

# Health & Safety Should not be for hire



## NEW INFORMATION FROM THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT SHOWS THAT CASUAL WORKERS GET A RAW DEAL WHEN IT COMES TO HEALTH & SAFETY

- Casual workers are 3 times more likely than other workers not to apply for worker's compensation when injured at work [Australian Bureau of Statistics 2011]
- Casual workers (those without leave entitlements) reported 54 injuries per million hours worked compared with a rate of 35 for those with leave entitlements [Australian Work-related Injury Experience by Sex and Age, 2009-2010]

The reasons are likely to be:

- Weaker worker participation in health & safety.
- Threat of dismissal.
- Lack of training.
- Work intensification & cutting-corners.
- Off-loading of more hazardous tasks.
- Pressure not to report injuries.
- Casual workers lack of knowledge re rights & entitlements.

## AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH CONFIRMS THAT LABOUR HIRE WORKERS GET BADLY TREATED WHEN THEY ARE INJURED AT WORK

A study of injured workers showed that 35% labour hire workers are injured within 1st month of work, compared with 7% of direct hire workers.

When injured, labour hire workers had a poorer likelihood of returning to work with the same employer:

- 36% were dismissed
- 19% resigned whilst waiting for another placement
- Only 12% were offered modified duties.

The severity of injury did not make any difference to these outcomes. [Underhill 2011]

