

'It's no accident' is the OHS newsletter of the AMWU. Feedback and story ideas to [amwu@amwu.asn.au](mailto:amwu@amwu.asn.au)

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 **AMWU Care**  
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MADE IN AUSTRALIA BY  
AMWU MEMBERS

# FORTY YEARS OF HEALTH AND SAFETY REPS

It is 40 years since British trade union Health and Safety Reps had a legal right to improve health and safety in the workplace.

We know that HSRs make a difference because of trade union involvement. This involvement:

- Helps reduce injuries at work
- Leads to reductions in the levels of ill-health caused by work
- Encourages greater reporting of injuries and near-misses
- Makes workers more confident
- Helps develop a more positive safety culture in the organisation
- Saves the economy millions of dollars.

#### The words of the British Trade Union Congress apply here as well:

*"Good employers are already working with unions: we need the rest to start recognising the benefits that unions can bring. We also need government to stop attacking unions and instead do more to ensure that employers are consulting with unions so that everyone can have the benefits that unions bring".*

#### JOIN US:

AMWU closed Facebook group for AMWU HSRs –  
[www.amwu.org.au/hsrgroup](http://www.amwu.org.au/hsrgroup)



# IT'S NO ACCIDENT

HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS

DECEMBER 2017

## GOOD NEWS

**QUEENSLAND:** Changes to WHS laws recently introduced by the ALP Government include:

- HSRs to be trained within six months of being elected (from July 2018)
- The Regulator to be notified of who is a HSR
- Businesses have the option to appoint Workplace Health and Safety officers (from July 2018)
- Codes of Practice must be

followed unless a better solution is being used

- Introduction of the possibility of a jail term when someone has died and the employer/PCBU has been shown to have been negligent.

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA:** The writing of a voluntary Code of Practice on the mental health of fly-in-fly-out and similar workers is to be sped up. It will be released for public comment early next year.

UnionsWA is a member of a tripartite working group which is reviewing the Model WHS Act. There is a commitment to introduce new laws – unlike the endless delay tactics used by the previous State Government.

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA:** Next year South Australian HSRs will have the same rights as other HSRs across the country. From February 2018, HSRs will now be able to seek assistance of 'any person' (Section 68.2.g).



PLEASE PLACE ON NOTICEBOARD



# MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS ARE PRIVATE!

**MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS ARE CONFIDENTIAL BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR TREATING DOCTOR.**

There is no reason for anyone else to attend, other than someone of your choosing.

If you are likely to be off work for a couple of weeks, here are some tips:

- ▶ Your Doctor should speak with the person organising your return to work
- ▶ You **MUST** be involved in the conversation about what you are medically fit to do e.g. modified duties/reduced hours

**Request more time with your Doctor if you think you need it.**

If you need help please call the

**AMWU Helpdesk  
1300 732 698**

