

WHS best practice for employers

Whatever your industry, all workplaces can implement best practice work health and safety.



Start by assessing what you are already doing to lead best practice work health and safety (WHS) in your workplace.

Do you know your responsibilities to build a safe and healthy workplace? Persons Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) and their Officers must manage risks to workers and others in the workplace. The WHS laws can vary depending on where you live-check with your WHS regulator. Are you aware of any physical or psychological hazards at your workplace? Identifying hazards in the workplace involves finding things or situations that may cause harm. Workplace hazards can include things like noisy machinery, chemicals, working at heights, a repetitive job, remote or isolated work, poor environmental conditions, bullying and violence. Safe Work Australia's safety by industry and business information can help you understand the hazards and risks that may be at your workplace. Do you know the risks at your workplace? A risk is a possibility that physical or psychological harm (death, injury or illness) may occur when exposed to a hazard. As a PCBU you must conduct a risk assessment and consult with workers on minimising risks to their health and safety. See model Code of Practice: How to manage work health and safety risks. Have you spoken to your workers? You must consult with workers on WHS issues. This includes when identifying hazards and assessing the WHS risks that the work or workplace present and when proposing changes to the workplace which may affect WHS. See model Code of Practice: Work health and safety consultation, cooperation

Do you consider health and safety issues when you start planning and designing work?

Through careful planning and consulting workers about the work, work systems and physical work environment, you can eliminate hazards and manage risks. See Principles of good work design: A work health and safety handbook.

Do you have an emergency plan in place?

An emergency plan is a written plan that sets out requirements and instructions for workers and others in the case of emergency. The plan must include emergency procedures, testing of these procedures, and information, training and instructions for workers in relation to implementing emergency procedures.

Have you or your workers been impacted by a work-related injury or illness and planned a return to work?

It is important to consider what assistance and communication can be provided for workers who have sustained a work-related physical or psychological injury or illness to support their recovery when returning to work.

Do you know what resources are available for workers who speak a language other than English?

Safe Work Australia has published an <u>information</u> sheet in 22 languages about working safely in Australia. You can also check with your <u>WHS regulator</u>.

Do you know where to report a WHS incident?

Contact your <u>WHS regulator</u> to report an incident or discuss steps you can take to make your workplace safer.

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and coordination.

Together, we can create safer workplaces for everyone.

Find out more at **safeworkmonth.swa.gov.au** or go to **swa.gov.au/coronavirus**.

