

News Release

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Hon Paul Caica

Minister for Agriculture,
Food & Fisheries
Minister for Industrial Relations
Minister for Forests
Minister for Regional Development

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2009 SAFE WORK AWARD WINNERS

One of South Australia's most popular music events, Big Day Out, has been recognised for its attention to safety, with its organisers taking out the Best Public Event for Safety at last night's annual Safe Work Awards.

Announcing the winners last night at the Adelaide Convention Centre, Industrial Relations Minister, Paul Caica said it was a huge credit to the organisers – El Dorado Music – for achieving high standards of safety with such a massive logistical effort on Adelaide's entertainment calendar.

Big Day Out in Adelaide ran this year for 12 hours on 8 stages to around 34,000 patrons.

“The judges were impressed by El Dorado's genuine desire and efforts to create a strong safety culture for the event for the workers, volunteers, service providers and contractors and for the thousands of patrons,” Minister Caica said.

“These efforts range from their extensive consultation with stakeholders, including the Police and Ambulance Service, through to innovative measures to manage risks such as heat stress and crowd control.”

There's been a record number of nominations for this year's SafeWork awards, with 64 entries, and Minister Caica says this is a clear sign of the growing priority being given in SA to safer workplaces.

“South Australia's Strategic Plan target in this area is to reduce the incidence of workplace harm by 40% over the ten years to 2012,” he said.

“In line with this, the State Government is very pleased to be able to provide a statewide competition for safety performance, in the form of the Safe Work Awards, with benchmarking being a very important means of evaluating an organisation and improving performance.

Other winners at the 2009 Safework Awards

Best Workplace Health & Safety Practices in Small Business – PG Enterprises

PG Enterprises provides specialised civil engineering and earthmoving services to the commercial building industry, and was recently involved in fitting out the new Panda enclosure at the Adelaide Zoo. Its comprehensive OHS system covers safety procedures, plant risk assessment, plant maintenance, training and induction, and hazard identification and reporting systems. The company has had no workers compensation claims in eight years.

Best Solution to an Identified Workplace Health & Safety Issue – Fosters Coonawarra Vineyard – Canopy Reconstruction

The judges described as “highly innovative and effective” their engineering solution to replace a manual process, which required employees to remove and handle vegetation for the retraining of vines from stumps.

They modified a timber industry machine to perform the vine canopy reconstruction work and this has minimised the manual handling hazards and associated risks from the procedure previously used.

Employer of the Year – Private Sector: DHL Supply Chain

DHL in Adelaide is part of the world's largest logistics company and operates a substantial warehousing facility at Edinburgh Park. They developed and implemented a safety management program called *Make Safety your First Choice*, which covers induction, safety knowledge, incident reporting and traffic management. The centre recently celebrated 400 days without a Lost Time Injury and an 86% reduction in injuries since 2007.

Employer of the Year – Public Sector: Adelaide Shores

Adelaide Shores is managed by the West Beach Trust and comprises a range of accommodation and leisure facilities spread over 135 hectares at West Beach. Working closely with staff, Adelaide Shores has developed a range of tools to identify and control risks, monitor progress on OHS and build a culture of awareness of the need to improve safety for both staff and the customers who use its various facilities.

Best Workplace Health & Safety Management System – GHD Australia

GHD offered what the judges described as “a different type of occupational health and safety management environment to that which is usually encountered”. Integrated with the company's overall management systems, GHD's system is electronic, accessible to all employees and has a workflow element, to ensure the necessary safety analysis and reporting is a part of all projects GHD undertakes.

Best Individual Contributions to Workplace Health & Safety

- **An employee who does not have OHS as part of their duty: Nicola Featherstone.** Nicola is a Research Officer in the School of Agriculture, Food and Wine at the University of Adelaide's Waite Campus. When an audit highlighted a lack of resources and training in the University laboratories, Nicola produced on her own initiative and in her own time a Resource Folder to induct new staff and record training. Her initiative now involves 100 folders – one for every work group.
- **Health and Safety Representative of the Year: Katria Powell.** Katria is a senior access worker with Spastic Centres of South Australia (SCOSA), which supports clients with disabilities, who are often wheelchair-bound and need to be transported by staff in specially equipped vans. Katria identified that manual handling, trip and fall injuries caused during the transport of clients was common amongst care workers and managed a research project that recommended design improvements to the vans to reduce the risk of injury to staff.
- **Outstanding contribution by a person with OHS as part of their duty: Glyn Williams.** Glyn has practised in the field of safety and risk management for over 30 years. As Risk safety Manager at Southern Cross Care, Glyn has introduced a comprehensive OHS and Injury Management System, ensured that managers and supervisors have safety Key Performance Indicators written into their job descriptions and has enabled safe roof access for maintenance staff.

Augusta Zadow Scholarships

- **Vicki Hutchinson and Belinda Purvis - Repatriation General Hospital.** Ms. Hutchinson and Ms. Purvis received \$9000 for their project entitled “Management of aggression and violence in a clinical environment”. Both senior staff members at “The Repat”, Ms. Hutchinson and Ms. Purvis intend to use their scholarship to develop an electronic learning programme to help educate nurses on how to better deal with aggressive or violent behaviours they may encounter in their workplace.
- **Kathy Grieve - Catholic Safety Health and Welfare SA.** Ms. Grieve received \$6,760 for her project, “Menopause and work”. Ms. Grieve manages occupational health, safety and welfare for the Catholic Church in SA, which employs many women as teachers and nurses. She intends to use her scholarship to go to England and visit organisations that have researched the effects on women who work through menopause or have implemented strategies to deal with the issue.

The winners of the main categories in South Australia's SafeWork Awards will now go through as finalists in the national Safe Work Australia Awards being held next year.

"With SA have achieved two more national winners at the last national awards, we look forward to seeing if more South Australians will join the list of South Australian national champions who are leading by example," Minister Caica said.

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