



21 June 2011

**Queenslanders hungry for new information on health and safety legislation – record numbers attend Queensland Safety Show seminar in Brisbane**

Day one of the Queensland Safety Show being held at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre this week from June 21 to June 23 has set a new record.

The harmonisation seminar series on occupational health and safety being held across Australia has had its biggest ever attendance.

Around 700 show visitors heard Norton Rose law firm partner Aaron Anderson tell how new laws on the national model Work Health and Safety (WHS) Act legislated in May will affect Queensland.

The Act will be adopted by Australian states at the end of this year and will close the loopholes in accountability.

Marie Kinsella, Managing Director of Australian Exhibitions & Conferences Pty Ltd, says the surplus number in attendance at the seminar broke records for all the harmonisation seminars held across Australia, including Melbourne, Sydney and Perth.

"We are delighted with the response. Attendees were standing in the aisles and they were also delighted with the seminar," says Marie Kinsella.

"Queensland will be the first State to implement the new WHS legislation and that is, I believe, a key driver for the record attendance.

"People are hungry for information on how the legislation changes will affect them. Also, Queenslanders are very proactive in their focus on safety and the safety culture. This is also evident on the overwhelming numbers at the show to date," says Marie Kinsella.

Aaron Anderson's free seminars addressing the model WHS Act form part of a line-up of very practical free manufacturing and workplace safety seminars at the Queensland Safety Show.

In his presentation Anderson highlighted one of the biggest changes under the new laws as being the shift in emphasis from the employer-employee relationship.

"Rather than focusing on the duties of employers, the model Work Health and Safety Act refers to the Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU), which is a very broad term and everyone contributing to work will have a duty of care. The concept is similar to what we have under our existing legislation in Queensland, however the duty will be subject to what is 'reasonably practicable', which is new," says Mr Anderson.

Anderson also worked through how the definition of worker under the legislation is expanded significantly. Contractors, employees of contractors, sub-contractors, labour hire workers, apprentices, volunteers as well as employees are all caught by the definition.

In other seminars during the three-day trade show, experts including representatives of Safe Work Australia, the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland and Enterprise Connect

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will explain how to attract funding, what to expect from new WHS laws, how to meet obligations manageably and within budget.

Sponsored by myosh, the Queensland Safety Show, Materials Handling Show and co-located Queensland Manufacturing Show run from June 21 to 23, 2011, at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre.

For more information, visit [qldsafetyshow.com.au](http://qldsafetyshow.com.au), email [safetyvisitor@aec.net.au](mailto:safetyvisitor@aec.net.au) or phone Australian Exhibitions & Conferences Pty Ltd on 03 9654 7773.

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