

NATIONAL HAZARD EXPOSURE WORKER SURVEILLANCE (NHEWS)

SURVEY HANDBOOK



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Australian Government
Australian Safety and
Compensation Council

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PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document describes the purpose of the NHEWS survey; sources of individual questions and rationale behind questions selected for inclusion in the final survey instrument. It also describes the sampling and analytical strategies for Wave 1 & 2 data collection undertaken in 2008.

BACKGROUND

The more effective prevention of occupational disease is a priority area under the National OHS Strategy 2002-2012. The Australian Safety and Compensation Council (ASCC) agrees that in order to more effectively prioritise and measure national occupational disease prevention activities, accurate data on the nature and extent of current exposures to workplace hazards is required.

The priority occupational diseases under the National OHS Strategy 2002-2012 are: work related mental disorders; work related musculoskeletal disorders; occupational noise induced hearing loss; occupational cancers; occupational dermatitis; work related respiratory disorders; work related cardiovascular diseases; and work related infectious and parasitic diseases.

Under the ASCC 2006-07 Business Plan a national hazard exposure surveillance strategy was developed to help, over time, provide better data on hazards, which without appropriate controls, could contribute to the development of one or more of these priority occupational diseases.

This strategy included the:

- More systematic collection, analysis and reporting of nationally representative self report exposure data on the nature and extent of occupational exposures to hazards, and on controls provided by workplaces to reduce the health risks associated with these hazards.
- More systematic collection, analysis and reporting of measured exposure and observation data which would be used to validate self report data and determine levels of compliance with OHS requirements.
- Development and maintenance of a National Hazard Exposure Assessment Database (AHEAD) to facilitate the storage and access to hazard exposure data collected by ASCC stakeholders and others.

This handbook refers to the development of the nationally representative self report exposure survey the **National Hazard Worker Surveillance (NHEWS) survey** which form part of the this strategy.

The NHEWS survey and instrument were developed by the Office of the ASCC, in collaboration with representatives from the Victorian WorkCover Authority and other expert advisors in 2006-07.

NHEWS SURVEY AIMS

Provide nationally representative self report data on:

1. the prevalence and nature of exposures to priority occupational disease causing hazards; and
2. workplace controls reported by workers which are provided to reduce health risks associated with these hazards.

PURPOSE OF DATA

This data will be used to estimate likely exposures of workers and to cross-validate these estimates with measured exposures where available. This data will also be used to profile workers who are exposed to these hazards and identify differences from workers who are not exposed. Importantly use this data to determine what employment and demographic factors predict extreme personal exposure and the provision of workplace controls. This will provide information to guide decision makers in developing occupational disease prevention initiatives.

NHEWS will provide information on each of the boxes in Figure 1 will be available from survey data.

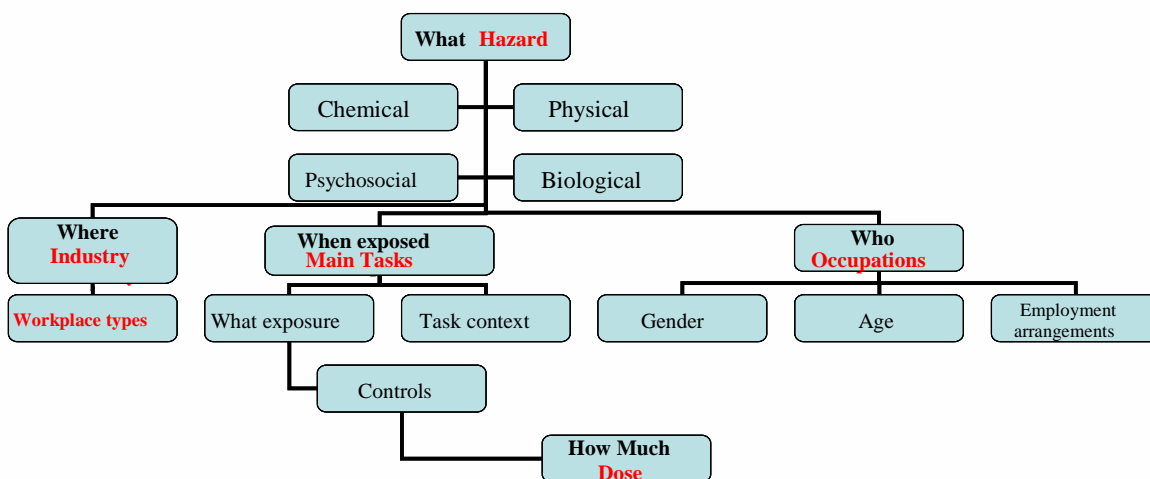


Figure 1. Data elements within the survey

Development Process

The NHEWS survey instrument was developed in the following stages:

1. Review of existing international and Australian hazard exposure instruments

2. Development of a first draft of the instrument based
3. Review of the draft instrument against international best practice
4. Refinement of instrument following review by academics and stakeholders
5. Cognitive testing of draft instrument
6. Pilot testing instrument and data collection method (n=250)
7. NHEWS instrument refined based on outcomes of cognitive testing and piloting phases
8. Wave 1 of the NHEWS survey March 2008 with 1900 workers from priority industries using CATI¹
9. Minor refinement of NHEWS instrument
10. Wave 2 of the NHEWS survey May to July 2008 from 2600 workers from priority and non-priority industries.
11. Subject to ASCC approval data collection will occur every two years following the baseline year 2008.

This handbook refers only to the NHEWS survey instrument designed for use with computer assisted telephone interview methodology. The Office of the ASCC has also developed online and paper based versions of the instrument, handbooks for these will be developed as required.

CATI SAMPLING PLAN

Population

The population of interest for this survey was all those living in Australia who were in paid employment, and who worked in the last week².

Sample selection

Subjects were randomly selected from this population using random digit telephone dialling. The findings from this survey will therefore be able to be generalised to national populations within known confidence limits.

Sample size

The sample of 1900 workers for Wave 1 was drawn from eligible workers from the following five priority industries: Transport & Storage; Health & Community Services; Construction; Manufacturing; and Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing.

The sample of 2600 workers for Wave 2 was drawn from eligible workers from both priority and non priority industries.

On a national level, a sample size of 1900 means that results will be accurate within +/- 2.2%, at the 95% confidence level. A sample size of 2600 will be

¹ Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing

² Refers to the week preceding data collection

accurate within +/- 1.9% at the 95% confidence level if results are analysed at a national level.

Where data from both waves is combined the total sample is therefore 4500 and that results will be accurate within +/- 1.5%, at the 95% confidence level if analysed at a national level.

Reliability of estimates: Relative standard errors

The results from this survey are expected to differ somewhat if data have been collected from all the workers from these industries (i.e. the whole target population). This is because in any sample survey, the results of the survey will be subject to sampling errors. The sampling error is a measure of the variability that occurs by chance because a sample, rather than the entire population, is surveyed.

The relative standard error (RSE) provides a measure of an estimate's reliability. RSE is calculated based on standard error and total sample size and it differs according to the variable of interest. The relative standard error is a useful measure in that it provides an immediate indication of the percentage errors likely to have occurred due to sampling, and avoids the need to refer also to the size of the estimate. The smaller the relative standard error, the more precise is the estimate. The larger the sample size, the smaller is the relative standard error.

Sample quotas

To ensure a representative sample and to disproportionately sample by industry, quotas by sex within industry within state was set for Wave 1 of the NHEWS survey.

Quotas by gender for non priority industries were applied for Wave 2 of the survey.

Sample frame

Sampling was based on random digit telephone dialling.

Strategies to ensure representativeness

One eligible respondent from each household was randomly selected by the CATI program based on first names of household members. There was no replacement of selected respondents within households. This means that once a household member was randomly selected by the CATI program, the interviewer could not select another household member.

If the selected respondent was not available at the time of first contact, at least 10 follow-up calls, at different times of the day and the week, were made in an attempt to reach and interview the selected respondent.

Weighting

The distribution of the survey sample across state, industry and gender is not the same as the distribution of the population of interest. A weight will be assigned to each respondent in order to adjust the contribution of respondents to reflect the population distribution in estimates. Weighting will allow for better comparison of estimates between the sub-populations used in the weighting process, namely state, industry and gender. Weighting is not expected to impact on the analysis of predictors of exposures and controls which is detailed in the Analysis Plan below.

HUMAN ETHICS CLEARANCE

The NHEWS research design and survey instrument was submitted to the University of Sydney Human Research Ethics Committee. The approval reference number is: 02-2008/10506.

The research design and instrument met the National Statistical Clearing House guidelines.

The research design and instrument were also in accordance with the Australian Market and Social Research Society (AMRSRS) guidelines. The research company which undertook the CATI is a member of the AMRSRS and met all privacy and other guidelines.

The Office of the ASCC will manage the storage and analysis of the associated dataset to ensure privacy and other data management obligations are met.

ANALYSIS PLAN

The data will be used to estimate the prevalence of exposure to specific hazards at a national and a broad industry level and the predictors of extreme exposures and provisions of controls.

Over 2008-09 data analysis will be undertaken to determine and describe:

- Prevalence of exposures and provision of controls nationally and by industry
- At risk populations – those groups of workers with extreme personal exposures: by key industry, occupational & demographic factors
- Predictors of provision of workplace exposure controls: by key industry, occupational & demographic factors
- Predictors of pain & fatigue: by key industry, occupational & demographic factors
- Exposure and control patterns for selected hazards to inform the national regulatory review process.

Reports will be provided to members and where approved then published.

LIMITATIONS

The survey will not have a sufficient sample size to provide information by industry and occupation at the lower classification levels (e.g. ANZSIC four digit industry levels). Comparison by state and territories will be undertaken but at members request these will only be provided to the relevant state or territory agency.

The current sample size for the survey will be sufficient to inform preventive action, i.e. it will produce a profile of workers with exposure to specific hazards and will enable targeting of intervention approaches by occupation, industry, company size, age, gender, etc. However, to monitor trends and to evaluate effectiveness of prevention strategies, it is envisaged that a much larger sample is needed. This larger sample size is needed to ensure changes detected within different waves of data are not just by chance or due to slight changes in survey methodology, content or population.

For exposures which are not highly prevalent, larger sample sizes will be required to monitor trends in exposure.

The survey relies on workers' self-reported perception of their exposure to hazards. Workers' self-reported exposures are reasonable estimates of their perceptions of their exposure, they will be subject to calibration based on comparison of self-report results versus results from observational (measured) studies. Over the next two years a series of observation studies which concurrently collect NHEWS self report data will be undertaken. Where required worker estimate will then be weighted to adjust for inaccuracies in exposure estimations.

ACCESS TO NHEWS DATASET BY OTHER RESEARCHERS

The NHEWS dataset may be made available to other researchers subject to licence requirements being met including:

- o research is undertaken by a recognised and reputable research agency
- o an analysis plan is submitted and deemed to adequately address the data limitations prior to research commencing
- o data integrity and privacy guidelines are met
- o data set would only include national results (unless permission is provided for state and territory data to be presented, from the relevant state or territory)
- o draft research reports are reviewed by the Office and sent to members for comment before publication
- o where the NHEWS survey instrument is used by the researcher the de-identified results of this study are to be shared with the national body for inclusion in the Australian Hazard Exposure Assessment Database (AHEAD)
- o all data provided by the researcher to the national body is to be in accordance with the AHEAD protocols for coding and storage, and

- o the ASCC is appropriately acknowledged in all research publications.

SURVEY GENERAL DESCRIPTION

This survey covers nine different themes. Some of the questions are follow-up questions based on a positive response to an initial gate-keeping question on exposure to a particular type of hazard. Therefore, most respondents did not need to answer all of the questions. Only respondents who reported exposure to a specific hazard were asked a further set of questions relating to this hazard and what controls, if any were provided. The survey was designed to be completed in under 20 minutes in line with the Australian Market Research Guidelines.

The nine themes covered in the survey along with data items and sub constructs are described in the table below.

Table 1. Survey themes and data items and sub constructs included in the survey

| Themes | Data items/ sub constructs |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Demographics | Age, sex, level of education, English speaking skills, salary |
| Occupational characteristics | Industry, occupation, main tasks, main business of employer, employment and employee status, company size |
| Working arrangements | Day of the week worked, work hours, work schedule, hours worked last week |
| Physical and chemical hazards | Vibration, noise, gases, dusts, fumes and vapours, working position, posture, hazardous substances, skin sensitisers, wet work, physical demands |
| Biological hazards | Infectious substances |
| Psychosocial hazards | Job demand, workload, support, job control, decision authority, skill discretion, workplace bullying, job security |
| Control measures | Controls provided at work |
| Symptoms | musculoskeletal discomfort or pain Stressfulness of work |

Questions included in this survey have been selected from the following international surveillance and worker surveys:

- European Working Condition Survey
- National Exposures at Work Survey (NIOSH, USA)

- Danish Work Environment Cohort Study Survey
- Swedish Workplace and Environment Survey
- Nordic Skin Questionnaire
- Job Content Questionnaire
- Working Life in New Zealand Study Survey,
- Victorian WorkCover Authority Worker Survey, and
- Workplace Health and Safety Queensland/Health and Safety Executive psychosocial survey.

Some hazard-specific items, such as those on vibration and wet work, have been provided by expert Australian researchers in these specific fields, based on their review of the literature on existing surveillance items for these hazards or through empirical work. A few of the items have been formulated by staff of the Office of the ASCC.

Some modifications have been made to items obtained from other sources (i.e. to non-ASCC questions). The most common modifications entailed altering response categories to better capture both the duration and frequency of exposures.

Please note that all sections of the survey except screening and demographic questions are specific to the respondent's main job, which is the job in which the respondent works the most hours.

Structure of questions

The self report questions for physical hazards are structured as follows:

- Does the respondent have exposure to the hazard of interest (e.g. dust, vapour) and if so, how long?
- If the respondent reported exposure to the hazard of interest, ask the worker to name the hazard if known e.g. benzene

The self report questions for psychosocial and musculoskeletal hazards are based on:

- Psycho-social hazards measure
 - HSE stress indicator measures based on the Karasek demand support control model
- Musculoskeletal risks
 - EU Working Conditions Survey and the Swedish Environment working survey

SPECIFIC QUESTIONS – SELECTION AND PURPOSE

The following sections describe why each item or groups of items relating to a specific construct were selected for use in the national survey and the type of information that can be obtained from each question. Where possible, items that have already been demonstrated to be predictive of health

outcomes have been selected. For demographic information, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) questions have been used where possible, to enable sample verification against population parameters and comparisons with other Australian data.

An earlier draft of the questionnaire was subjected to skirmish testing. This is a technique whereby the questionnaire is 'tested out' on easily accessible respondents (in this case, staff within the Office of the ASCC) to check for any major issues before more formal testing (i.e. cognitive testing and piloting) commences. The skirmish test looked at the flow and understanding of the questions, especially the understanding of definitions and terms, how answers were formulated, the possible range of answers, the level of knowledge required to answer the questions, flaws in design and awkward wording. The limitation of this particular skirmish testing was that the literacy level of respondents who participated were likely to be higher than workers in several of the high priority industries.

The survey was also cognitive tested with 11 workers from several industries who were of a low literacy or non-English speaking background. Cognitive testing involves a face-to-face interview with actual workers from each of the industries. It provided the opportunity to test the wording of each question such as whether all respondents interpret the survey items in the same way and to detect the ease of answering each survey item.

The survey was then piloted by Victorian WorkCover Authority in 160 workers using the computer assisted telephone interview (CATI) method. This assisted in revising the survey length and errors or problems in CATI programming was corrected for the main fielding of the survey. The pilot testing also provided the opportunity to examine the adequacy of information and briefing provided to the interviewers to conduct the survey. Issues and concerns identified during cognitive testing and piloting were addressed before fielding of the main survey commenced in 30 January 2008.

The survey questions in this document are grouped according to survey themes. Please consult the actual copy of the National Hazard Exposure Worker Surveillance Survey (NHEWS) instrument for the actual ordering of survey items and CATI programming.

SCREENING QUESTIONS AND QUOTAS

Q. Gender. [INTERVIEWER TO RECORD]

| | |
|--------|---------|
| Male |01 |
| Female |02 |

| | |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Source of Question | Victorian WorkCover Authority |
|--------------------|-------------------------------|

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Why are we using | All international surveys have a question on gender. This allows comparison of exposures by gender as well as |
|------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

it? determines the representativeness of the survey sample in terms of gender. It will help ensure respondents meet gender quotas if applied. It has also been reported in the literature that there are differences in exposure profiles by gender.

Will tell us Respondent's gender

Q. Last week, did you do any work at all in a job, business or farm?

| | | |
|------------|---------|----------------------|
| Yes |01 | CONTINUE WITH SURVEY |
| No |02 | THANK & CLOSE |
| Don't know |98 | THANK & CLOSE |
| Refused |99 | THANK & CLOSE |

Source of Question ABS Labour force survey

Why are we using it? This question is considered suitable for use as a screening question to capture persons who worked last week. Some hazard specific questions are relating to exposures in the last week so it is vital that the survey respondent worked last week. This will also allow comparison with data from ABS national surveys.

Will tell us The target group for this survey is people in paid employment aged 15 or over, who worked last week. People 15 and over are selected as a target group to be consistent with the ABS definition of working age population. This question helps identify the survey target group.

Q. Did you earn money from this work?

| | | |
|------------|---------|---------------|
| Yes |01 | CONTINUE |
| No |02 | THANK & CLOSE |
| Don't know |98 | THANK & CLOSE |
| Refused |99 | THANK & CLOSE |

Source of Question ASCC

Why are we using it? The screening question for people who worked last week was taken directly from the ABS Labour Force Survey. However, it did not provide information on whether it was paid work and

may capture, for example, someone who is a hobby farmer. The current question enables the interviewer to select people who were in paid employment.

Will tell us

People who worked last week who were in paid employment.

Q. Which of the following industries do you work in? Is it (...READ OUT INDUSTRIES...) or is it something else? **Single response.**

| | | |
|--------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Manufacturing |01 | |
| Transport & storage |02 | |
| Construction |03 | |
| Agriculture |04 | |
| Forestry |05 | |
| Fishing |06 | |
| Health service |07 | |
| Community care service |08 | |
| Other [SPECIFY] |09-97 | THANK & CLOSE |
| Don't know (DO NOT READ) |98 | THANK & CLOSE |
| Refused (DO NOT READ) |99 | THANK & CLOSE |

Source of Question ABS census

Why are we using it? This is a modified version of the industry question used in the ABS census, and it will allow identification of people who are in the national priority industries. During the pre-testing of the survey, it was found that self-employed persons and contractors had trouble responding to the original ABS question where the person was asked to describe the industry of their employer. The modification of this question overcomes the problem encountered by self-employed persons and contractors.

Will tell us It will provide information on the industry of the respondent.

EMPLOYMENT

Q. In your main job held last week, did you work for an employer or did you work in your own business or did you work as a contractor? **Single response.**

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|---------|
| For an employer |01 |
| Own business / self-employed / contractor |02 |
| Don't know |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Source of Question ABS Labour Force Survey

Why are we using it? Estimate of persons who are self-employed; this will enable analysis of exposures by whether or not a person is self-employed. This questions also enables a follow up question, Q7, to be asked to persons who work for employers.

Will tell us Whether the survey respondent is self-employed, contractor or an employee.

Q. Are you employed as a permanent, temporary, casual or fixed term employee? **Single response. INTERVIEWER NOTE:** Fixed term means limited contract.

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| Permanent |01 |
| Temporary/casual |02 |
| Fixed term |03 |
| Don't know |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Source of Question ASCC

Why are we using it? For persons who work for an employer, information is needed on their employment arrangement. Precarious employment has been reported in the literature to have an impact on occupational health and safety.

Will tell us The respondent's employment arrangement (excluding self-employed persons and contractors).

Q. Including yourself, about how many people are employed by your company at this location, including full-time, part-time or as a casual? Is it...**Read out.**

Single response. INTERVIEWER NOTE: Encourage best guess.

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Less than 5 |01 |
| 5 to 19 |02 |
| 20 to 199 |03 |
| 200 or more |04 |
| Don't know |9998 |
| Refused |9999 |

Source of Question Adapted from Victorian WorkCover Authority (VWA), the Workers survey

Why are we using it? This question has been used by VWA in the past with Australian workers and no problems have been reported. This question is very similar to the question used in the European Working Conditions Survey, *approximately how many people, in total, work in your local workplace?*, which has reported reliability and validity. This will enable analysis of whether there are differences in exposures by company size. Rather than keeping this question as an open response, respondents are provided categories based on the ABS classification of business size. This will allow comparison of workplace exposures by business size.

Will tell us Business size

Q. What is your occupation? **Record full job title.**

[RECORD OPEN RESPONSE]

| | |
|------------|---------|
| Don't know |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Source of Question ABS Labour Force Survey.

Why are we using this? This question is used by ABS to code a person's occupation to ASCO. This question together with information on main tasks would enable classification of occupation. These questions are very similar to NZ census questions which have

reported validity and reliability.

What should this tell us? Occupation of survey respondents.

Q. What are the main tasks that you usually perform? What else?

INTERVIEWER NOTE: What do you do in your job? Focus on main tasks only.

[RECORD OPEN RESPONSE]

Don't know9998

Refused9999

Source of Question ABS Labour Force Survey

Why are we using this? Information on a worker's main tasks would enable a more accurate classification of occupation. In addition, main tasks would provide some information on exposures and contribute in longer term to a job exposure matrix.

What should this tell us? Main tasks of respondent

Q. How many hours did you *actually* work in your main job last week? When calculating the hours you have worked, please add any overtime worked and deduct any time off such as time spent having lunch breaks. **Record hours.**

[RECORD HOURS]

Don't know98

Refused99

Source of Question Adapted from ABS Labour Force Survey

Why are we using it? This question is considered an appropriate question to determine the person's actual working hours in the past week across for his/her main job.

Will tell us Actual working hours in the past week in respondent's main job. This is particularly important as some of the other questions in the survey are based on exposures in the last week.

Q. Did you have more than one job last week?

| | |
|------------|---------|
| Yes |01 |
| No |02 |
| Don't know |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Source of Question ASCC

Why are we using it? To collect information on people with multiple job holdings and to enable the interviewer to clarify to the respondent who had more than one job that majority of questions in the survey are related to their main job, the job in which they worked the most hours. Multiple jobs would also affect total working hours.

Will tell us People with multiple job holdings

Q. How many hours did you *actually* work in all your jobs last week? Deduct any time off but count any extra hours worked or overtime.

[RECORD HOURS]

| | |
|------------|-----------|
| Don't know |9998 |
| Refused |9999 |

Source of Question ABS Labour Force Survey

Why are we using it? Although the focus of the questionnaire is on main job, this question is considered an appropriate question to determine the person's actual working hours in the past week across all jobs.

Will tell us Actual working hours in the past week across all jobs.

Q. And thinking of your **(‘main job’ or ‘job’)**... held last week, which of the following BEST describes your work arrangements? **Read out. Single response.**

Mainly regular or fixed hours01

Mainly on call02

Mainly shift work03

Mainly rostered work04

Don't know (**DO NOT READ**)98

Refused (**DO NOT READ**)99

Source of Questions ASCC

Why are we using these? This question provide information on work schedule of survey participants. As with long working hours, non-standard work schedules are of concern due to their impact on worker health and safety.

What should these tell us? The work schedule of survey respondents.

Q. Which days of the week did you work last week in your **(‘main job’ or ‘job’)**?

Monday01

Tuesday02

Wednesday03

Thursday04

Friday05

Saturday06

Sunday07

Don't know (**DO NOT READ**)98

Refused (**DO NOT READ**)99

Source of Question Adapted from ABS Labour Force Survey

Why are we using it? This question provides the tool to determine participant's working arrangements in terms of

days of the week worked.

Will tell us Information on working arrangements and (in combination with other questions, see below) whether the person works a Monday to Friday working arrangement or has other arrangements.

Q. Thinking of your ('main job' or 'job'), last week did you work most of the time at night- that is between 10 pm and 6 am?

Yes01
 No02
 DK98
 Refused99

Source of Question ASCC

Why are we using it? This question provides further information on respondent's work schedule and whether they work the night shift. Night shift work has been identified as an area of concern for occupational health and safety.

Will tell us Whether the respondent works between 10 pm and 6 am.

EXPOSURE TO WORKPLACE HAZARDS

SUN EXPOSURE

Q. On a typical day at work last week, how long did you work in direct sunlight, with or without protective lotions or clothing? **INTERVIEWER NOTE** Record hours. Can record decimal points. If respondent is unsure, record 0 in both boxes. Clarify whether respondent is talking about typical daily exposure or average weekly exposure.

Record hours in a typical day

Record hours in a typical week

Don't know98

Refused99

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Source of Question | ASCC |
| Why are we using it? | Occupational cancer is one of the priority occupational diseases. Indicators of sun exposure will provide information people who are at potential risk of skin cancer. |
| Will tell us | How long the respondent works during work in direct sunlight |

NOISE LEVELS

Q. On a typical day at work last week, how long did you work in loud noise?
INTERVIEWER NOTE: Loud noise is noise so loud that you would have to raise your voice to be heard to speak to people who are at one arm's length away from you. Clarify whether respondent is talking about typical daily exposure or average weekly exposure.

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Record hours if more than an hour a typical day | |
| Record hours if more than an hour over a typical week | |
| Don't know |98 |
| Refused |99 |

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Source of Question | Adapted from Victorian WorkCover Authority |
| Why are we using this? | The question is very similar to a noise exposure question used in international surveillance surveys which is reported to be valid and reliable. It is also predictive of health outcomes. However, response categories used in international surveys do not provide as comprehensive measure of time of exposure compared to this question. This question would enable calculation of time weighted averages of noise exposure. A positive response to this question equates to noise exposure at or above 85 db (A), and if this exposure is for 8 hours, exposure will exceed the noise standard. |
| What should these tell us? | Prevalence of at risk noise exposure and duration of exposure. |

BIOMECHANICAL DEMANDS AND VIBRATION

Q. On a typical day at work last week, how often did you...? Was it never, rarely, sometimes, often or all of the time? **Read out. Rotate order.**

| | Never | Rarely | Some- times | Often | All the time | Don't know | Refused |
|---------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------|----------------|-------|--------------------|---------------|---------|
| Carry or lift heavy loads | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| Make the same hand or arm movements over and over again | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| Work with your body bent forward | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| Work in a twisted or awkward posture | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| Work with your hands raised above your head | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| Work while sitting down | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| Squat or kneel while you work | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| Push or pull, using some force | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| Work standing in one place | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |

Source of Question EU working conditions survey, Swedish Working Environment Survey, NIOSH survey and ASCC

Why are we using it? Very similar questions are covered for physical demands in international surveillance surveys. Questions which have not been modified would also allow comparison with EU, Swedish and NIOSH exposure data. These set of questions have been comprehensively tested for validation by comparing responses to these questions against actual work conditions and the correlations were found to be very good. At least some of the questions have been reported in the literature as predictive of health outcomes. Using a combination of EU and Swedish questions would also enable this survey to cover a broader range of physical hazards.

Q. As a result of the physical demands of your job last week, how often did you experience...? Was it never, rarely, sometimes, often or all of the time? **Read out. Rotate order.**

| | Never | Rarely | Some- times | Often | All the time | Don't know | Refused |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------|----------------|-------|-----------------|---------------|---------|
| Tiredness | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| Pain in your back or your neck | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| Pain in your shoulders or arms, wrists or hands | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| Pain in your hips, legs, knees or feet | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |

Source of Question Adapted from Swedish Working Environment Survey and ASCC

Why are we using it? To determine whether as a result of physical demands in the workplace, respondents are experiencing any musculoskeletal symptoms and fatigue

Will tell us Whether the respondent is experiencing musculoskeletal pain and fatigue due to work related physical demands.

Q. On a typical day at work last week, how long did you work with tools, equipments or in vehicles that vibrates? **Record hours or minutes.** Clarify whether respondent is talking about typical daily exposure or average weekly exposure.

Record hours if more than an hour
a typical day

Record hours if more than an hour
over a typical week

Don't know 98

Refused 99

Source of Question Adapted from Marion Burgess (Vibration expert, ADFA)

Why are we using this?

Vibration is a workplace exposure which could lead to temporary or permanent disability depending on levels of exposure. Most international surveys have a one item question on vibration such as vibrations from any hand tools or machinery, all of the time, almost all of the time etc. This does not give adequate indication of the extent of exposure or risk of subsequent disease from this type of exposure. This question will provide a clearer indication of the duration of exposure to vibration. It is very similar to a single item measure of vibration used in international surveys, which will allow comparison between surveys.

Will tell us

The proportion of people in the survey exposed to vibration and the duration of this exposure.

Q. What were the main vibrating tools, equipments or vehicles you used? Anything else? **INTERVIEWER NOTE:** Only record main tool, equipment or vehicle used.

[RECORD OPEN RESPONSE]

Don't know98

Refused99

Source of Question

ASCC

Why are we using it?

There are two kinds of vibration exposure, hand-arm vibration and whole-body vibration. Internationally, there are separate exposure limits for the two types of vibration. The health effects from the two types can also be different. This question will give information on the type of vibration the person is exposed.

Will tell us

The tool, equipment or vehicle that the survey respondent usually uses.

AIRBORNE HAZARDS

Q. On a typical day at work last week, how long did you work in a place where your work or other people's work created dust or made the air dusty?

Record hours if more than an hour a typical day

Record hours if more than an hour over a typical week

Don't know98

Refused99

Q. What were the main types of dust at your workplace last week? Anything else? **Probe fully.**

[RECORD OPEN RESPONSE]

Don't know98

Refused99

Q. On a typical day at work last week, how long did you work in a place where there were gases, vapours, smokes or fumes?

Record hours if more than an hour a typical day

Record hours if more than an hour over a typical week

Don't know98

Refused99

Q. What were the main types of fumes, gases, vapours or smoke in your workplace last week? Anything else? **Probe fully.**

[RECORD OPEN RESPONSE]

Don't know98

Refused99

Source of Questions

Adapted from Victorian WorkCover
Authority

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Why are we using these? | These set of questions capture exposure to different types of airborne substances and is similar to the single item question which had been used in EU survey with reported validity and reliability and is predictive of health outcomes. It is believed that these set of questions would provide comprehensive information on airborne exposures where there is little information currently available. |
| What should these tell us? | Exposure to different types of airborne substances and duration and frequency of exposure. |

BIOLOGICAL HAZARDS

Q. On a typical day at work last week, how long did you work in places where there were biological materials, such as blood, urine, animal flesh or laboratory cultures?

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Record hours if more than an hour a typical day | |
| Record hours if more than an hour over a typical week | |
| Don't know |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Q. What were the main types of biological materials at your workplace last week? Anything else?

[RECORD OPEN RESPONSE]

| | |
|------------|---------|
| Don't know |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Source of Questions Adapted from EU

Why are we using these? EU question on exposure to infectious substances which is reported to be valid and reliable and predictive of health outcomes. Subsequent set of questions are used as they provide more comprehensive information on duration of exposure.

What should these tell us? Exposure to biological hazards and duration of exposure.

WET WORK

Q. On a typical day at work last week, how many times did you wash your hands with water, including when using the bathroom? **Record number of times washed hands either with or without soap.**

[RECORD NUMBER]

DK98

Refused99

Source of Question Occupational Dermatology Research and Education Centre, Melbourne

Why are we using this? Hand washing of more than 20 times a day is a risk factor for contact dermatitis which is a priority occupational disease.

What should this tell us? This question provides information on a major risk factor for contact dermatitis.

Q. On a typical day at work last week, excluding time spent hand-washing, how long did you have your hands immersed in or covered by any liquid (including water) with or without gloves?

Record hours if more than an hour a typical day

Record hours if more than an hour over a typical week

Don't know98

Refused99

Source of Question Adapted from Nordic skin questionnaire, Occupational Dermatology Research and Education Centre

Why are we using this? Exposure to wet work for 2 hours or more a day is a known risk factor for contact dermatitis, a priority occupational disease. The Nordic skin questionnaire which has been used extensively worldwide and it is available in a number of languages. A variation of these questions has been piloted in a survey of Australian workers and they are considered to reliably estimate the level of exposure to wet

work in the workplace.

Will tell us

The proportion of people exposed to wet work and the frequency of their exposure.

Q. What liquids did you have your hands covered by last week? **INTERVIEWER NOTE:** Record verbatim, for example glue, oil, lard, petrol etc. If respondent had their hands in water ask: 'what substances if any did you use while you were working in water last week?'

[RECORD OPEN RESPONSE]

| | |
|---------|---------|
| Nothing |97 |
| DK |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Source of Question ASCC

Why are we using these? To obtain information on wet work involving fluids other than water

What should these tell us? Information contact with fluids other than water and duration of exposure

SKIN CONTACT WITH SUBSTANCES

Q. On a typical day at work last week, how long did you work with chemical such as cement, cleaning products, disinfectants, solvents, resins, paints, pesticides or other chemical substances? **Record hours or minutes.**

Record hours if more than an hour a typical day

Record hours if more than an hour over a typical week

Don't know 98

Refused 99

Source of Question Adapted from Victorian WorkCover Authority

Why are we using this? This question is similar to questions used in EU and Swedish surveys. However, this question allows for a more comprehensive list of examples which would allow survey respondents to better identify and report the product they use more accurately. Both EU

and Swedish survey questions have reported reliability and validity and information from the EU survey has been reported in the literature as being a predictor of health outcomes.

Will tell us

Skin contact with chemical substances and duration of the exposure.

Q. What were the main types of chemical products or substances you worked with last week? Anything else? **INTERVIEWER NOTE:** record specific type of chemical or product.

[RECORD OPEN RESPONSE]

Don't know98

Refused99

Source of Question

Adapted from the Danish Work Environment Cohort Study

Why are we using it?

This is the only survey reviewed which asks about specific types of substances a person has skin contact with.

Will tell us

The most common substances for skin contact.

PSYCHOSOCIAL HAZARDS

Q. I now am going to read out some ways people might feel at work. Generally speaking, please tell me if this describes your *current workplace* never, rarely, sometimes, often, or all the time. **Read out and rotate order. If respondent says, 'in the last week?', say, 'no we are talking more generally now.'**

| | Never | Rarely | Some-times | Often | All the time | Don't know | Ref-used |
|------------------------------------|-------|--------|------------|-------|--------------|------------|----------|
| I am pressured to work long hours. | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| I have unachievable deadlines. | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| I have to work very fast. | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| I am unable to take enough breaks. | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |

| | Never | Rarely | Some- times | Often | All the time | Don't know | Ref- used |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------|----------------|-------|-----------------|---------------|--------------|
| I have to neglect some tasks because I have too much to do. | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| It's hard for me to juggle work requests from different people. | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| I have to keep track of more than one thing at a time. | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| My work needs my undivided attention. | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| I can decide when to take a break. | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| I have some say in what work I do. | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| I have some say in how I get the job done. | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| I was sexually harassed. | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| I was bullied. | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |

Q. Could you please tell me whether you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements..? **Read out. Rotate order.**

| | Strongly agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know | Ref- used |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------|---------|----------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| I get the help and support I need from my fellow workers. | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| My fellow workers respect me. | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| My fellow workers are willing to listen to my work related problems. | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| I have some say over the way I work. | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |

| | Strongly agree | Agree | Neutral | Disagree | Strongly disagree | Don't know | Ref-used |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|-------|---------|----------|-------------------|------------|----------|
| I am worried about losing my job. | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |

Q. And using the same scale, do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements..? **Read out and rotate order.**

| | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Neutral | Agree | Strongly disagree | DK | Ref-used |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|----------|---------|-------|-------------------|----|----------|
| I can talk to my supervisor about something that has upset me at work. | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| My supervisor encourages me at work. | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| My supervisor supports me through emotionally demanding work. | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| I have the information I need to do my job. | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |
| I have the equipment I need to do my job. | 01 | 02 | 03 | 04 | 05 | 98 | 99 |

Source of Questions

Health and Safety Executive Indicator tool and ASCC

Why are we using these?

These items are originally chosen to allow comparison with Workplace Health and Safety Queensland psychosocial data which are also based on the HSE indicator tool. The tool is based on the demand control and support model of stress.

A number of ASCC's own questions are added to the occupational stress section to obtain information on job impediment, workplace bullying and violence.

What should these tell us?

Exposure to psychosocial hazards.

Q. You mentioned that you have experienced [**bullying or harassment**] at work in the past month. Was the person who did this your supervisor, a co-worker, a customer or patient, someone who worked for you or someone else? **Multiple response.**

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Supervisor |01 |
| Co-worker/s |02 |
| Customer |03 |
| Patient |04 |
| Patient's family member |05 |
| Someone who worked for you |06 |
| Other (SPECIFY) |07 |
| Don't know |98 |
| Refused to disclose |99 |

Source of Question ASCC

Why are we using this? This question is will be asked to respondents who have experienced bullying and/or harassment. This will provide information on the source of workplace violence or bullying and would help direct intervention approaches (e.g. OHS vs. police action). This is very similar to the item in the WHSQ psychosocial survey.

What should this tell us? Information on who was the source of occupational violence and bullying

Q. In general, how stressful do you find your job? Would you say it is..?

| | |
|----------------------|---------|
| Not stressful at all |01 |
| Mildly stressful |02 |
| Moderately stressful |03 |
| Very stressful |04 |
| Extremely stressful |05 |

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Source of Question | Bristol Stress and Health at Work study ³ |
| Why are we using this? | This question was added to wave 2 of the NHEWS survey, to determine what proportion of the workers found their work stressful. Health and Safety Executive (UK) has also used this question in their annual survey of psychosocial working conditions in Britain. Information from this question was also used to inform HSE's stress management standards. |
| What should this tell us? | Proportion of workers who find their work stressful. |

CONTROL MEASURES

Note: The wording of the control measure questions varies slightly depending on whether the person works for an employer or whether the person is self employed. CATI programming was based on the respondent's answer to the following question:

In your main job held last week, did you work for an employer or did you work in your own business or did you work as a contractor?

Q. (If self employed, say 'Do you': If employee, say 'Does your employer') do any of the following to prevent health problems caused by exposure to direct sunlight or sunburn? Anything else? **Read out. Multiple response. INTERVIEWER NOTE:** Do not prompt for other responses but record if the respondent provides information voluntarily.

| | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|
| Provide sunscreen |01 |
| Provide protective clothing |02 |
| Provide hat |03 |
| Provide sunglasses |04 |
| Reorganise work outside peak UV hours |05 |
| Other specify |06 |

³ Smith, A, Johal, S, Wadsworth, E, Davey Smith, G, and Peters, T (2000). *The Scale of Occupational Stress: The Bristol Stress and Health at Work Study*. HSE Contract Research Report 265/2000, HSE Books, Sudbury.

| | |
|---------|---------|
| Nothing |97 |
| DK |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Q. (If self employed, say 'Do you': If employee, say 'Does your employer') do any of the following to prevent hearing being damaged by loud noise? Anything else? **Read out. Multiple response. INTERVIEWER NOTE:** Do not prompt for other responses but record if the respondent provides information voluntarily.

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|---------|
| Provide ear muffs |01 |
| Provide ear plugs |02 |
| Provide training |03 |
| Rotate jobs |04 |
| Place noisy equipment in an isolated room |05 |
| Purchase quieter machinery whenever possible |06 |
| Other specify |07 |
| Nothing |97 |
| DK |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Q. (If self employed, say 'Do you': If employee, 'Does your employer') do any of the following to prevent this kind of pain? **Read out. Multiple response. INTERVIEWER NOTE:** Do not prompt for other responses but record if the respondent provides information voluntarily.

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Provide lifting equipment |01 |
| Provide trolleys |02 |
| Change layout of the job |03 |
| Change the size and shape of loads |04 |
| Provide training |05 |
| Other specify |06 |

| | |
|---------|---------|
| Nothing |97 |
| DK |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Q. (If self employed, say 'Do you': If employee say, 'Does your employer') do any of the following to prevent health problems caused by working with vibrating equipment or in vehicles that vibrate? ANYTHING ELSE. **Read out. Multiple response. INTERVIEWER NOTE:** Do not prompt for other responses but record if the respondent provides information voluntarily.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Provide gloves |01 |
| Provide vibration dampeners |02 |
| Provide vibration absorbing seats |03 |
| Provide vibration absorbing seats |04 |
| Provide training |05 |
| Other specify |06 |
| Nothing |97 |
| DK |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Q. (If self employed, say 'Do you': If employee, say 'Does your employer') do any of the following to prevent breathing in dust, fumes, gases, vapours or other things in the air that could damage your health? Anything else? **Read out. Multiple response. INTERVIEWER NOTE:** Do not prompt for other responses but record if the respondent provides information voluntarily.

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Provide masks |01 |
| Provide respirators |02 |
| Provide ventilation systems |03 |
| Reduce the time spent in places where there are dust, smoke, fumes or gases |04 |
| Other (specify) |05 |
| Nothing |97 |

| | |
|------------|---------|
| Don't know |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Q. (If self employed, say 'Do you': If employee say, 'Does your employer') do any of the following to prevent health problems caused by exposure to biological materials? Anything else? **Read out. Multiple response.**

INTERVIEWER NOTE: Do not prompt for other responses but record if the respondent provides information voluntarily.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Provide gloves |01 |
| Provide masks |02 |
| Provide labelling and warning signs |03 |
| Provide protective clothing |04 |
| Provide safety goggles |05 |
| Provide safety cabinets |06 |
| Provide training |07 |
| Provide ventilation systems |08 |
| Other (specify) |09 |
| Nothing |97 |
| Don't know |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Q. (If self employed, say 'Do you': If employee say, 'Does your employer') do any of the following to prevent health problems caused by exposure to water or other liquids? Read out. Multiple response. **INTERVIEWER NOTE:** Do not prompt for other responses but record if the respondent provides information voluntarily.

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Provide gloves |01 |
| Provide barrier cream |02 |
| Provide moisturiser |03 |

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Provide labelling and warning signs |04 |
| Limit the time you have your hands in water or other liquids |05 |
| Provide training |06 |
| Other (specify) |07 |
| Nothing |97 |
| DK |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Q. (If self employed, say 'Do you': If employee say, 'Does your employer') do any of the following to prevent health problems caused by exposure to chemical products or substances? **Read out. Multiple response. INTERVIEWER NOTE:** Do not prompt for other responses but record if the respondent provides information voluntarily.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Provide Gloves |01 |
| Provide protective clothing |02 |
| Provide labelling and warning signs |03 |
| Provide washing facilities |04 |
| Provide training |05 |
| Other specify |06 |
| Nothing |97 |
| Don't know |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Q. What kind of gloves do you normally use? **Do not read out. Multiple response.**

| | |
|------------------|---------|
| Cotton gloves |01 |
| Disposable latex |02 |
| Disposable vinyl |03 |

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Disposable nitrile |04 |
| Leather |05 |
| Surgical latex |06 |
| Surgical Nitrile |07 |
| Reusable neoprene |08 |
| Reusable rubber |09 |
| Reusable PVC |10 |
| Other (SPECIFY) |11 |
| DK |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Q. (If self employed, say 'Do you': If employee say, 'Does your employer') do any of the following to prevent people from becoming too stressed at work? Anything else? Probe fully. **Read out. Multiple responses accepted. INTERVIEWER NOTE: Do not prompt for other responses but record if the respondent provides information voluntarily.**

| | |
|---------------------------------------------|---------|
| Have anti-stress and anti-bullying policies |01 |
| Provide training on how to manage stress |02 |
| Provide counselling services |03 |
| Other specify |04 |
| Nothing |97 |
| DK |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Source of
Questions

Adapted from Victorian WorkCover Authority

Why are we using
these?

Most international surveillance surveys lack information on control measures. VWA has used a similar question in the past and found that workers from across a range of industries are able to recognise and identify controls in their workplace and they have no trouble answering this type of question. To get a complete picture of a person's

exposure, existing control measures need to be taken into account.

Will tell us The level of compliance and awareness of a particular hazard and existence of effective controls. This also gives an indication of the safety climate in a person's workplace.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Q. Do you speak a language other than English at home?

| | |
|---------|---------|
| Yes |01 |
| No |02 |
| DK |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Q. INTERVIEWER TO RECORD FACILITY IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

| | |
|------------------------------------------|---------|
| Understands English very well / fluently |01 |
| Understands English quite well |02 |
| Understands English quite poorly |03 |
| Understands English very poorly |04 |

Q. Which language other than English do you speak at home? **Single response. Record language most often spoken at home.**

| | |
|--------------------------|---------|
| Italian |01 |
| Greek |02 |
| Cantonese |03 |
| Arabic |04 |
| Vietnamese |05 |
| Mandarin |06 |
| Other (SPECIFY) |07 |
| Don't know |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Source ABS Census 2006 and ASCC

Why are we using these? Workplace compliance campaigns need to cater to language and cultural needs of workers.

Q. What is the highest year of primary or secondary school you have completed?

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Year 12 or equivalent |01 |
| Year 11 or equivalent |02 |
| Year 10 or equivalent |03 |
| Year 9 or equivalent |04 |
| Year 8 or below |05 |
| Did not go to school |06 |
| Don't know |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Q. Have you completed any educational qualification, including a trade certificate?

| | |
|------------|---------|
| Yes |01 |
| No |02 |
| Don't know |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Q. What is the level of the highest qualification you have completed? **Do not read out. Single response.**

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Trade certificate |01 |
| TAFE Associate Diploma |02 |
| TAFE Advanced Diploma |03 |
| Bachelor's degree |04 |
| Master's degree |05 |

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| PhD |06 |
| Other (specify) |07 |
| Don't know |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Source of Questions ABS Census 2006

Why are we using these? To obtain information on educational level of respondents

Will tell us Educational qualification of respondents to assist in targeting health and safety information

Q. Are you currently attending a school or any other educational institution?

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Yes, full time |01 |
| Yes, part time |02 |
| No |03 |
| Don't know |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Source of Questions Modified from ABS Census 2006

Why are we using these? To obtain information on whether respondent is studying part time or full time while working.

What should these tell us? This will identify respondents who are studying and working at the same time

Q. What is your age?

[RECORD NUMBER]

| | |
|------------|---------|
| Don't know |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Source of ASCC

Question

Why are we using it? To obtain a continuous age variable and to ensure respondents meet age quotas if applied. This will also provide information for better targeted prevention activities if there are differences in exposures by age (for example, psychosocial exposures have been reported to vary by age). It also serves as a screen for current participation in education questions.

Will tell us Survey participant's age at the time of survey

Q. Into which of the following ranges does your personal pre-tax income fit? Read out. Single response.

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Under \$30,000 |01 |
| \$30,000 to \$49,999 |02 |
| \$50,000 to \$74,999 |03 |
| \$75,000 to \$99,999 |04 |
| \$100,000 to \$149,999 |05 |
| \$150,000 or over |06 |
| Don't know |98 |
| Refused |99 |

Source of Question Sweeney Research

Why are we using it? This question is included as an indicator of seniority of respondent's occupation within the industry. The salary figures are intended for comparison between respondents within the same industry. This is because salary ranges are not directly comparable between different industries.

Will tell us Annual pre-tax income of respondent (in ranges)