

# Strategic Plan 2013-2016

## Preamble

Safe Work Australia is the body leading the development of national policy to improve work health and safety and workers' compensation across Australia. The interests of the Commonwealth, states and territories as well as workers and employers in Australia are all represented.

Together we will work to achieve:

- » Significant and continued reductions in the incidence of work-related death, injury and illness including through:
  - reduced exposure to work-related hazards causing injury and illness
  - improved quality of workplace controls, and
  - an improved work health and safety framework, increased work health and safety awareness and skills and an evidence base which informs policy and practice.
- » Improved outcomes for injured workers and their employers through more effective, efficient, clearly understood and sustainable workers' compensation arrangements.

Safe Work Australia has overseen a large degree of harmonisation which has resulted in the majority of Australian workers covered by similar work health and safety (WHS) laws. We will continue to monitor, review and evaluate the implementation of the model WHS laws, make changes to improve operational efficiency and support ongoing reform to promote continuous improvements in safety outcomes, while ensuring practicability for small business and individual workers.

Safe Work Australia will remain a key source for high quality nationally significant data and research to inform the development of new work health and safety and workers' compensation policy.

During 2012 Safe Work Australia launched the *Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012-2022* (the Australian Strategy). With its vision of *healthy, safe and productive working lives*, the Australian Strategy is designed to drive key national activities to achieve improvement in work health and safety. This strategic plan reflects the vision, goals and outcomes of the Australian Strategy.

## Outcome

Healthier, safer and more productive workplaces through improvements to Australian work health and safety and workers' compensation arrangements.

### Strategies to achieve the outcome

1

Support the implementation of the *Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012-2022*.

2

Promote community awareness and knowledge of work health and safety and workers' compensation.

3

Support evidence informed policy, programs and practice through national work health and safety and workers' compensation data, research and evaluation programs.

4

Improve work health and safety laws in Australia that provide a consistent, equitable and high level of protection to all workers, while ensuring practicability for small business and individual workers.

5

Promote consistent approaches and improved knowledge, skills and capabilities for managing health and safety hazards and risks.

6

Identify opportunities and develop proposals for improvements in workers' compensation arrangements.

The effectiveness of the strategies in achieving the outcome will be measured through systematic review and evaluation. The Safe Work Australia annual operational plan outlines the activities to be undertaken to give effect to the strategies. Reports on the Australian Strategy will be published annually, the evaluation of the objectives of the *Intergovernmental Agreement on Regulatory and Operational Reform in Occupational Health and Safety* is underway and the review of the *Safe Work Australia Act 2008*, including its functions will commence in 2015.