# National Safe Work Month – Coffey Services Australia ‘Ergonomic Hand Auger Evaluation and Improvement’ Video (Transcript)

Julie Taylor: 00:04 For this project, we had received some injury reports from our employees from the manual tasks that they were doing with getting the soil samples out of the ground using what's called a hand auger. It was of concern to us that our employees were reporting some pain. We decided that we would look into how we could improve this manual task. So the investigation that we did was into looking at the different types of hand auger equipment that is on the market and then seeing how we could best fit that to work for our employees.

Harold Lee: 00:39 So, initially the handle at the top was just a T-piece made out of pipe. You'd grip it with an over-grip, like that, and you'd turn it in a clockwise motion and it puts all the strains sort of on the top of your shoulders and then sort of backs of your arms. A bit of a weird motion, especially if it's dense soils. Then the new modified version, it’s got these bulbs on the end, so you hold it from the outside and rotate like that and it just feels a lot more normal.

Julie Taylor: 01:03 Overall, the feedback's been quite good around the different types of hand auger handles that we've had. There have been some challenges with the different types of soils that we have to go into and the areas that we work in, because we can go onto any type of site that's out there. This has been a really good experience for Coffey Services. Safe Work Australia has helped us to be able to investigate the different types of hand auger. It is a basic tool that we have to use as part of our business. This project has really helped for the employees to see that they can get benefit when they do report some sort of an issue from a workplace health and safety point of view and that there will be a response. And so, I can see in the future that our employees will be much more engaged and will be able to help us to improve our workplace health and safety.

Anyone can be a Safety Champion, It's about taking that first step.