

## Case Study - Construction

# Working outside

### Trent is a foreman of a building site in regional Australia.

He is responsible for scheduling, coordinating and supervising the work of 15 full time, on-site workers, ensuring that all work is delivered safely, along with managing equipment and materials. His workers are required to use different plant and building materials during their workday.

think  
safe. | work  
safe. | be  
safe.



### Identify and assess hazards and risks

A person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) must, so far as reasonably practicable, identify and manage any risks to health and safety in the workplace. This includes consulting with their health and safety representatives if they have them.

When Trent started in his new role, he talked to his team about the hazards of the site and what they considered to be the biggest health and safety risks.

Together they discussed the risks of working in heat and exposure to the sun, working in cold conditions, using elevating work platforms (EWPs) and concrete pumping equipment, using ladders and working from heights as well as the risks of working with chemicals and power tools.

### A safe and healthy workplace is more easily achieved when everyone is involved in identifying risks to health and safety.

Talking to your workers about WHS can:

- improve your decision-making about health and safety matters
- help raise awareness about the WHS risks in your workplace
- contribute to positive working relationships
- encourage issues to be raised early before things get worse
- reduce the incidence of your workers getting injured at work.

### Control, monitor and ongoing review

Trent has implemented a number of control measures that can improve the health and safety of his workers. These include (but are not limited to):

- Creating shady areas so all his workers can take their breaks out of the summer sun and setting up cool water stations. He is working on installing heating in the break areas for the cooler times of the year.
- Ensuring all workers have access to appropriate safety equipment such as hard hats, masks, gloves and high vis vests before they start work each day.
- Ensuring that all workers' high-risk work licences and white cards are up to date as required.
- Ensuring all plant are safety-checked regularly by a registered professional, as well as being checked by the team before each use.
- Ensuring he has read the relevant codes of practice and is aware of any updates or amendments to the regulations across all areas of the work he and his team undertake.
- Preparing a Safe Work Method Statement for work that involves high risk construction activities - for example, work that involves the movement of powered mobile plant, working at heights of more than 2 metres or work on or adjacent to a road used by traffic other than pedestrians.

Trent is aware that on-going monitoring and review of the hazards in his high-risk industry can be the difference between life and death.

As a national policy body, Safe Work Australia does not regulate WHS laws. The Commonwealth, states and territories retain responsibility for regulating and enforcing WHS laws in their jurisdictions. You can find further details about your regulator here <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/whs-authorities-contact-information>