WHS REFRESHER

Description	The information provided in this course is aimed at providing health and safety representatives (HSRs) with a brief review of the learning outcomes covered in the training undertaken during their first term of office. Particular attention should be given to ensure participants are made aware of amendments to the work health and safety (WHS) legislation and supporting resources.	
Learning Outcome	Learner Application	References/Resources
Identify amendments and to the WHS legislation	 Identify amendments to the WHS legislation, codes of practice, regulator-specific guidance materials/interpretive guidelines. 	SafeWork SA website
	Discuss amendments relevant to HSR roles and function.	
Understand the role and	 Identify and discuss support services and resources for HSRs provided by the regulator. 	SafeWork SA brochure Consultation
functions of the regulator and their interaction with HSRs	• Identify when an HSR may have contact with or seek assistance from a WHS Inspector.	and representation at work
Review and discuss duties and responsibilities of a Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) under the legislation	Discuss what is meant by 'risk management' using examples where 'reasonably practicable' and hierarchy of control measures have been implemented.	
Identify the duties and responsibilities of officers, workers and other parties	 Review and discuss what is meant by 'due diligence' in connection with the duties of an officer. 	SafeWork SA website
Discuss formation of a work group (or work groups)	 Identify discuss the negotiation and agreement requirements the PCBU in formation of work groups. 	
within the workplace	 Identify and discuss circumstances under which existing work groups could change, resulting in fresh negotiations to form new work groups in the workplace. 	
Discuss HSR election process	 Identify and discuss election processes and roles/obligations of relevant parties in the process. 	
	 Identify and discuss circumstances that would result in an HSR no longer being able to represent their work group or hold office. 	
	 Discuss the role of deputy HSRs in circumstances (short and long term) in the absence of the HSR. 	
Review the functions of a	Review the role, composition and functions of an HSC.	
health and safety committee (HSC)	 Review the obligations and duties of the PCBU to the committee. 	
	 Discuss the relationships between the roles and functions of an HSC and the powers and functions of an HSR. 	

Understand and explain the entitlements, rights and protections of an elected HSR/deputy HSR	Discuss and clarify HSR powers and functions as defined by the legislation.	
	 Review the legislative protections for HSRs, including protection against discrimination for prohibited reasons. 	
	 Identify and discuss how and why an HSR can be a key link between the work group and management when dealing with WHS matters. 	
	 Review and discuss the PCBU's obligations towards HSRs. 	
Discuss consultation process between the PCBU and	Discuss and share examples of effective consultation experiences between PCBUs and workers.	
workers as required under the WHS Act	• Identify and clarify when the PCBU is required to consult with workers and elected HSRs.	
	 Discuss various methods that information (in general) can be shared to enable effective consultation between PCBUs and workers. 	
	 Identify and clarify confidentiality and privacy requirements pertaining to information collected from, or provided to, HSRs. 	
	• Discuss why an HSR might keep copies of records relating to their workplace's WHS matters.	
Representing workers on health and safety issues in a	 Review and discuss the circumstances under which an HSR is entitled to be present during an interview concerning WHS. 	
range of circumstances	Discuss and clarify the role of an HSR during such interviews.	
	 Identify and discuss when and how an HSR should exercise their powers in relation to complaints concerning WHS. 	
Provide an overview of PINs	Review and discuss the purpose and function of a provisional improvement notice (PIN).	
	• Identify and clarify legislative restrictions that may prevent a HSR from issuing a PIN.	
	 Review and clarify to whom an HSR can issue a PIN and the manner in which a person may be issued a PIN. 	
Review the features and	A PIN must be in writing.	
contents of a PIN	Clarify what must be included in the contents of a PIN and what may be included.	
	• Review the extent of any changes an HSR can make to a PIN once it has been issued.	
Discuss the range of actions	Discuss alternative courses of action that the person can take when issued with a PIN.	
arising once a PIN is issued and identify who would take these actions	• Identify and describe the role and powers of WHS Inspectors when reviewing disputed PINs.	
	Identify and discuss the provisions for reviewing Inspector decisions.	
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CONSULTATION PROCESSES

Learning Outcome	Learner Application	References/Resources
HSR role and function	Identify and explain the HSR's involvement in workplace consultation processes.	WHS Act S.48 (2)
PCBU obligations	 Identify and discuss the PCBU's duty to consult with workers and the involvement of the work group's HSR. 	WHS Act S.3 (1) (b) and S.46-48
	 Review and discuss the obligations of the PCBU in relation the consultation requirements of the WHS Act. 	
Topic specific	• Explain the PCBU's duty to consult with workers, highlighting the benefits of involving	WHS Act S.49
	workers in the decision making process.	Code of Practice: Work Health and
	 Identify and explain the benefits that sharing information can contribute to decision making. 	Safety Consultation, Co-operation and Co-ordination
	• Explain the nature of consultation, highlighting that it is clearly defined in the WHS Act.	Safe Work Australia <i>Worker</i>
	 Discuss when consultation with workers and their representatives is required, highlighting the safety matters that require consultation. 	Representation and Participation Guide
	Present and discuss effective and efficient methods of consultation including:	
	- using electronic media	
	- establishing and working to set timeframes	
	- catering for cultural diversity and special needs of workers in the workplace.	
	 Explain and emphasise that consultation is to be with workers and that HSRs are to be involved in the information sharing and feedback process on behalf of their work group. 	
	• Identify and clarify the:	
	- functions of an HSC	
	- powers and functions of an HSR.	
	Discuss and share examples of effective consultation between PCBUs and workers.	

FATIGUE MANAGEMENT

Learning Outcome	Learner Application	References/Resources
HSR role and function	Identify and explain sections of the WHS Act relevant to fatigue management.	WHS Act S.3 (a) (b) and (d)
	Identify and explain the application of the WHS Act with reference to the risks to workers'	WHS Act S.19
	health. • Identify and discuss the HSR's role, scope of involvement in regard to identifying hazards	WHS Act S.68 (1) (d)
	and risks contributing to workplace fatigue.	WHS Act S.70 (1) (b)
		WHS Act S.71 (2)
PCBU obligations	 Identify and explain the PCBU's obligations to identify manage and monitor hazards and risks which may cause fatigue in the workplace. 	WHS Act S.3 (1) (a) (b) and (c)
	risks which may cause ratigue in the workplace.	WHS Act S.19 (3) (g)
		WHS Act S.27 (5)
Hazard management	Describe signs and symptoms that indicate workers may be fatigued.	Safe Work Australia <i>Guide for</i>
	 Identify and discuss methods of identifying hazards that contribute to fatigue. 	managing the risk of fatigue at work.
	 Discuss processes to assess the risks associated with fatigue. Discuss hierarchy of control methods to manage factors with reference to: 	Safe Work Australia Fatigue management – a worker's guide
	- policy/procedures	
	- information, instruction, training and supervision	
	- monitoring and review strategies.	
Topic specific	Define workplace fatigue, and why it needs to be managed.	Safe Work Australia Guide for managing the risk of fatigue at work
	• Identify, explain and discuss factors that may contribute to fatigue with reference to:	
	- work scheduling	
	shift-work and rostersjob demands	
	- environmental factors	
	- non-work related factors.	
	Discuss the risks associated with fatigue and potential consequences.	

CONTRIBUTING TO WORKPLACE HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Learning Outcome	Learner Application	References/Resources
HSR role and function	 Identify and describe workplace health and wellbeing hazards and risks, and their potential consequences. 	WHS Act Definitions – definition of health
	Describe how an HSR may contribute to the development of an action plan to manage	WHS Act S.19
	workplace health and wellbeing hazards and risks.	WHS Act S.28
		WHS Act S.68 (1) (a) (d)
		Code of Practice: How to Manage Work Health and Safety Risks
PCBU obligations	 Discuss a PCBU's general duty of care to ensure the health (physical and psychological) of workers. 	WHS Act Definitions – definition of health
	Discuss the different methods a PCBU may use to identify health and wellbeing hazards and	WHS Act S.19
	risks, and how the PCBU should engage the HSR in that process.	WHS Act S.28
		Code of Practice: How to Manage Work Health and Safety Risks
Hazard management	 Discuss how health and wellbeing hazards and risk may be identified, exploring alternatives to physical hazard identification approaches, such as workplace inspections. 	WHS Act Definitions – definition of health
	Outline a process for assessing health and wellbeing hazards and risks, explaining how this	WHS Act S.19
	 process may be different to assessing physical hazards and risks. Identify potential control options utilising a control hierarchy, considering a combination of vision/policy, people and physical environment strategies that the PCBU may use. 	WHS Act S.28
		Code of Practice: How to Manage Work Health and Safety Risks
Topic specific	Define health and wellbeing with reference to the World Health Organization and the SA Health training resource.	Code of Practice: How to Manage Work Health and Safety Risks
	Discuss examples of health and wellbeing hazards and risks, their identification and assessment, and the development and implementation of policies, procedures and strategies to control those hazards.	Code of Practice: Managing the Work Environment and Facilities
		SA Health training resource <i>Healthy</i> <i>Workers: Healthy Futures</i>

INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOURS

Learning Outcome	Learner Application	References/Resources
HSR role and function	• Identify and explain sections of the WHS Act relevant to inappropriate behaviour.	WHS Act S.3 (1) (a)
	 Identify and discuss the health and safety risks to workers associated with inappropriate behaviours. 	WHS Act S.68 (1) (d)
	 Discuss HSR's role, scope of involvement and contribution in regard to the PCBUs obligations to identify and manage inappropriate behaviour in the workplace. 	WHS Act S.70 (1) (b)
	• Identify and clarify the limitation of involvement of HSRs with reference to:	WHS Act S.68 (1) (e)
	- access to personal or medical information of workers- workers' consent for HSRs to be present at interviews.	WHS Act S.71 (2)
	Identify and outline strategies HSRs may consider when supporting workers, including	Equal Opportunity Commission (SA)
	referral options for internal/external assistance and support.	Fair Work Act
PCBU obligations	• Identify and explain the PCBU's obligations to identify manage and monitor hazards and	WHS Act S.3 (1) (a)
	risks which may contribute to inappropriate behaviours.	WHS Act S.19 (3) (f),(g)
		WHS Act S.27 (5)
Hazard management	 Describe and discuss the personal and workplace consequences of inappropriate behaviours. Identify and discuss methods of identifying factors contributing to inappropriate behaviours. 	Code of Practice: How to Manage Work Health and Safety Risks
	 Discuss control methods to manage contributing factors with reference to: policies/procedures information, instruction, training and supervision. 	Safe Work Australia Guide for Preventing and responding to workplace bullying

Topic specific	 Define inappropriate behaviours with reference to bullying, harassment and discrimination. Identify, explain and discuss factors that may contribute to inappropriate behaviours with reference to: 	Safe Work Australia Guide for Preventing and responding to workplace bullying
	 presence of workplace stressors leadership styles systems of work work relationships workforce characteristics. 	Equal Opportunity Commission information and training resources

INSPECTIONS AND INCIDENT INVESTIGATION

Learning Outcome	Learner Application	References/Resources
HSR role and function	• Explain the HSR's role in workplace inspections and when inspections can be initiated by an HSR.	WHS Act S.68
	 Identify the purpose of workplace inspections and the powers which enable an HSR to inspect the workplace. 	WHS Act S.68 (3)
	 Outline the functions and powers of an HSR to be involved in incident investigations, including accompanying a WHS Inspector. 	WHS Act S.68 (2) (b) WHS Act S.71 (2)
	 Identify and clarify confidentiality and privacy requirements pertaining to incident investigation processes and procedures. 	
	• Identify the penalties for providing confidential information.	
PCBU obligations	• Identify and discuss the due diligence requirements of the PCBU in relation to conducting	WHS Act S.27 (5)
	inspections and incident investigations.	WHS Act S.35
	 Review and discuss the obligations of the PCBU in relation to incident notification requirements of the WHS Act. 	WHS Act S.39
	• Discuss the legal requirement to preserve an incident site.	WHS Act Part 5
	Discuss the requirement of worker consultation during an incident investigation.	Code of Practice: Work Health and Safety Consultation, Co-operation and Co-ordination
Hazard management	Discuss the importance of hazard reporting, including near misses.	Codes of Practice:
	Discuss the importance of workplace incident and injury record keeping in relation to identification of hazards and causative factors.	- How to Manage Work Health and Safety Risks
	Discuss risk assessment methods and their application in relation to determining the severity of incidents.	- Managing Electrical Risks in the Workplace
	 Discuss and explain the relationships between the hierarchy of controls and the application of reasonably practicable principles. 	- Managing Noise and Hearing Loss at Work
	Discuss and explain the value and purpose of reviewing actions implemented for the	- Managing Risks of Hazardous Chemicals in the Workplace
	management of workplace hazards and risks.	- Managing Risk of Falls at Workplaces
		- Managing Risks of Plant in the Workplace
		- Managing the Work Environment and Facilities

Topic specific	 The purpose of this course is to provide participants with a fundamental overview of inspections and incident investigation models and how HSRs may contribute to those processes. 	
	Learning activities should include simulated inspections and incident investigation activities.	

POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Learning Outcome	Learner Application	References/Resources
HSR role and function	• Identify and discuss the HSR's role and involvement in developing WHS policies and	WHS Act S.49 (a), (b) & (e)
	procedures.	WHS Act S.68 (1) (a) & (b)
PCBU obligations	• Identify and discuss the due diligence requirements of the PCBU to implement processes to	WHS Act S.17
	comply with the WHS Act and manage risks.	WHS Act S.27 (5) (c) & (e)
Hazard management	 Discuss and explain the purpose and relationship of policies and procedures when implementing the hierarchy of controls to manage hazards in the workplace. 	WHS Act S.18
	 Discuss and explain the relationship between policies/procedures and the application of reasonably practicable principles. 	
Topic specific	Explain and describe the key elements of policy statements.	Australian Standard AS4804
	Describe the hierarchical relationship of policies, procedures, safe work practices and	Demonstrate with the use of samples
	procedures.	WHS Act S.70 (1) (b)
	 Explain and describe implementation strategies with reference to providing information, instruction and training. 	
	 Discuss the importance of consistency in implementing and application of policies and procedures from the 'top down' through management, supervisors and workers. 	
	 Discuss and explain the purpose and timing of reviewing policies and procedures. 	
	• Identify and discuss the PCBU's obligation to confer with HSRs when requested by the HSR.	