

Although there has been a gradual reduction in compensated work-related injuries and fatalities since the beginning of the century, the numbers are still too high. In 2006-07, there were 132055 serious workers compensation claims and 236 compensation fatalities in Australia. It is estimated that a further 2000 die from work-related disease. There are over 15 occurrences of serious injury every hour, and more than 1.2 million working weeks are lost every year because of safety-related incidents. The social and economic costs are immense.

Poor workplace health and safety is expensive financially, emotionally and physically. It affects individuals, organisations and the community. The National Occupational Health & Safety Commission estimated the total economic cost of workplace injury and illness to the Australian economy for the financial year 2005-2006 at \$34.9 billion. Employers bear approximately 40% of this cost, those injured bear 30% and the general community bears 30%.

As the nature of work has changed in Australia, so has the pattern of work-related injuries: expansion of the service sector and changes in workplace technology have resulted in an increase in psychosocial problems and musculoskeletal disorders. For example, a number of health issues are related to computer use – including back and neck pain from poor seating posture, repetitive tension or motion strain from mouse overuse, and eye fatigue, blurred vision and headaches from glare and poor lighting.

The federal government has announced its intention to work with state and territory governments to reform occupational health and safety legislation by 2010 to take into account the fundamentally different work environment, arrangements and activities from those that current legislation is based on. A model Occupational Health & Safety (OHS) Act supported by model Regulations and Codes of Practice that each of Australia's nine OHS jurisdictions can readily adopt will accommodate the evolving workplace.

What will I achieve from this course? This course concentrates on health and safety legislation and the manager's day-to-day responsibilities for protecting employees' physical safety. You will:

- Understand the legislative framework for occupational health, safety and welfare and the reasons for legislative reform
- Explain the consultative arrangements provided for by OHS legislation and how consultation can assist in assuring a safe and healthy workplace.
- Understand the causes and the effects of accidents and how to investigate accidents
- Identify and control hazards to promote a safe workplace.

Completion of this course leads to achievement of the following Unit of Competency:
BSBOHS407A Monitor a safe workplace

How long will this course take?

- This course is delivered over one 4-hour session. Please see the course schedule for dates.
- On completion you will receive a Statement of Attainment and Certificate of Participation.

