



News Release - SafeWork SA

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MAJOR WORKPLACE SAFETY PROGRAM UNDERWAY

An extensive workplace safety program is now underway in South Australia.

In a week where three workplace safety incidents could each have ended in tragedy, SafeWork SA says the need for such a proactive safety effort is clearly highlighted.

The agency has commenced a tailored **Industry Improvement Program** to engage hundreds of employers across the state, in a bid to reduce injury and illness.

The initiative is in line with target 2.11 of the South Australian Strategic Plan, namely to reduce workplace injuries in line with the nationally agreed rate of 40 percent by the year, 2012.

"If all workplaces that recorded an injury last year, could reduce that by one this year then our target will be met," says SafeWork SA's Director of Strategic Interventions, Bryan Russell.

"Such a reduction is achievable, but the idea of this program is to make the reduction sustainable as well."

The Industry Improvement Programme will involve efforts specifically designed for large workplaces including self-insured employers and government enterprises, as well as medium and small businesses.

All employers involved in the Programme will need to implement measures to address the major causes of safety incidents, injuries and illnesses in their workplaces.

"Large and self-insured employers are expected to have dedicated resources to specifically manage their workplace health and safety needs," Mr. Russell says.

"Accordingly large employers, including government agencies and self-insured organisations, will need to demonstrate to SafeWork SA that they have effective OHS management systems in place, and that they comply with their OHS legal requirements.

"With medium to small businesses, we will place greater emphasis on providing guidance and advice to assist them in developing a systematic approach to OHS improvement."

"We will be actively working with employers and key stakeholder groups with a view to achieving improved health, safety and welfare outcomes in SA workplaces," Mr. Russell says.

For answers and advice on workplace health and safety and the relevant laws, SafeWork SA operates a telephone Help Centre on 1 300 365 255 or 8303 0400. To report serious accidents or incidents, in the workplace call 1 800 777 209.