
Thursday, 1 September 2011

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS TO PREVENT WORKPLACE HARM

Minister for Industrial Relations Russell Wortley today announced a new round of scholarships to supplement ongoing research into the prevention of workplace injuries and illness in South Australia.

Applications are open from today for the 2011 Work Health and Safety Supplementary Scholarships (WHS Scholarships). A total of up to \$70,000 will be made available through two scholarships this year in what will be an annual program.

Mr Wortley says the scholarships are designed to encourage PhD candidates to focus their research projects on the prevention of work-related injury and illness.

As such, only applicants who have already been approved to pursue a higher degree by research (HDR) will be eligible.

“The successful researchers will be able to access the workplace injury and illness claims data currently used by SafeWork SA to assist in their projects,” Mr Wortley says.

“Firstly, they must meet the selection criteria set by the SafeWork SA Research Committee, which comprises representatives of the agency’s main Advisory Committee and three universities.”

The scholarships will be administered by the university at which the research is being undertaken, with appropriate progress reports being forwarded to SafeWork SA.

The funding builds on the \$412,000 already available this year through the WHS Commissioned Research Grant Program, and Small Grants for Innovative Practice of up to \$50,000 each.

SafeWork SA also offers grants in support of large research projects that are co-funded by the Australian Research Council.

“This research is critical to improving and expanding the knowledge in South Australia on workplace safety,” Mr Wortley says.

“The more detailed this base of research knowledge becomes, the more effective we can be in devising targeted programs to reduce workplace harm.

“We also envisage being able to share these research findings with other jurisdictions, potentially expanding the benefits of safer and healthier workplaces beyond South Australia.”

The deadline for applications is Monday, 7 November 2011, with details available from the SafeWork SA website: www.safework.sa.gov.au