

## Improving the Model WHS Laws – A chance to have your say

This Member Advice provides members with an opportunity to have input into a review that is currently underway for the purpose of identifying ways to improve the Model WHS laws.

### Improving the model Work Health and Safety laws

Safe Work Australia has advised that there is a broad consultation activity underway to identify ways in which to improve the Model WHS Laws.

In May 2014 the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed that all governments would investigate ways in which the model WHS laws could be improved with a particular focus on reducing red tape.

The following information is provided in the introduction to the Issues Paper and Consultation Regulation Impact Statement:

*The COAG have asked Ministers to consider whether the current system reflects best practice, in that the model WHS laws:*

- are evidence based, cost effective and proportional to the health and safety risks they seek to address
- are simple and streamlined for businesses to comply with, and
- where possible, allow duty holders flexibility in how they comply with their obligations.

*In addition to identifying areas of regulatory burden potentially imposed by the model WHS laws, this examination also includes:*

- officer's duties and if these create a disincentive to take up officer roles
- right of entry and other powers of union officials
- powers of health and safety representatives, and
- model Codes of Practice, including whether they can be made less complex and provide for increased jurisdictional flexibility balanced against the benefits of harmonisation for multi-jurisdictional employers.

*The investigation is not a full review of the model WHS laws. It is not intended to examine issues such as the construct of the model WHS framework, nor underpinning concepts such as 'person conducting a business or undertaking', 'worker', or 'reasonably practicable'. Instead, Ministers have been asked to make recommendations to improve implementation of the current framework. A full review of the laws is currently scheduled for 2016.*

Ai Group will be actively participating in this review which is being coordinated through the state and territory jurisdictions. It is crucial that we get feedback from members about the laws generally and to provide input in relation to the specific questions being asked by the ministers. The issues paper and questions can be found at: <http://www.aigroup.com.au/ohs/>

Timeframes are tight, so please contact Tracey Browne to provide input or discuss your concerns and ideas regarding the future of the Model WHS Laws: [tracey.browne@aigroup.asn.au](mailto:tracey.browne@aigroup.asn.au) or 0438 207 799.

### Ai Group can assist you with your Safety and Workers' Compensation needs

For membership services, contact the Ai Group BIZassistInfoline on 1300 78 38 44.

Safety webinars and diagnostic tools can be accessed for **FREE** at the Max360@aigroup website. Once you have completed the diagnostic tool, you are eligible to access **FREE** coaching and mentoring services provided by our team of experienced consultants.

Similar services for workers' compensation will become available in the near future.



<http://www.max360.com.au/safety-and-workers-compensation/>

For information about our safety and workers' compensation consulting and training services, contact:

#### Consulting Services

Trinette Jaeschke 0400 282 477

#### Training and Events

Seema Khatri 0428 907 838

Tracey Browne  
Manager, National Safety and Workers' Compensation  
Policy and Membership Services