

'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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MADE IN AUSTRALIA BY  
AMWU MEMBERS

### 2019 Calendar

The 2019 H&S Calendar will be sent to HSRs and delegates before Xmas. Please display it at your worksite.



The calendar is an initiative of the AMWU National H&S Council – a group of HSRs, representing each state branch, who meet once a year to provide advice on activities the AMWU can take to promote health and safety.

### WHS Law Review

During this year there has been an ongoing review of WHS laws.

HSRs contributed to our submission earlier in the year. The Report is due to be presented to Safe Work Australia in December 2018. We don't know when the report will become public. So stay in touch through the AMWU Facebook group, including the one for H&S Reps.

### Senate Report into Industrial Deaths

The human impact of an industrial death is catastrophic and far-reaching. For the families and friends of those individuals killed at work, the terrible and profound human cost and associated consequences they must suffer is life-long.

Those are the opening words of a recent Senate Report called *They never came home*. The Report makes many sensible recommendations including that:

- Corporations that repeatedly breach WHS obligations and cause death or serious injury should not be awarded contracts
- WHS regulators to develop a policy which stipulates that all industrial deaths must be investigated as potential crime scenes
- Governments introduce a nationally consistent industrial manslaughter offence into the model WHS laws
- Governments change the model WHS laws to provide for unions, injured workers and their families to bring prosecutions.

The recommendations help us put health and safety on the agenda for the Change the Rules Campaign.

### 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

NOVEMBER 2018

## Confined Spaces Kill

In the last 12 months at three sites with AMWU members, four men - Dillion Wu, Ben Pascall, Lyndon Quinlivan and Craig Tanner - lost their lives from working in confined or restricted spaces.

Regulations apply to work in confined spaces. Restricted spaces, especially those without clean air, pose the same risks and must be treated the same way.

As an absolute minimum you need a permit to work which ensures that:

- The atmosphere is checked for airborne contaminants and oxygen levels
- Electrical and mechanical risks are controlled
- There are spotters and rescue plans.

These measures do save lives.

At each of the worksites where there has been loss of life, the AMWU has been active in supporting workers and families and actions to improve safety on site. The union has sent Facebook posts and emails to all HSRs and delegates reminding them to action on confined and restricted space safety.

On November 14 the ABC 7.30 Report covered some of the circumstances of Mr Wu's death.

The AMWU National President has written to the Ai Group (the large employer group) requesting discussions about what action employers and the union can take to prevent these types of preventable deaths. Clearly something is wrong and we must fix it.

## My Health Record



My Health Record

As a result of the work of the Australian Union movement, the Federal government has been forced to include privacy protections in legislation currently before Federal Parliament.

The Government has also been forced to extend the 'opt out' period again until January 31 2019.

Improvements include:

- Preventing employers and insurers requiring the disclosure of My Health Record (MHR) information by employees
- Preventing the use of MHR information for the purposes of hiring or continuing to employ someone or for use for insurance purposes, including workers' compensation
- Ensuring that the MHR system cannot be privatised or operated by a private provider
- Improving the ability to request the complete deletion of a MHR at any time
- Further strengthening protections for people suffering from domestic violence.

PLEASE PLACE ON NOTICEBOARD



# **SIZZLING HOT?**

**WORKING DURING HEAT WAVES CAN BE DANGEROUS -  
PRECAUTIONS ARE ESSENTIAL.**

**- AIR COOLING**

**- ISOLATE WORKERS FROM  
HEAT SOURCES**

**- CHANGE THE TYPE OF  
WORK DONE**



**- CHANGE THE HOURS  
OF WORK**

**- CHANGE THE PACE OF WORK  
REST IN COOL AREAS**

**- KEEP HYDRATED - IF THIRSTY,  
YOU MUST DRINK**