

HOW TO GET YOUR DWG TO SIGN THE PETITION

1

Organise a workplace meeting

2

Run the script and share your story to get everyone to sign the petition.

3

Send the petition to Trades Hall via the reply paid envelope, or email a photo of the petition to OHSUorganiser@vthc.org.au

4

Get others involved in the campaign by posting a photo of the petition, or your workplace meeting, to our Facebook page: facebook.com/ohsreps

INDUSTRIAL MANSLAUGHTER

ACTION KIT



INDUSTRIAL MANSLAUGHTER NEEDS TO BE A CRIME IN VICTORIA



BACKGROUND

When unsafe work practices kill a person, more than just one life is destroyed. Families are ripped apart.

While they grieve, families watch helplessly as the courts order those responsible to pay a token fine. The fine is paid and the company returns to business as usual.

Individuals who cut corners on safety and put lives at risk are never held to account.

Our legal system is failing to protect ordinary working people from businesses and bad bosses who demand profit at all costs.

We must make the punishment for killing workers fit the crime.

The law must say that it is a crime to negligently kill a worker.

The law must stipulate jail time for directors and/or senior managers whose negligence or inaction kills a worker.

HOLD A MEETING WITH YOUR DESIGNATED WORK GROUP

SCRIPT



Today, we're taking a moment to consider all the things that are most important to us. We will reflect on the dangers of the work that we do and always strive to do it better and safer. Especially we remember all of the people killed at work in all industries and all of the families robbed of a loved one, not just here in Victoria but around Australia and the world.

[Tell your own serious OHS story or experience of a workplace fatality]

In our workplace we don't want anyone's health or safety to suffer because of the work they do. We fight for health and safety. When we're told it's too expensive to do things safely and properly, we fight back because we know the cost to our families is greater if we're hurt or killed. And if management decisions to stall or cut corners were to lead to the death of someone here, we'd want management to be held to account.

But at this moment, that's impossible. If management's risk-taking kills someone, then the company pays a fine and that's the end of it. Individuals involved in the decision making that led to the incident are too often let go without conviction and free to continue working as normal.

We need to make killing a worker a crime in this state. The worst cases of negligence and reckless management should allow for jail terms for culpable individuals. These laws are called Industrial Manslaughter laws, and they've already been introduced in Queensland and the ACT.

Introducing Industrial Manslaughter laws is a common-sense change that will force the senior management of companies to take our health and safety seriously. It will:

- Signal that nobody is above the law when it comes to workplace safety
- Force senior management to think twice before putting lives at risk for profit
- Allow for families of people who are killed by negligent bosses to see some justice

We need politicians to make these laws a priority, so as a first step we have a petition here that we would like everyone to sign. Please add your name and get involved.

[hand petition around]

We can achieve this as QLD has shown us. They successfully campaigned for and won similar legislation after the deaths of the 4 people at Dreamworld in 2016.

We know we can do it.

