



Section 16 of the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984* requires the Commission for Occupational Safety and Health to prepare a report for the Minister for Commerce on its activities during the financial year

# Commission for Occupational Safety and Health

Annual Report 2016-17

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## STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

HON. BILL JOHNSTON MLA  
MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Dear Minister

In accordance with section 16 of the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984*, I submit for your information and presentation to Parliament, the Annual Report of the Commission for Occupational Safety and Health for the 12 months ending 30 June 2017.



George Allingame  
Chairperson  
Commission for Occupational Safety and Health

## REPORT FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

As Chairperson of the Commission for Occupational Safety and Health (the Commission), I am pleased to present its annual report for the year ended 30 June 2017.

The Commission is established under the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984* (the OSH Act) and is responsible to the relevant Minister. The Commission's functions include providing advice to the Minister on occupational safety and health (OSH) matters and publishing occupational safety and health codes of practice and guidance material.

The harmonisation of work health and safety laws under the auspices of the *Inter-Governmental Agreement for Regulatory and Operational Reform in Occupational Health and Safety* (the WHS IGA) continued to be a major focus for the work of the Commission in 2016/17.

On 23 October 2014, the Minister for Commerce tabled in Parliament the Work Health and Safety Bill 2014 (the WHS Bill), in the form of a Green Bill, for a three month public comment period ending on 30 January 2015. During the three-month consultation period, a discussion paper, which provided a summary of recommended amendments to the model WHS regulations based on a review conducted by WorkSafe, was released for a public consultation period, commencing on 1 June 2016 and ending on 31 August 2016. As with the Green Bill, Commission members through their respective organisations provided their comment on the proposed regulations.

Following the election of the McGowan Government on 11 March 2017, the Minister for Commerce and Industrial Relations, the Hon Bill Johnston MLA, examined the occupational safety and health laws currently in force in Western Australia and the model Work Health and Safety laws developed at the national level. At his meeting with the Commission on 7 June 2017, the Minister confirmed his intention to modernise the state's laws and to create, as from 1 July 2017, a new department, the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety. The new department will work on options for progressing health and safety legislation applicable to general industry and the resources sector. The Commission and the Mining Industry Advisory Committee (MIAC), via an advisory panel, will provide advice to the Minister on the options for progressing a new and modernised regime of occupational health and safety laws for the state.

The Commission's current business plan has as its objectives: to reduce the incidence of work-related death, injury and illness; to reduce exposure to hazards and risks; to improve hazard control; and to improve work health and safety infrastructure. To pursue the objectives of the business plan, the Commission formed a number of working groups and significant progress has been made in producing outcomes in the areas of occupational diving, electrical safety, slips, trips & falls at the same level, and leadership/chief executive officer engagement.

During the 2016/2017 year, the Commission, in accordance with its guidelines and criteria, approved introductory courses for safety and health representatives in response to applications received from Registered Training Organisations.

Two members of the Commission, together with the WorkSafe Western Australia Commissioner and a person nominated by the WorkSafe Inspectorate, formed the judging panel for the annual Work Safety Awards. The award process invites participants in Western Australian workplaces to lodge an entry into one of four categories to achieve recognition in workplace safety and health.

The Commission continued its ongoing consideration of WorkSafe WA statistical data which reports work-related fatalities and regulatory activity, as well as safety alerts issued and posted on the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, WorkSafe Division website.

Specific occupational safety and health issues that were addressed by the Commission during the year included:

- projected changes in Australia's labour market over the coming twenty years, due to changing technologies;
- emerging safety and health issues;
- protection of workers exposed to lead;
- horizontal underground directional drilling;
- a Strategic Industry Audit of units of competency for High Risk Work Licences;
- asbestos awareness and management; and
- occupational safety and health issues specific to the agricultural sector.

The Commission received reports from members on the activities of their respective organisations as well as presentations from the Cancer Council WA on occupational cancers and from Beyond Midnight Consulting on sleep patterns and fatigue management.

2016-17 was the final year that I had the privilege of serving as Commission Chairperson. I would like to thank members of the Commission and members of all advisory committees and working parties for their efforts and dedication during my period of service, as well as thank all WorkSafe officers for their hard work and professionalism on behalf of the Commission.



**George Allingame**

**Chairperson, Commission for Occupational Safety and Health**

## SECTION ONE: ABOUT THE COMMISSION

### Responsible Minister

Under the Barnett Government, the Minister for Commerce, the Hon Michael Mischin MLC, was responsible for the administration of the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984* (the OSH Act). Following the election of the McGowan Government on 11 March 2017, the responsible Minister became the Hon Bill Johnston MLA, Minister for Commerce and Industrial Relations.

Section 16 of the OSH Act requires the Commission, on or before 31 October in each year, to submit to the Minister a report of its operations and the operation of the OSH Act and any prescribed law during the year ending 30 June.

### Enabling Legislation

The Commission was established in April 1985 (as the Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Commission) under section 6 of the OSH Act.

### Commission Vision

The Commission's vision is to foster continuous improvement in work health and safety.

As a tripartite and expert group, the Commission will show strong leadership and engagement with the community and contribute to an environment where the OSH legal framework supports safety and health in Western Australian workplaces now and in the future.

### Functions of the Commission

During the 2016/2017 year, the Commission was funded through the WorkSafe division of the Department of Commerce.

The Commission's functions include:

- inquiring into and reporting to the Minister upon any matters referred to it by the Minister;
- advising and cooperating with Government departments, public authorities, unions, employer organisations and other interested parties;
- developing and reviewing OSH legislation and associated standards and making recommendations to the Minister;
- publishing OSH information, codes, standards, specifications and guidance material; and
- reviewing registration and licensing schemes.

## Composition of the Commission

In accordance with section 6 of the OSH Act, the Commission is comprised of:

- (a) an independent Chairperson, nominated by the Minister and appointed by the Governor;
- (b) the WorkSafe Western Australia Commissioner;
- (c) two officers of the Public Service nominated by the Minister, one of whom must be an officer from the department responsible for the administration of the *Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994*; and
- (d) nine persons appointed by the Governor, as follows,
  - two members nominated by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of WA (CCIWA);
  - one member nominated by the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia (CMEWA);
  - three members nominated by UnionsWA, one of whom must have knowledge of and experience in the mining industry in Western Australia; and
  - three members nominated by the Minister, having knowledge of, or experience in, occupational safety and health (OSH).

The following members held office during 2016/2017:

- Independent Chairperson: Mr George Allingame;
- WorkSafe Western Australia Commissioner: Mr Lex McCulloch;
- Officers of the Public Service: Ms Anne Driscoll, Deputy Chair, Director General, Department of Commerce and Mr Simon Ridge, Executive Director, Resources Safety Division, Department of Mines and Petroleum;
- Members nominated by the CCIWA: Ms Andrea Roelofs and Ms Jennifer Low (until 12 June 2017);
- Member nominated by the CMEWA: Ms Nicole Roocke;
- Members nominated by UnionsWA: Ms Joy Barrett, Mr Owen Whittle and Mr Mike Zoetbrood;
- Members with knowledge of, or experience in OSH, nominated by the Minister for Commerce: Dr Barry Chesson, Dr Matthew Davies and Dr Michael Lucas (appointed 13 September 2016)

The Commission's Executive Officer is Mr Alan Layton of DMIRS, WorkSafe Division.



## SECTION TWO: GOVERNANCE DISCLOSURES

### Commission's Governance Framework

The Commission's Handbook and Code of Conduct 2015 sets out its governance principles, which include:

- values;
- accountability;
- role and operation;
- administration;
- record keeping; and
- coordination between WorkSafe and the Commission.

### Compliance with Public Sector Standards and Ethical Codes

Under section 9 of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*, the Commission is obliged to comply with any code of conduct applicable to the public sector body or employee concerned.

### Recordkeeping

The Commission's record keeping and use of information policy is contained within its Handbook and Code of Conduct 2015. The handbook includes information on the documentation of decisions, use of confidential information, security of information and compliance with freedom of information legislation.

### Public Interest Disclosure

The Commission maintains a Public Interest Disclosure Register. No matters were raised in 2016/2017 under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2003*.

### Advertising and sponsorship

In accordance with section 175ZE of the *Electoral Act 1907*, the Commission is required to report annually on any expenditure for advertising, market research, polling, direct mail or media advertising that was incurred by or on behalf of the Commission. Any such information is included in the annual report of the Department of Commerce for 2016/2017.

## **SECTION THREE: REPORT ON 2016/2017**

### **National harmonisation of occupational health and safety legislation**

On 3 July 2008, the Council of Australian Governments formally committed to the harmonisation of work health and safety laws by signing the WHS IGA.

An independent panel reviewed work health and safety laws in each state, territory and the Commonwealth and advised the then Workplace Relations Ministers' Council (WRMC – subsequently the now abolished Select Council on Workplace Relations) on the optimum structure and content of a work health and safety Act that can be adopted in all jurisdictions.

The model Work Health and Safety Act (the model WHS Act) was endorsed by the WRMC on 11 December 2009. After being released for a public comment period ending in April 2011, the model Work Health and Safety Regulations (the model WHS regulations) were redrafted by Safe Work Australia and presented for approval to the Select Council on Workplace Relations (SCWR, formerly the WRMC) on 10 August 2011.

In 2012, the Western Australian Government committed to the preparation of a regulatory impact statement (RIS) for the model WHS regulations. Commission members provided submissions through their organisations during the public comment period. The Western Australian specific RIS was prepared for the government by independent consultants Marsden Jacob Associates. The completed RIS was made available on WorkSafe's website and a hard copy made available to Commission members in September 2014.

On 23 October 2014, the Minister for Commerce tabled in Parliament the Work Health and Safety Bill 2014 (the WHS Bill), in the form of a Green Bill, for a three month public comment period ending on 30 January 2015. Commission members agreed to distribute information about the WHS Bill to their constituents. Rather than make a combined Commission submission, members agreed that individual submission would be made during the three-month public consultation period.

In May 2016, WorkSafe prepared a discussion paper in the form of a summary of recommended amendments to the model WHS regulations. The discussion paper was released for a public consultation period, commencing on 1 June 2016 and ending on 31 August 2016. As with the Green Bill, Commission members through their respective organisations provided their comment on the proposed regulations.

Following the election of the McGowan Government on 11 March 2017, the Minister examined the occupational safety and health laws currently in force in Western Australia and the model Work Health and Safety laws developed at the national level.

At his meeting with the Commission on 7 June 2017, the Minister confirmed his intention to modernise the state's laws and to create, as from 1 July 2017, a new department, the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.

The new department will work on options for progressing health and safety legislation applicable to the general industry and the resources sector. The Commission and the Mining Industry Advisory Committee, via an advisory panel, will provide advice to the Minister on the options for progressing a new and modernised regime of occupational health and safety laws for the state.

### **Safe Work October 2016**

In 2016 Worksafe Western Australia, with Commission's support, continued with its annual month-long focus on workplace safety and health – Safe Work October 2016. This month-long focus is a national event, supported by Safe Work Australia and is also conducted in other jurisdictions. The month features a number of activities, the most significant of which was a series of targeted workshops and culminated with the presentation of the 2016 Work Safety Awards.

Workshops were held 4-20 October 2016 at Technology Park Function Centre in Bentley. There were 433 attendees across 10 workshops in 2016. The attendees were a mix of elected safety and health representatives, general management and safety and health professionals. The key objective of these workshops was to provide hands-on information and skills experiences. They also provided the OSH community with networking opportunities. A further 62 people attended a safety and health forum in Bunbury on 25 October 2016.

The Workshops series featured a range of speakers with a wealth of knowledge and expertise in OSH. The program featured a mixture of sessions including topics such as safety leadership, diesel as a carcinogen, sustainable safety culture, plant safety, the importance of safety design, a forum for safety and health representatives and fatigue risk management among others.

Two Commission members contributed as judges for the 2016 Work Safety Awards Western Australia. The winners of the awards were announced at the Work Safety Awards Breakfast on 28 October 2016. The awards recognise outstanding occupational safety and health management, solutions and innovation in Western Australian workplaces that reduce the risk of work-related injury and disease.

### **Commission accredited introductory training courses for safety and health representatives**

Under section 14(1)(h) of the OSH Act, the Commission may accredit training courses in occupational safety and health. Details of the accreditation process for introductory courses for safety and health representatives are provided in the publication *Guidelines and criteria for accreditation of introductory training courses for safety and health representatives* (the accreditation guidelines), available on the WorkSafe website at [www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/worksafe](http://www.dmirs.wa.gov.au/worksafe).

In 2016/17, the Commission accredited 6 registered training organisations (RTOs) to conduct the introductory safety and health representative training course. As at 30 June 2017, there were 28 RTOs delivering the training course in Western Australia.

The RTOs providing Commission-accredited training courses for safety and health representatives are listed on WorkSafe's website. An annual report of participation in training courses for safety and health representatives will be published later in the year on the website.

## **Publications**

The Commission:

- approved for publication the Guidance Note "Horizontal Underground Directional Drilling";
- continued to review model WHS codes and guidance notes released by Safe Work Australia (SWA) during 2016-17; and
- reviewed the SWA webinar "The Future of Work Health and Safety" and the related CSIRO report "Tomorrow's Digitally Enabled Workforce".

## **Changes to legislation**

There were no changes to occupational safety and health legislation during the 2016/2017 year.

## **The National Arena**

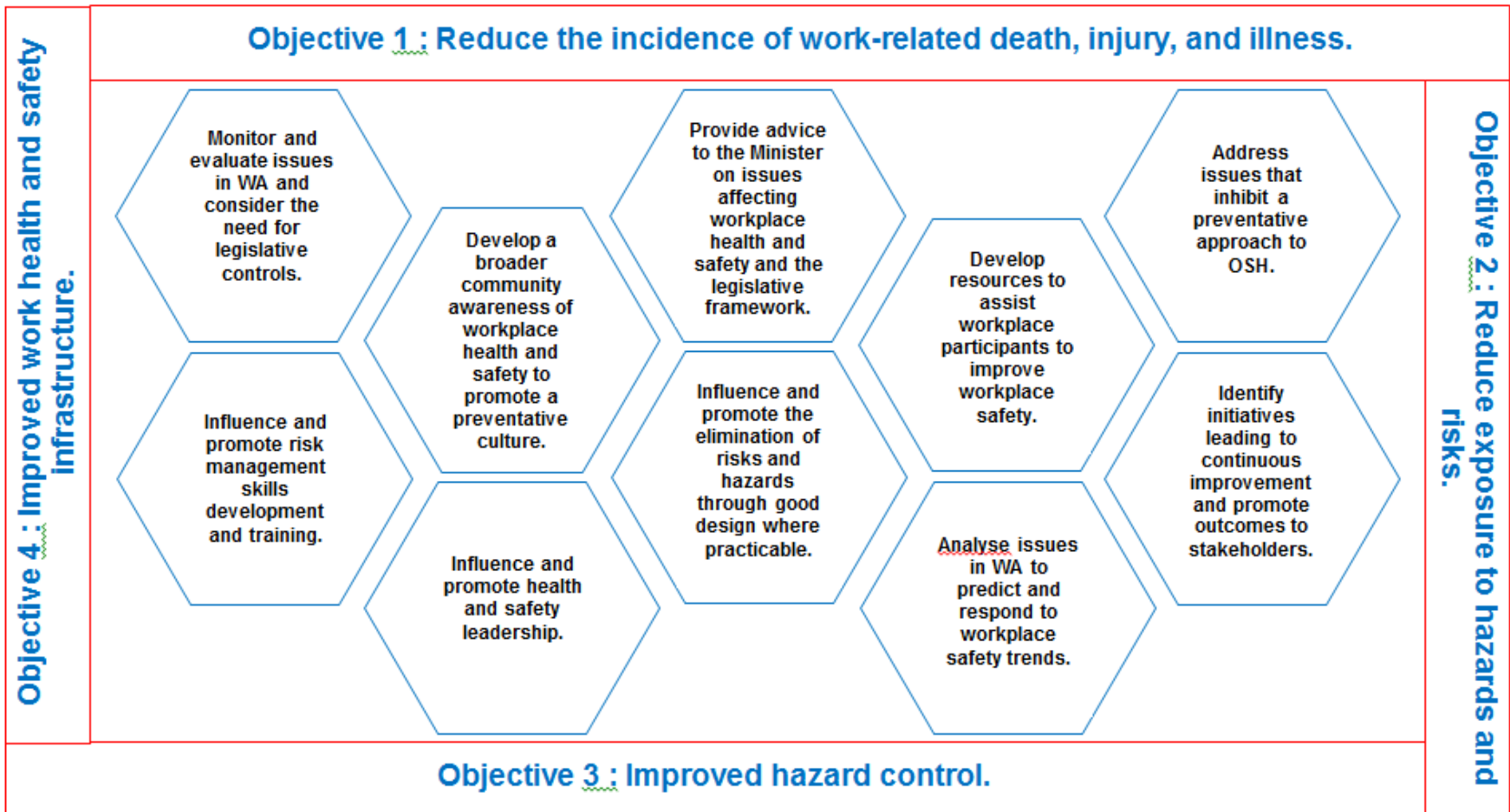
During the 2016/2017 year, a number of issues which were the subject of discussion in the national arena were addressed by the Commission.

Significant among these issues were:

- the Department of Employment and SWA combined webinar "The Future of Work Health and Safety" and the related CSIRO report "Tomorrow's Digitally Enabled Workforce";
- labelling requirements for agricultural and veterinary chemical products;
- National Strategic Plan for Asbestos Management and Awareness and the forward work plan for the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Council;
- review of outcomes of a report into fly-in fly-out workers in Western Australia'
- consultation Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) for diving work and a decision RIS for managing risks associated with lead in the workplace;
- publication of revised guide for carcinogens;
- inquiry into coal workers' pneumoconiosis in Australia; and
- Australian Mesothelioma Registry Review Report.

**VISION: HEALTHY AND SAFE WORKING LIVES WITHIN WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

**MISSION: CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY**



## Strategic plan 2015-2018

### **Objective 1: Reduce the incidence of work-related death, injury and illness**

#### **Strategies**

- maintain and support effective tripartite relationships and decision-making on safety and health in the workplace
- enhance the capacity of business operators and workers to manage OSH effectively
- monitor and evaluate issues by collecting, analysing and utilising data and information to predict and respond to OSH trends
- educate and develop broader community awareness to promote a preventative culture

### **Objective 2: Reduce exposure to hazards and risks**

#### **Strategies**

- collect, analyse and utilise data and information to develop strategies to respond to high incidence and severity of risks
- develop and communicate targeted education and guidance materials and programs that address identified risks
- monitor the legislative framework to ensure evidence-based risk management
- monitor and evaluate issues leading to continuous improvements and promote the outcomes to stakeholders

### **Objective 3: Improved hazard control**

#### **Strategies**

- enhance the capacity of workplaces to eliminate hazards and control risks through good design where practicable
- influence and promote OSH skills development and training
- monitor and evaluate issues and consider need for legislative controls
- address issues that inhibit a preventative approach to OSH

### **Objective 4: Improved work health and safety infrastructure**

#### **Strategies**

- provide timely and comprehensive advice to Minister on policy and legislative change
- monitor developments in the national arena with relevance to Western Australian OSH law
- influence and promote OSH skills development, communication, training and leadership
- maintain and develop a robust evidence base through data collection and analysis, monitoring emerging issues and evaluating the effectiveness of legislative controls
- engage with other agencies and enterprises to promote and undertake research relevant to Western Australia's OHS priorities

## **SECTION FOUR: ADVISORY COMMITTEES TO THE COMMISSION**

Under section 15 of the OSH Act, the Commission may appoint advisory committees made up of employer and employee representatives and people with specialist knowledge or experience in OSH to assist in the performance of its functions and duties.

Advisory committees consider matters referred to them by the Commission and make recommendations on aspects of OSH specific to their area of expertise. Each committee and working party is chaired by a member of the Commission.

### **Construction Industry Safety Advisory Committee (CISAC)**

The key objectives of the CISAC are to:

- identify the major health and safety issues in the construction industry and develop an OSH profile of the construction industry;
- identify determinants of good safety and health performance in the construction industry; and
- identify appropriate short and long term goals for the construction industry.

### **Members of CISAC 2016-2017**

- Mr Lex McCulloch, Chairperson (WorkSafe)
- Mr Mike Fitzgerald (Master Builders Association)
- Ms Andrea Roelofs (Chamber of Commerce and Industry)
- Mr Rachelle Gill (Housing Industry Association)
- Mr Bob Benkesser (Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union)
- Mr Steve McCartney (Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union), proxy Mr Glenn McLaren
- Mr Owen Whittle (UnionsWA)
- Mr Chris Kirwin (WorkSafe)
- Mr Bill Mitchell (WorkSafe)



## Legislation Advisory Committee (LAC)

The key objectives of the LAC are to assist the Commission in:

- ensuring a relevant and effective legislative framework by contributing to a review of monitoring and recommending changes to existing regulations;
- influencing state and federal governments on OSH issues by contributing to the development of national standards and codes of practice;
- promoting and delivering effective OSH programs, and in maintaining and promoting effective tripartite relationships and decision making on safety and health in the workplace;
- providing information and guidance on safety and health that is relevant, credible and accessible; and
- engaging and consulting broadly on OSH issues.

On 7 June 2017 at a Commission meeting, the Minister for Commerce and Industrial Relations formally advised Commission members of the Government's immediate intention to reform Western Australia's current occupational safety and health legislation. The Minister advised that the current legislation covering various industry sectors would be amalgamated and streamlined into the one new Act, thereby supported by Regulations covering each of those amalgamated industries.

Subsequent to 7 June 2017, the Minister for Commerce and Industrial Relations requested the establishment of a Ministerial Advisory Panel (MAP) to effect these changes. The Minister advised that Ms Stephanie Mayman, the newly appointed Chairperson of the Commission, effective 1 July 2017, was to chair the MAP, whose membership was to consist of various members of the Commission and the Mining Industry Advisory Committee. The Minister also advised that these two bodies were to continue to operate independently of each other.

The functions of the Legislative Advisory Committee, effective 1 July 2017, were temporarily suspended and replaced by MAP, which is considered to have dual functionality; that is, to provide Ministerial advice on legislative reform and to provide the Commission with recommendations on legislative issues.

### Members of LAC 2016-2017

- Ms Anne Driscoll (Department of Commerce)
- Mr Lex McCulloch (WorkSafe)
- Ms Nicole Roocke (Chamber of Minerals and Energy WA)
- Ms Andrea Roelofs (Chamber of Commerce and Industry WA)
- Mr Owen Whittle (UnionsWA)
- Ms Melina Newnan (Resources Safety Division, Department of Mines and Petroleum)

### Risk Advisory Committee (RAC)

The key objectives of the Risk Advisory Committee (RAC) are to assist the Commission in:

- providing relevant, credible and accessible information and guidance on safety and health, with a specific focus on new and emerging issues;
- improving its capacity to predict future trends in OSH;
- identifying occupational diseases, their causes and how to address them, with specific reference to new and emerging issues; and
- analysing the work environment.

### Members of RAC 2016-2017

- Ms Andrea Roelofs (Chair) (CCIWA)
- Ms Nicole Roocke (CME)
- Dr Matthew Davies (Commission expert member)
- Ms Joy Barrett (UnionsWA)

RAC did not meet during 2016-17.

## **SECTION FIVE: FOCUS AREAS FOR 2016/17 – 2017/2018**

### **Commission working parties 2016/2017**

To pursue the objectives of its Strategic Plan, the Commission formed working parties which pursued the following outcomes during the 2016/2017 year:

#### **Slips, Trips & Falls:**

Outcome: To increase awareness of falls at the same level and target specific industry sectors based on injury statistics

Commission Members: Lex McCulloch, Joy Barrett, Andrea Roelofs, Nicole Roocke and Matthew Davies

#### **Leadership / Chief Executive Officer Engagement:**

Outcome: To facilitate industry leaders engaging in a safety conversation

Commission Members: Lex McCulloch, Joy Barrett, Andrea Roelofs, Nicole Roocke, Barry Chesson and Matthew Davies

#### **Occupational Diving:**

Outcome: To develop a high level code of practice for the diving industry in Western Australia

Commission Members: Lex McCulloch, Andrea Roelofs and Owen Whittle

#### **Electrical Safety:**

Outcome: To implement a regulatory ban on 'live' electrical work

Commission Members: Lex McCulloch, Nicole Roocke and Owen Whittle

#### **Optimising occupational safety and health compliance:**

Outcome: To source data, determine targets, recommend solutions and provide tools to achieve change

Commission Members: Lex McCulloch, Nicole Roocke, Andrea Roelofs and Owen Whittle

### Commission members planning day May 2017

Commission members attended a planning workshop which focused on the OSH Issues Register (Register), being the Commission's repository for current and historical information regarding OSH issues which have been identified and the actions taken to address them.

The Register is a useful tool for identifying strategic opportunities and prioritising the actions needed in relation to emerging OSH issues.

The workshop identified "work on tap", robotics, automation and nano-technology as *escalating* issues, tilt-up work and obesity as *active* issues and occupational carcinogens, natural events, environmental heat, falling objects, green industries, recycling industries and human factors as *monitoring* issues.

Commission members noted the strategic responsibility it has in addressing the priorities identified with the aid of the Register.

## SECTION SIX: MINING INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MIAC was established in April 2005 under section 14A of the Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984. It is a statutory body advising on matters relating to occupational safety and health in the mining industry.

MIAC met six times during the reporting period.

### Key objectives

- advise and make recommendations to the Ministers and the Commission on OSH matters concerning the mining industry;
- liaise with the Commission to coordinate activities and to maintain parallel standards;
- to make recommendations to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum regarding the formulation, amendment, or repeal of laws relating to occupational safety and health for which that Minister is responsible;
- prepare or recommend the adoption of codes of practice, guidance material, standards and specifications; and
- provide advice on education and training matters in the mining industry.

## Members of MAC 2016-2017

Membership of MIAC is determined by the Ministers responsible for the administration of the OSH Act and the *Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994* (MSI Act). The Minister for Mines and Petroleum is responsible for administering the MSI Act.

MIAC normally consists of 12 members; two from Government, three from industry, three from the union movement and four independent expert members. However, during the reporting period, expert member Mr Martin Ralph resigned and his position was left vacant, as membership is due for review in 2018.

Listed below are the names of MIAC members at the end of the reporting period:

- Mr Simon Bennison (Industry member)
- Mr Andrew Chaplyn (Government member)
- Mr Chris Davis (Expert member)
- Ms Adrienne LaBombard (Industry member)
- Ms Peta Libby (Expert member)
- Mr Glenn McLaren (Union member)
- Mr Simon Ridge (Government member) (Chairperson)
- Mr Greg Stagbouer (Expert member)
- Mr Adrian Vujcic (Industry member)
- Mr Gary Wood (Union member)
- Mr Mike Zoetbrood (Union member)
- VACANT (Expert member)

The Executive Officer of MIAC is Mr David Eyre, DMIRS, Resources Safety Division.

## MIAC Working Groups

### MIAC Mental Health Strategies Working Group

On 18 June 2015, the Legislative Assembly Education and Health Standing Committee tabled its final report *The impact of FIFO work practices on mental health*. The report included 30 recommendations relating to the Mental Health and Mines and Petroleum portfolios.

The previous Government provided its response in October 2015, which included the then Department of Mines and Petroleum and MIAC progressing most of the recommendations.

To assist in identifying a framework to support good practice for positive mental health wellbeing in the resources sector workplace, MIAC established the Mental Health Strategies Working Group (MHSWG) in June 2016. The Working Group comprises representatives from industry, unions, mental health organisations and government agencies.

### **MIAC Nano Diesel Particulate Matter Working Group**

Diesel particulates are a known hazard for mining operations, especially in underground mines where widespread use of diesel vehicles and equipment emphasises that ventilation is critical.

Research around the world suggests nano diesel particulate matter (nDPM) is a harmful carcinogenic component of exhaust emissions that can be absorbed through the lungs into the bloodstream. An evaluation of nDPM would assist the development of control measures to protect workers in underground mines and other environments where nDPM is generated.

To gain a better understanding of the exposure effects of nDPM on workers, MIAC established the Nano Diesel Particulate Matter Working Group (NDPMWG) in March 2016. The Working Group comprises experts from Government, universities and industry.

### **Key achievements 2016-2017:**

#### MIAC

- developed a tool to assist with prioritising development of guidance material.
- initiated development of regular reporting on:
  - the Department's inspection activity
  - industry health and hygiene data.
- reviewed planned projects against hazards that cause fatalities and serious injuries.
- arranged an industry workshop on use of elevated work platforms in mines.

- Provided feedback on:
  - the Department's *Towards 2020: Regulatory Strategy for Resources Safety*
  - Code of Practice on Ventilation Management.
  - the Department's consultation processes for publications.
  - the Department's human and organisational factors strategy.
  - a safety bulletin regarding fibrous minerals.
  - the outcomes of the Deloitte report *2016 Mines Safety Branch resourcing and funding independent assessment*.

#### **Mental Health Strategies Working Group achievements**

- Collated information on mental health information and resources, codes of practice and guidance material, and government programs.
- Developed a guide: *Choosing the right mental health training for your organisation*.
- Proposed a 'one-stop-shop' central repository for links to mental health information and resources.
- Developed mental health communication strategies.
- Provided recommendations to the Mental Health Commission's FIFO Mental Health Research Reference Group.
- Provided feedback on the Department's report: *Baseline results for psychosocial harm audits of mining operations, and petroleum and major hazard facilities*.
- Provided feedback on the Department's safety bulletin *Suicide awareness for the Western Australian resources sector*

### **Nano Diesel Particulate Matter (nDPM) Working Group achievements:**

- Collated and reviewed international research on nDPM.
- Developed research project methodology and scoping document
- Identified and secured research partners.
- Conducted several industry briefings and secured an industry participant.
- Using funding provided by the Department as well as the Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia (MRIWA), the two research projects commenced:
  - A study of nano diesel particulate matter (nDPM) behaviour and physico-chemical changes in underground hard rock mines of Western Australia
  - Health Effects of Nano Diesel Particulate Matter (nDPM) in Underground Hard Rock Miners in Western Australia.



## SECTION SEVEN: THE COMMISSION, COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES



Statutory committee established under the *Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984*. Advises the Minister for Mines and Petroleum on matters concerning the *Mines Safety and Inspection Act 1994*



Advisory Committees established for the duration of the *Strategic Plan*



Working Parties are established to provide an expert or technical focus

## **CONTACT DETAILS**

### **COMMISSION FOR OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH**

In Person: Mason Bird, level 1, 303 Sevenoaks St, Cannington

Postal: Locked Bag 14, Cloisters Square, Perth WA 6850

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Facsimile: (08) 6251 1501

Email: [safety@dmirs.wa.gov.au](mailto:safety@dmirs.wa.gov.au)

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