for hospitality staff.
- Split shifts for employees.
- Fatigue in the Transport Industry.
- Cultural understanding of rights with workers compensation.
- Data collection / reporting for the Mining Industry.
- Traffic Management standards.
- Education for workers to utilise the NT WorkSafe Small Business Program.
- Education on suicide prevention for FIFO workers.
- Education on mental health issues in the workplace.
- Education on safety in the workplace for employees.