

August 2016 Compliance Activity Report



Government
of South Australia

SafeWork SA

Health care and social assistance

This report covers workers in the state's health care sector including public and private hospitals, residential aged care, day procedure centres, GPs, allied health services, child care centres, disability and community services.

SafeWork SA inspectors ensure work health and safety and public safety standards are met and take appropriate action when breaches are detected.

Incidents reported during August for the health care sector were broad in nature from a child who was hit by a swing, a light fitting that failed, an employee burnt using a hot water urn and a needle stick injury.

The team noted the importance of ensuring sufficient control measures and training to deal with access

to needles/sharps. Some infectious diseases, such as hepatitis B and C, can be transmitted when infected blood comes into contact with the bloodstream of another person e.g. from a cut or needle-stick injury. Possible solutions to address this risk include:

- immunisation for staff
- clear and well understood procedures for the use and disposal of sharps
- use of suitable sharps containers
- supply and use of gloves
- regular training for workers in correct sharps handling procedures.

Report work health and safety issues to SafeWork SA on 1300 365 255 or help.safework@sa.gov.au.

