

MEDIA RELEASE

HAVE YOUR SAY ON NEW WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATIONS

22 November 2010

Mr Tom Phillips AM, Safe Work Australia Chair, has announced the second phase of public consultation on the model work health and safety laws.

Safe Work Australia will release the draft model Work Health and Safety Regulations and priority model Codes of Practice for public comment in December 2010 for four months.

Safe Work Australia is the national body developing model work health and safety laws with the aim of achieving the best possible approach to health and safety for all Australian workplaces.

Safe Work Australia works in partnership with the Commonwealth, state and territory governments to deliver harmonised work health and safety laws across Australia by the end of December 2011.

The *Model Work Health and Safety (WHS) Act* was endorsed by the Workplace Relations Ministers' Council in December 2009. To support the model WHS Act, Safe Work Australia has developed an exposure draft of the model Work Health and Safety Regulations, priority model Codes of Practice, a Discussion Paper and Consultation Regulatory Impact Statement to be released for public comment. The public comment period will close in April 2011.

Mr Phillips said the public comment period will provide an opportunity for individuals and organisations to participate in the development of the model Work Health and Safety Regulations and priority model Codes of Practice and ensure their voice is heard.

"We need your views to ensure the model Work Health and Safety Regulations and priority model Codes of Practice are relevant to all Australian workplaces.

"Model work health and safety laws will allow organisations to effectively manage workplace safety and work to one set of laws regardless of how many states or territories they are operating in.

"This will increase profitability and productivity and most importantly, lead to improved safety for workers and greater certainty for employers," said Mr Phillips.

For more information on the model work health and safety laws or to subscribe to our mailing list, visit www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au.

Public submissions can be sent to submissions@safeworkaustralia.gov.au.