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Seeing is believing when it comes to work health and safety

Kelly Engineering with support from AiGroup and SafeWork SA opened their doors to South Australian manufacturers to showcase their lean manufacturing techniques and how they are helping grow a positive safety culture.

Kelly Engineering, located 10km south of Booleroo Centre in the northern agricultural region is a global business producing large-scale machinery that enhances soil structure and health helping farmers prepare the perfect seedbed.

“The demand placed on our business from our overseas and local customers means we have to provide high quality products, amazing levels of service and be very responsive to product development requirements all the time,” Mr Calvin Stead, Kelly Engineering CEO said.

“In order to have a company culture that embraces this challenge it was necessary to go down the lean path of process improvement capturing all areas of the business from administration, engineering, through to production and sales,” he said.

The management team at Kelly Engineering has a wealth of experience from across industry including agriculture, manufacturing and automotive, and this has been the driver of the lean model.

“Our safety management process runs through everything we do and doesn’t sit as a separate function or consideration in the business. Rather, it is what we do,” Mr Stead said.

“The cultural shift we have experienced since undertaking our lean journey has been remarkable and has bought about employee ownership and engagement, improved safety outcomes, improved capacities and efficiencies, individual career growth and very importantly, a more satisfied customer,” he said.

Ai Group’s Manager Safety and Workers Compensation, Ms Caroline Lange attributes Kelly Engineering’s success to genuine and sustained management commitment and a consistent approach to employee engagement.

“A key success factor is Kelly Engineering’s ability to look beyond just complying with work health and safety laws, instead looking deeper by working on a safety culture,” Ms Lange said.

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SafeWork SA and Ai Group have been working together to showcase best practice across South Australia's manufacturing industry.

"We're working closely with industry to showcase practical solutions to addressing common work health and safety challenges," Phillip Boyle, Director Workplace Education and Business Service's said.

"We want to debunk the myth that work health and safety is always costly, cumbersome and restrictive. It doesn't have to be as solutions should be practical and work for your business to be effective," Mr Boyle said.

Mr Boyle explained that recent changes at SafeWork SA have seen the establishment of a group of mobile work health and safety advisors available to visit any workplace and provide tailored face-to-face advice and support.

"Our work health and safety advisors can help businesses identify hazards and we can support people to develop and implement practical solutions and systems to manage them.

"The service is free and our advisors have no inspector powers at all so they can't issue a notice to shut a piece of equipment or a site down or issue a fine for non-compliance.

"Our new Educator approach is designed to make people feel more comfortable about inviting us in to help. And who better to invite in than the agency responsible for regulating work health and safety in this State,' Mr Boyle said.

For further information about SafeWork SA's mobile work health and safety advisory service, including to request a visit, please contact 1300 365 255 or visit safework.sa.gov.au/freeadvice.

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