

10 March 2017

Awards aimed at improving health and safety for women at work

International Women's Day this week marked the launch of SafeWork SA's Augusta Zadow Awards seeking initiatives to improve women's health and safety at work.

SafeWork SA's Augusta Zadow Awards offer a share in \$20,000 to help fund the development or further progression of initiatives that improve work health and safety outcomes for South Australian women.

The awards honour the legacy of Augusta Zadow, a trailblazing advocate for improved working conditions for South Australian women.

Augusta was a founding member of the Working Women's Trades Union in 1890, fought for women's suffrage and was appointed the first female inspector of factories in 1895.

SafeWork SA Acting Executive Director Dini Soulio said the awards served as a reminder of the many advances since Augusta Zadow's time, but also of the need to continue to focus on equity for working women.

"Augusta Zadow worked tirelessly at a time of great industrial change to secure better working conditions and pay for women and young children in South Australia," Mr Soulio said.

"Many of the basic rights at work that we take for granted today came about because of the work of Augusta and other women like her.

"The awards build on her achievements by funding continuing improvements to the health and safety of women at work."

Previous award recipients have worked with vulnerable female migrant workers to promote mental health and wellbeing, raised awareness of the potential impact of workplace chemicals on fertility and pregnancy, and established safety groups for women on farms.

The awards were launched today by South Australian Senator Penny Wong, Leader of the Opposition in the Senate, at the International Women's Day Breakfast.

Applications close on Friday 23 June 2017. More information is available at the SafeWork SA website, www.safework.sa.gov.au/aza

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