

## South Australia to review work health and safety laws

SafeWork SA is seeking feedback as part of the three-year review into the nationally harmonised work health and safety laws, which came into effect in South Australia from 1 January 2013.

South Australia's work health and safety laws closely align with the national model laws currently in operation in New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania, the Australian Capital Territory, Northern Territory and the Commonwealth.

“The harmonised laws aim to provide workers with the same standard of health and safety protection regardless of whether they work here in South Australia or interstate and regardless of the work they do,” said SafeWork SA Executive Director, Ms Marie Boland.

“They also aim to provide consistent obligations on employers and businesses, especially those that operate across state or territory borders.

The three-year review is a requirement of the Act and will predominantly focus on the operation of the South Australian provisions that differ from the model laws developed by Safe Work Australia. The review will examine the impact of these provisions and help ensure the continued effectiveness of the state's work health and safety laws.

“When the original work health and safety legislation was considered by the South Australian Parliament, some amendments were made which were not consistent with the model laws operating in other states and territories’,” said Ms Boland.

“The focus of this review is on those amendments but we're also interested to hear from employers, unions, workers and business operators about any aspects of the harmonised laws.

A consultation paper has been developed which provides an overview of the current laws to help people prepare their submissions.

Consultation on South Australia's work health and safety laws will run until 5pm on Wednesday 30 November 2016.

Visit [safework.sa.gov.au](http://safework.sa.gov.au) to download the consultation paper or call 1300 365 255 for more information about the review.

### BACKGROUND

This is the second statutory review into the *Work Health and Safety Act 2012 (SA)*, the first undertaken by Robin Stewart-Crompton (RSC) in 2014, which was required after one year of the new laws taking effect.

In response to the RSC Review the South Australian Government has:

- increased the threshold amount at which a construction project becomes high risk construction work from \$250,000 to \$450,000
- overseen the transformation of SafeWork SA's service delivery with clear delineation between inspector and educator functions and roles, which took effect from 1 July 2016
- reduced the time taken for prosecutions to be initiated and improved guidance material to help duty holders better understand their responsibilities while enabling enforceable undertakings instead of prosecutions as appropriate.

**ENDS**