

Modernising Work Health and Safety Laws in Western Australia

Submission by Mazenod College

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Submission template - blank

This template that allows you to address any aspect of the model WHS Act. If you wish to comment on a large number of the MAP recommendations you should consider using the template that has all of those recommendations pre-filled.

Questions for you to consider:

1. What is the likely cost to implement a specific proposal?
2. What is the benefit to workplace participants?
3. Is a specific recommendation likely to be effective in achieving safer workplaces?
4. Are there any unintended consequences of a proposal?
5. If a new requirement is proposed, what are the costs and benefits?

Recommendation number in the Consultation Paper and/or section number in the model WHS Bill.

The current OSH Act and the model WHS Act neglect addressing the reporting of injuries in schools.

By both definition and current and proposed regulations, students are visitors to the workplace and by regulation are to be treated the same as workers in regard to their safety.

If a worker breaks a bone in the workplace this is a notifiable injury. The current Worksafe policy is that they do not want schools to report such student injuries regardless of their cause. The causes of some of these injuries could just as easily happen to and employee.. eg. Falling down stairs.

Worksafe do however, want to know of other injuries such as the loss of a finger or more serious injury. The proposed bill does not address the issue of what injury to students is reportable and what is not. Multiple broken bones is a case in question.

While the Department of Education have their own procedures for the reporting of accidents this is not the situation for all the non-government schools. While non-government schools are to report incidents and injuries to the Minister, there is no clear direction of what is reportable and what is not and principals of

	<p>schools are not given clear direction and this constitutes an area of confusion that has received no clear guidance.</p> <p>It should be remembered that 15 to 17 year olds who were once being injured in the workplace are now at educational institutions and are still subject to injury by school workplace conditions particularly in school workshops and other areas of risk. The injuries that happened to these young people who became employees in the past are no longer reportable as students.</p> <p>The proposed bill must address this issue. Regardless of the current Worksafe policy, by the existing and proposed Acts, the law requires an injury that happens to a student to be reported in exactly the same way as an employee.</p>
	<p><i>Add more rows to include more comments</i></p>