
Thursday, 1 July 2010

WORKING HOURS CODE OF PRACTICE TAKES EFFECT

Minister for Industrial Relations Paul Holloway said today specific guidance on appropriate occupational health, safety and welfare arrangements for working hours is now available for the first time in South Australia.

Mr Holloway says the new *Approved Code of Practice for Working Hours* takes effect from today.

“The Code recognises the significant risk excessive working hours, and the resulting fatigue, may pose to the health, safety and welfare of South Australian workers and their families,” he says.

“The new Code specifically addresses workplace issues that might arise, such as extended hours, shiftwork and on-call work.

“It explains how employers can comply with the law, but also provides them flexibility where an equivalent or better standard of health and safety can be achieved by other means.”

“The Code also reflects a contemporary understanding on working hours, work intensification and work-life balance.

“Importantly, it provides a best practice approach to formulating policy on rostering and hours of work, taking into account the diversity of South Australian workplaces.”

The Rann Labor government is committed to work-life balance through South Australia’s Strategic Plan.

One of the Plan’s targets seeks to improve the quality of life of all South Australians through the maintenance of a healthy work-life balance.

The approved Code of Practice now brings South Australia into line with other states which have similar guidelines on fatigue and working hours.

The *Approved Code of Practice for Working Hours* was devised on the recommendation of the SafeWork SA Advisory Committee, and followed extensive consultation by SafeWork SA as part of its Work Life Balance Strategy.

The Code has been approved by the government under Section 63 of the *Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act 1986* and can be found online at: www.safework.sa.gov.au.