

the monitor

Keeping all those with an interest in OHS informed of current developments in workplace health and safety nationally and internationally



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President's Report

The slings and arrows of 2021... No outrageous fortune, but a year of living dangerously amongst the sharing of COVID-19 as the pandemic continues vaccinations are progressing and the UK passing endemic status while NSW and Victoria are still in lock-down. Even my 5G jokes no longer get laughs. I'm more concerned about ambulance ramping without viral activity.

It was a year fraught with lockdowns (did I mention that), a delayed webinar by yours truly double booking, great presentations with Ryan Brodgen, Peter McKay, and Dr Matt Davies and Michael Tooma for a discussion on S26A and the points of view thereof, and a direction going forward to showcase members and member interests. The Silica project and vaping are still to progress, as are refuge chambers and some mining and offshore relevant items as the regulatory mandate continues to mature.

Finally, I am grateful to be president during this time of uncertainly, but pleased to have the capacity to award nominations of life membership to Dr Geoff Taylor, and Dr Kar Chan Wan. I have known the nominated members since I was first introduced to the Society in 1997 (as a Curtin Uni student). Their professional mandate and integrity remains front and centre of the Society and why the modern theoretical rhetoric is often just a change in title or advertising. One pushed me to step up and his guidance and coaching has been a big part of the Society to this day, so again, thanks KC. The other spent the night a few years ago over a Society dinner as we both wondered what was next! No, epidemiology was not considered...

Les Vogiatzakis

President - Occupational Health Society of Australia

Principal consultant - DGaS Services

Editors: Sheryl Kelly and Allaine Coleman

Collaborator: Patrick Gilroy

Bio – Peter Mckay



Peter McKay worked for over twenty-five years in senior work health and safety (WHS) and human resources positions in large and complex public and private health organisations. He also has extensive experience in consulting, actively working as a consultant throughout his career, including in aged care, general, mining and the construction industries.

In 2018 Peter completed a Bachelor of Law at the University of Notre Dame and was admitted to practice law in 2019 after completing his Practical Legal Training.

Peter is developing a digital platform WHSShare, that will give quick access to the information posted to his Linked In account that showcases Australian work health and regulatory safety information, including legislative updates, judgment summaries and safety alerts.

Peter is currently studying for his Masters of Law and working in health and safety consulting, including training, public speaking, and safety systems development.

Follow or connect with Peter on Linked In for:

- BRICKS & a Mortar – over 200 original scenes made of LEGO® bricks based on legal cases, accidents or work health and safety issues, Call to a Casualty - Listening Learning & LEGO®
- law and health and safety memes and videos; and
- humorous takes on working in health and safety in Australia and Linked In marketing.

AGM

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Keep this date

24 November 2021

The above date has been set to hold the Society's Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM will be held at the WA Police Museum, 57 Lincoln St, Highgate.

Zoom will also be available for those who cannot attend in person. Arrangements are being made for members to gather for dinner following the AGM. Further details will be provided closer to the date.



Join the Committee

Why not nominate to join the Committee and participate and support the activities of the Society. The Committee is constantly looking for people who are enthusiastic and motivated to promote the objectives of the Society. If you wish to contribute please nominate.

Nomination forms will be sent with the information about the AGM. If you would like to nominate you can also email the Secretary on ohswa@outlook.com.au for a form.

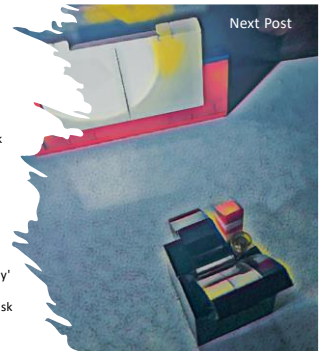
IN EVENTS

The Society has had two Zoom events since our last Monitor.

The first event was held on 28 July was a presentation by Peter McKay entitled “Cross Jurisdiction and Industry Leaning & Lego®”. The presentation was extremely interesting and I doubt the snippets presented here will do it justice. Peter provided information on his novel way of getting the safety message across, Peter uses Lego to illustrate the individual components which contribute to incidents. A number of slides, used in the presentation, have been reproduced here to demonstrate how Peter achieves this objective.



- UK Prosecution – Birmingham 2018
- Cinema attendee in a Gold Class Seat
- Realised his keys and phone were missing
- Knelt down with footrest in the raised position and went under the seat
- Footrest came down (25 tonnes of pressure on neck)
- Wife tried to raise but the controls would not work
- Stuck 10–15 minutes
- Cinema workers removed the bolts from the chair but he suffered a heart attack
- Died a week later from 'catastrophic' injuries.
- Vue entertainment fined £750k, plus £130,000 costs
- "There was no risk assessment at all"
- The footrest mechanism had been 'fitted incorrectly' and was never tested.
- "The seriousness of the harm risked was indeed a risk of death albeit there is plainly a low likelihood of that eventuating."



MT Sheds incident and subsequent prosecution

IN EVENTS

The second event was held on 22 September. The presentation, from our two (2) presenters, were extremely interesting and informative. The Society was extremely lucky to have Michael Tooma, a preeminent lawyer on safety and health in Australia and internationally, present to our members. Michael has written many books on the legislation and potential implications. Michael provided some insight into the implications for safety professionals with the introduction of Section 26 in the new Work Health Safety legislation. We have provided a copy of slides from Michael's presentation for those who did not attend

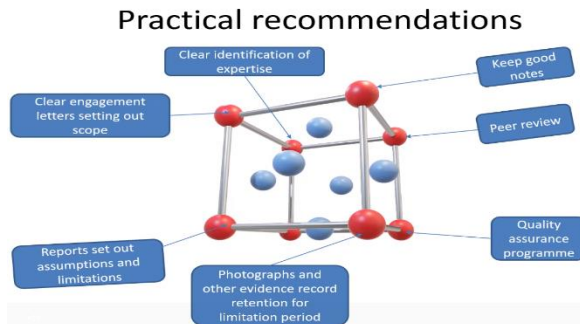
Duty of WHS Service Providers

WHS Services
Services that relate to work health and safety

Duty
WHS Service Provider must ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, that the WHS services are provided so that any relevant use of them will, or in relation to, it workplace will not put at risk the health and safety of persons who are at the workplace.

Coverage

- Inspects risk assessments
- Safety audits
- Plant inspections
- Incident investigations
- Training
- Drug & Alcohol Testing
- Contractor pre-qualification
- COVID Testing
- Pre-employment medicals
- Injury management and rehabilitation services
- Adverse identification, Recreational development and Management Plans, and removal
- High risk work that requires engineering certificates or competent person certificates such as scaffolding, hoists, etc.
- Traffic management plans



The other presenter, for the event on 22 September, was Dr Matt Davies from Curtin University. Matt provided some fantastic insight into some of the dilemmas which may be experienced with ethics and the safety profession. Matt is a member of the Society and the Committee greatly appreciates the time and effort given to his presentation.

The General Relationship

Ethics?... emerge when we think about moral questions of how we should act...!

We have and make choices which define us as human beings. Some decisions are complex. The 'how' of moral choices...

'What ought I to do?'

Legal? – some/many moral questions are already covered by law. Probably not the majority however, hence the relevance of ethics in OHS/WHHS.

For professional bodies, a Code and process for establishing and assessing conduct is essential to professional integrity and reputation.



What does it mean to belong to a profession?

"A profession is a disciplined group of individuals who adhere to ethical standards and who hold themselves out as, and are accepted by the public as possessing special knowledge and skills in a widely recognised body of learning derived from research, education and training at a high level, and who are prepared to apply this knowledge and exercise these skills in the interest of others"

(Professions Australia, 1997).

Tips for Self Management in Professional Ethical Challenges

i.e. Speaking UP! (developed by Gentile (2010))

Accept that ethical issues and conflict in values will occur in professional practice, and hence we need strategies

Managing conflict is not about fighting, or preaching – it is about influence

Don't try to change people, focus on the situation and how we can reshape

Despite differences - identify shared values, goals and common ground

Do not condemn people or actions or set rules – propose options and leave open for modifying and developing

Anticipate typical rationalizations for questionable behaviour – there are many! Identify counter arguments...

Practice to build confidence in speaking in an influential way, a mentor, a script?

Identify enablers and disablers to speak with influence, these vary

Accept that action can have risk; needs weighing against risk of not speaking up; not a matter of whether but HOW.

Some known problems identified in allied professions

Plagiarism	Increased pressure, restructuring, consultants vs in-house
Failure to protect confidential data	Overseas work and lack of standards
Failure to share credit on a report	Contractual and commercial pressures
Fabrication of data	Lack of legal clarity to support standards
Criticize the ability/integrity of colleague for own gain	Contingent work relationships
Holding back or disguising data	Job security risks with safety advocacy
Design of strategy to favour a specific outcome	More? – performance targets and measurement, classifications, LTI's .etc etc
Destruction of data that contradicts desired outcome	RTW, and FFW assessments,
Deliberately not reporting an incident	Business models that drive incompatible outcomes...(e.g. Amazon...)

It was a shame more members did not sign up for this presentation given the relevance to many and the insight from Michael and Matt.

IN SAFETY

WA pumps funds into WHS transition

Western Australian Industrial Relations Minister, Stephen Dawson has allocated funds to peak employer and worker representative groups to help duty holders transition to the new Work Health Safety (WHS) Act. The laws will come into effect in January 2022.

Total funding of \$300,000 per year across four years will be shared by: the Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA; Master Builders WA; the Chamber of Minerals and Energy; the Housing Industry Association; the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies and Unions WA.

According to the Minister, these organisations will use the funds to run conferences, training workshops, develop education materials, utilise social media, websites and printed publications to raise awareness about the new legislation. Employers and workers are encouraged to access education and information initiatives about the new WHS requirements as they become available.

The new laws passed Parliament late last year, implementing much of the national model WHS Act and provisions recommended by national reviews, including those creating the offence of industrial manslaughter and prohibiting insurance against safety fines.

Safe Work Australia has developed transitional principles that set out how arrangements under existing work health and safety (WHS) legislation are intended to transition to the new system.

Company fined over serious injuries to worker

A land development company has been fined \$95,000 and ordered to pay \$2044,50 in costs, over an incident in 2018 in which a worker was seriously injured when a wall and steel plate fell on him.

Wormall Civil Pty Ltd pleaded guilty to failing to provide and maintain a safe workplace and by that failure, caused serious injury to an employee.

WorkSafe looks at safety in takeaway food outlets



WorkSafe is undertaking a proactive inspection programme to look at workplace safety and health issue in takeaway food outlets.

The program will involve inspectors visiting fast food outlets in Perth and regional areas throughout 2021/2022. The program has been prompted by continued significant numbers of lost time injuries in the sector. Along with fact that young workers were most often injured.

Fees and charges to increase in July 2021

Changes to the Department of Mines, Safety and Industry Regulation (DMIRS) fees and charges for the following come into effect as of 1 July 2021:

- Asbestos licences;
- Demolition licences;
- High risk work licences;
- High risk work assessors registration;
- Plant and design registrations; and
- Dangerous goods related licences

A schedule of fees and charges can be found on the DMIRS's website – WorkSafe related licences and Dangerous good related licences.

Forrestfield Airport link project – charges

In June, WorkSafe commenced prosecution action against a subcontractor over serious injuries suffered by a worker on the Forrestfield Airport Link Project.

Salini Australia Pty Ltd has been charged with failing to provide and maintain a safe working environment and the failure, caused serious harm to an employee.

On 7 July 2018, three Salini employees were engaged in connecting steel pipes in an underground tunnel near the Airport Central Station platform when there was a loud explosion.

A six-inch flexible rubber hose, containing high pressure compressed air, had detached from a steel pipe, resulting in unrestrained whiplash motion of the hose.

A member of the work crew was struck in the face by the whipping hose, causing him to be knocked unconscious and inflicting serious injuries including a traumatic brain injury, severe facial fractures and lacerations, a fractured right hand and an eye injury.

The injured worker initially underwent 9 hours of surgery and was placed in an induced coma for 11 days. He has undergone extensive medical intervention including facial surgeries, dental surgeries, plastic surgery, occupational therapy and physiotherapy.

Dangerous goods transport survey

The National Transport Commission released a survey to gather information on mandatory escape respirators for placard loads containing Division 2.3, Division 6.1 or Class 8 dangerous goods. The information gathered through the survey will assist us in the comprehensive review of the Australian Dangerous Goods Code. The survey closed on 31 July 2021.

Further information on the Australian Dangerous Goods Code review is available on the [National Transport Commission project page](#).

Role of the safety professional



"Safety work" like inspections, inductions and checklists is diverting employers' attention from the fact that safety is actually created from the way they plan and execute work, a leading safety expert says.

David Provan is an adjunct Fellow of the Safety Science Innovation Lab the author of the publication through Griffin University on - What is the role of a safety professional? The identity, practice and future of the profession.

Provan states in his thesis that "Safety Professional identify is rife with tensions and contradictions that reveal the complex social and organisational challenges associated with the role. Safety Professionals are both friend and enemy of line management and the frontline workforce. Safety professionals through the practice of their role: align themselves and their work with management objectives, develop safety specific processes and practices, satisfy organisational needs at the expense of worker safety risk reduction, and lack a working connection between safety science knowledge and their safety professional work, decisions and advice.

Provan, defines safety work as "all the things that we do for safety – all the inspections, audits, training, risk assessments, inductions and the checklists". "Those things don't directly change the way that people perform their tasks," he warns.

According to Provan "Contemporary safety theory describes new ways for achieving safety in organisations that are largely at odds with current organisational safety approaches and existing safety professional practice. His thesis provides the first practical description of the role of a safety professional through a resilience engineering, safety-II, and safety differently theoretical lens. The conclusion from his research, is that

organisations expect safety professionals to perform their existing role, and that the contemporary safety science literature demands them to work vastly differently. This thesis makes a significant scientific contribution to the understanding of safety professional identity, safety professional practice, and the future design of the role of a safety professional which will narrow the gap between safety professional work and the safety of work.

Source – Thesis by David Provan – What is the role of a safety professional? The identity, practice and future of the profession.

Hand Protection



Hand injuries are probably the No. 1 preventable injury in the workplace? According to a recent Department of Labor (Toronto) study, of all injuries reported, fingers and hands accounted for more than 23%, making them the most frequent preventable injuries. In terms of lost workdays, they ranked second to back and neck injuries. If they can be prevented, then why not prevent them? How do you build a hand safety program that works?

Start at the top. If you're committed to building a culture of safety, make sure you start at the top. Workers can tell if safety is a real priority if it begins with management and empowers everyone from safety officers and managers to every person in the workplace.

Learn what the best companies do. Best companies have engaged and involved workers. They realize safety is good for business. Preventing hand injuries with a thorough hazard assessment, the right personal protective equipment and effective training is less costly than the injuries themselves. Skimping on hand safety is penny-wise and pound-foolish. By comparison, in the worst companies, there's a distrust of workers. The distrust is reciprocated. This mindset

results in a low priority for hand safety and hand safety programs.

Achieve team buy-in. Your safety program is only going to be effective when everyone participates. What works?

- Telling stories. People respond to stories of practical examples. Stories provide a human face, not just a metric. Maybe it's explaining how an injury impacted a family.
- Start small. If you start small and get people to buy into a cause, then you can slowly ramp up from there.
- Positive peer pressure. Harness social pressure. People learn by example.
- Find the Eeyore. Identify the person(s) who is disengaged and engage them so they feel that they're part of the solution.

Don't use misguided safety incentives (e.g., if workers go 100 days without injury, they get an incentive). This can result in underreporting injuries. Best companies use gamification to award positive activities (e.g., wearing PPE, having meetings).

A good hand safety program needs to start at the top and involve everyone. Whether you're a CEO, supervisor or safety manager, realize it's not about statistics. It's about saving human hands.

Source – Safety and Health website



New safety alerts

In June 2021, the Department of Mines, Safety and Industry Regulation (DMIRS) released new safety alerts.

Safety alert 04/2021 – employee fatally injured after falling from personal property stored at workplace

Safety alert 05/2021 – fatal knife injury at abattoir
Further information can be obtained from WorkSafe's website



**CLEAN AIR.
CLEAR LUNGS.**

Not all workplace
hazards are visible.

#clearlungs | www.gsa.gov.au/clearlungs

Clean air – Clean Lungs

Safe Work Australia (SWA) has launched a campaign aimed at raising awareness of occupational lung diseases.

Information, including case studies, information sheets and checklists, have been developed by SWA to assist organisations to identify and assess the risk of exposure to hazardous materials at their workplace.

Learn more about occupational lung diseases, identifying the hazards, managing the risks, and monitoring and reviewing the controls at your workplace. Log onto the SWA website - www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/clearlungs/about.

Information has also been translated into languages other than English.

New publication – Fit testing of respiratory protective equipment

The Occupational Safety and Health laws require employers to ensure that where respiratory protective equipment is needed to protect health, these are correctly fitted. The department has released an information sheet to assist you in meeting these requirements. The information sheet, [Respiratory protective equipment - Fit testing requirements](#) is available on the WorkSafe website -

Amendments to assist early detection of silicosis

Amendments to the Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996, relating to health surveillance for workers exposed to respirable crystalline silica came into effect on 15 April, 2021. The amendments will require employers to provide a low dose HRCT scan, supervised by an appointed medical practitioner, instead of previously required chest X-ray.

Western Australia is the first jurisdiction to prescribe a low dose HRCT scan for crystalline silica health surveillance.



Having a say on psychological health at work

In May 2021, the Minister for Workplace Safety, Ingrid Stitt MP, announced the Victorian Government's commitment to amend the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations 2017 (OHS Regulations) to address the issue of psychological health.

The proposed amendments will strengthen the occupational health and safety framework and recognise that psychosocial hazards are no less harmful to workers' safety and wellbeing than physical hazards.

Deloitte Access Economics has been engaged to prepare a regulatory impact statement regarding the potential impacts of possible amendments to the OHS Regulations.

Cancer Council urges reduction in silica dust exposure



A campaign to highlight the dangers of exposure to silica dust has been launched by Cancer Council Australia to raise awareness for those working in high-risk industries.

Long-term exposure to silica dust has the potential to cause fatal lung disease including silicosis and lung cancer.

Occupations with the greatest risk of exposure include miners, construction workers, farmers and engineers.

Cancer Council Australia chief executive officer Tanya Buchanan said 600,000 Australians are exposed to silica dust in the workplace.

“Silica dust can be 100 times smaller than a grain of sand, meaning workers can breathe it in without even knowing,” she said.

“Over time this causes serious lung damage and can lead to lung cancer, silicosis, chronic pulmonary disease, and kidney disease.

“We want to make sure any Australians working in environments in which they may be exposed to silica dust are aware of both the health risks and the work health and safety processes they need to follow to protect themselves.

“Following these processes can help to reduce the number of Australians developing lung cancer and other serious health problems from exposure to silica dust.”

According to Buchanan, those health and safety processes include substituting products containing high levels of silica for less hazardous materials and ensuring effective personal protective equipment is worn, including a respirator to filter the silica out from air that is breathed in.

People exposed to silica dust in the workplace should also ensure they use water-based cutting

methods and have proper ventilation to remove silica that becomes airborne.

“Occupational cancers are preventable. That’s why we’re urging the Australian Government to introduce a national mandatory limit for silica dust exposure in Australia which would restrict exposure to just 0.02 milligrams per cubic metre over an eight-hour period,” Buchanan said.

“Reducing the current allowable limit of 0.05 milligrams per cubic metre will protect the lives of Australian workers and is a step in the right direction towards a cancer-free future.

Source – Mining Safe to Work website

Mental support needed for young drivers, one in five in distress

In results, in one of two newly released reports, highlights the need for interventions to prevent and manage chronic health conditions in young drivers.

Mental health interventions are also needed, especially for younger drivers, with one in five under 35 years of age reporting severe psychological stress compared to one in nine in the general public.

“The industry cannot rely on younger drivers finding their own coping strategies without support,” the report says, noting that a previous report found suicide was a leading cause of death for drivers under the age of 40.

“Future initiatives to address the mental health of drivers, such as those proposed by Healthy Heads in Trucks and Shed and Steering Healthy Minds, should not only address the capacity of drivers to cope with the stresses of the job, but also aim to reduce the psychological strain placed on drivers.”

The study also underscores that chronic health conditions not only affect drivers' health outcomes but their driving performance and work ability.

“While the significance of having multiple chronic conditions is not surprising when considering general health and health related quality of life, having three or more chronic conditions approached doubling the odds of experiencing a crash,” the report says.

Long hours spent on the road prevent many workers from eating healthy food and getting regular exercise, which are essential for preventing

many conditions like diabetes, mental health issues and cardiovascular diseases. Meanwhile, accessing health professionals can be difficult given the unpredictable work shifts and overnight work.

"The majority of drivers completing this survey were employee drivers rather than owner drivers, suggesting there may be a role to play for employers to devote increased resources to driver health and wellbeing," the report says.

"Helping drivers to be healthy and stay healthy at work will not only benefit employees but will likely improve their performance at work as well,"

Comcare responded to the findings by encouraging employers to promote a series of health and wellbeing resources to their drivers.

The regulator said it is collaborating with the Driving Health partners "to explore appropriate interventions aimed at improving health and wellbeing of truck drivers and how to best implement them".

Source – www.healthyheads.org.au

Hearing Protection: most underestimated health concern



According to Terry van Dijk (a lawyer by trade), noise induced hearing loss is the most commonly reported occupational disease, particularly in mining. Yet it is also the most underestimated health concern on the work floor.

A class two or three filter may be sufficient for Sydney Opera musicians, but not for miners who regularly work in louder environments. There is a 24-hour activity going around heavy machinery," van Dijk says. "The exposure to that much noise will lead to hearing damage if not protected early and properly."

"In manufacturing and mining, 40 per cent of employees experience significant noise levels for more than half of their working time," he says.

"By age 60, 75 per cent of miners suffer from noise induced hearing loss. Many miners will recognise symptoms such as difficulty hearing warning signals and hearing others properly; background noises that are louder than those closer to them; ringing or buzzing of the ears; headaches; fatigue; stress and dull or muffled hearing after leaving a noisy area. These all symptoms of overexposure to noise."

Sadly, noise pollution can adversely impact a person's mental health. This could start with distraction and the inability to concentrate, before progressing into irritation, poor job performance and frayed temper.

"Providing a class five product where a class three would suffice can lead to isolation and non-compliance," van Dijk explains. "On the other hand, class five product that reduces mostly low frequencies might be insufficient in a high-frequency environment."

Numerous studies have also linked noise pollution to increased anxiety, depression, high blood pressure, heart disease and strokes, van Dijk says.

Pacific Ears' Pro series custom ear plugs , for example, reduce sound to safe levels without causing muffling or occlusion. Van Dijk even calls the development a "breakthrough in high-noise filtering."

The Pro series ear plugs are suitable for use in confined areas and are also a suitable double layer of protection as there is no interference with safety glasses, hats and other forms of personal protective equipment (PPE).

Beyond the job site, Pacific Ears has developed sleeping ear plugs to improve miners' quality of rest.

"A common misconception is that custom hearing protection is expensive, but if you calculate it per pair per user, it is the most economical and more environmentally friendly solution."

Source: Safe to Work magazine – Sept – Oct edition

See related article on hearing protection in Issue 2, Vol 28 – June 2020 of the Monitor.



Beards and poor dust controls attract enforcement notices

WorkSafe WA issued more than 1,000 enforcement notices across 150 workplace inspections, and identified 24 cases of deadly lung disease silicosis, during its silica compliance program.

The notices involved: workers not being clean shaven while using fitted respirators; dust accumulation; the absence of health surveillance processes; the unsafe storage of stone slabs; forklift breaches; insufficient or poorly maintained fire extinguishers; the absence of first-aid supplies or training; and many other issues, the eight-page report says.

Undertaken between July 2018 and May 2021, WorkSafe's project targeted the Western Australian engineered stone benchtop industry, as well as wall chasing activities in the construction sector, and sample preparation processes in assay laboratories.

The release of the project report coincides with the National Dust Disease Taskforce's final report on preventing occupational dust diseases like accelerated silicosis and New Zealand's "Life Shavers" campaign, aimed at ensuring workers are clean shaven to improve the efficacy of respiratory protective equipment.

The Western Australian report warns that facial hair compromises the effectiveness of RPE. (WorkSafe have released a [fact sheet](#) on the beard issue.)

The project found 75 per cent of targeted workplaces where air monitoring was conducted recorded respirable crystalline silica levels above the prescribed "action level", and few workplaces used dust extraction or local exhaust ventilation systems on hand tools and cutting equipment.

Workers using hand tools on engineered stone were exposed to excessive levels of crystalline silica dust even where they used water to suppress the dust, the report stresses.

Poor practices around RPE fitting and maintenance, water recovery systems, hygiene, and hazardous chemicals like solvents and adhesives, were also identified, it says.

Meanwhile, 365 workers participated in health surveillance programs under the project, resulting in 24 stone workers being diagnosed with silicosis.

Seven cases were identified by low-dose CT scans, after being missed by traditional chest x-rays. These CT scans were mandated by recent amendments to the Western Australian OSH Regulations.

The Monitor has included several articles on silica in the past.



Eliminate or reduce the risk of work-related violence.

Leaders at all levels can have a powerful influence in developing a positive safety culture where priority is placed on the health, safety, and wellbeing of workers. As a leader, you should demonstrate a commitment to promoting a culture where violence and aggression is not accepted as 'part of the job'.

Encourage workers to report incidents of work-related violence.

Workers who have been affected by a work-related violence (WRV) incident in the workplace may feel it's a waste of time reporting incidents because

'nothing will be done'. It is critical to engage and provide training for your workers, so they know:

- why they need to report incidents
- the reporting policies and procedures at their workplace
- they will be supported when they report
- what will happen after they report, and the feedback they can expect to receive, and
- their reporting has contributed to positive changes to reduce future risks.

Safe Work Australia (SWA_ has produced National guidance material on how you can prevent work-related violence in your workplace. See SWA website for a copy of the guidance material.

Comments sought for silica safety training

Artibus Innovation, an organisation based in Hobart, has been commissioned by the Australian Industry Skills Commission to develop Silica Safety training for the vocational education sector. The Senior Project Officer is Chris Donnelly.

Under the guidance of the Construction, Plumbing and Services Industry Reference Committee, Artibus are developing five units of competency which will advance skills and knowledge to reduce the health and safety risks for workers. Once endorsed, these units will be available on the [National Training Register](#) for Registered Training Organisations to add to their scope of delivery.

the organisation is currently working on a project, commissioned by the Australian Industry Skills Commission to develop Silica Safety training for the vocational education sector.

Dr KC Wan, Occupational Physician and long time committee member of the Occupational Health Society, has submitted the following comments to this project:

- that worker must be clean shaven when using PPE,
- worker require regular health surveillance prescribed by WorkSafe WA
- employer and supervisor must ensure workers are not exposed to crystalline silica

exceeding the exposure standard for respirable crystalline silica

- worker to have preplacement medical exam to exclude respiratory conditions that restrict exposure to silica

Thanks, KC for allowing the Society to reproduce your submission.

Take Care of Your Body



Stress. Tension. Fear. Worry. Doubt. All feelings we have experienced throughout 2020 and 2021. This is just a reminder to take care of your bodies so they'll take care of you.

From your diet to exercise routines to adjustments and massages, be mindful of what you're doing to fuel your body to keep it as strong and healthy as possible. Christmas holidays are not too far away and may look and feel different this year, but that doesn't mean you and your family can't feel your best.

Here are a few tips for this season:

- Limit sweets – We know it's hard, and it's fun to indulge every now and then, but too much sugar can have negative effects on your body and mind.
- Move, move, move – Exercise does wonders for body and mind. Get out and move as much as you can. Take family walks, park in the farthest parking spot at the market so you have to walk further. Take the stairs whenever you can. Little movements add up.
- Get adjusted – Don't let aches and pains keep you from doing the other things you need to do to stay healthy.

Source – Chelsea Chiropractic newsletter

Occupational Health Society of Australia (WA Branch)



Incorporated in 1978, the Occupational Health Society of Australia (WA Branch) is a non-profit association which provides a forum for the wide range of disciplines engaged in the occupational health profession in Western Australia.

The aims of the Society are:

- to develop effective occupational health practice within Western Australia
- to encourage awareness by individuals, organisations and other bodies, of the role of occupational health
- to provide a forum for professional contact between persons interested in, and working in, occupational health
- to express an independent, professional viewpoint on all aspects of occupational health considered desirable in the public interest
- to seek the improvement or an extension of the existing legislation for the promotion of safety and health at work
- in order to ensure uniform principles are applied in all occupational activities.

Membership to the Society is open to all those interested in occupational health and safety.

Corporate membership \$100

Ordinary membership \$50

Student membership \$20

Simply email
ohswa@outlook.com.au with your details

**Please contact the Secretariat on
ohswa@outlook.com.au regarding
membership matters.**

Occupational Health Society of Australia (WA)

Current Financial Members

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