

GOVERNMENT
HEALTH AND SAFETY
LEAD

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

IT'S BEEN A BUSY START TO
THE YEAR...

The planning for our Health and Safety Representatives Conference is well underway, with the agenda finalised and speakers booked. This year's conference will be held on 8 June, 2023 at Te Papa, Wellington, and will focus on *Mentally Healthy Work* and role of the H&S Rep in supporting and enabling this. This is the first time we have been able to run a full-scale conference since 2019 and we are looking forward to seeing you and your H&S Reps there. We will be in touch with your agency shortly to confirm representation from your agency. We have a number of other exciting pieces of work lined up this year which we've highlighted in this

newsletter, including our capability programmes and our programme of work for psychological health and safety. Please reach out if any of these may benefit you or your agency.

I look forward to connecting with you all over the year ahead.

Lance Goodall
Director, GHSL

EARLY IN CAREERS
PROGRAMME

We're excited that our Early in careers programme is on track to be micro-credentialed later this year, giving more weight to the programme and the benefits it has. The programme is targeted towards people new to their Health and Safety role, such as H&S co-ordinators or H&S advisers, and has proved incredibly popular with participants. The programme this year will be run in the second half of 2023 – costs remain steady at \$1,165+GST per attendee, so you may want to ensure some funding is included in your 2023/24 budget. [Contact Debbie](#) for more information.





SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Twelve agencies participated in the sixth GHSL Summer Internship Programme this year with two interns placed in Auckland, and the rest located in Wellington. They have undertaken a range of projects for their agencies, as well as activities within the cohort, which included meeting with Hon. Michael Wood, Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety, and WorkSafe Chief Executive, Phil Parkes.

A highlight was the Learning Day at Wellington Zoo. The day at the Zoo provided unique insights into the identification and management of the critical risks they face. Four of our interns have already gained employment in the public sector and two are returning to study. The remaining six are looking for ongoing work in the H&S area, so if you have any entry level vacancies, please reach out for contact details.

The intern programme has a success rate of securing employment for 50% of our interns in a part-time or full-time capacity, meeting our objective of supporting the next generation into work in health and safety across the public sector. With your continued support we hope to continue to inspire more new graduates to seek out roles in health and safety roles across New Zealand.

continued...

With this in mind, it is a good time to look at your budgets for the next financial year and see if you can negotiate for an intern. The costs are around \$14,000 for the 14-week programme which runs from November to February each year. [Contact Debbie](#) for more information.

OFFICER DEVELOPMENT

The latest Officer Training course being delivered by the Institute of Directors, Cohort 9, is underway and we are planning for Cohort 10 later in 2023. This is an essential piece of learning for our senior leaders, so please ensure as many as possible in your agencies have completed the training. For budgeting purposes, allow \$1,200 plus GST for each participant. [Contact Debbie](#) for more information.

H&S REP ROLE CLARITY

We have been working with WorkSafe, PSA, H&S Reps, H&S practitioners and leaders and others across the sector to develop guidance on the H&S Rep role. The guidance outlines key things for H&S Reps, their manager, and the wider organisation to consider and what the role entails. Thank you to all who contributed to the guidance. This will be published on our website shortly.



MENTALLY HEALTHY WORK PROGRAMME

Our first practitioners' Mentally Healthy Work Community of Practice (MHW COP) took place in November last year. The MHW COP will be held on the first Thursday of each month and will invite world-leading experts to share their knowledge. It also serves as an opportunity for agencies to share their initiatives and ask questions of each other in this space. Our next MHW COP is on the 2nd of February – please reach out if your relevant team members aren't already invited to attend.

The next phase of the Mentally Healthy Work Development Programme is set to begin in March and expressions of interest are now open. The objective of the MHW Development Programme is to build core understanding of psychological health and safety. The programme has respective streams for:

- Chief Executives and Officers (we encourage tier 1 and leading tier 2 attend together)
- Heads of H&S / HR / OD
- Practitioners (H&S, HR and OD)

Places are limited and preference at the practitioner and Heads of levels will be given to agencies whose Chief Executives are confirmed on the CE component of the Programme. Contact Millie for more information or to register.



GHSL TEAM RESTRUCTURE

Following an internal review of our organisational structure in relation to the changing needs of the sector, the GHSL has undergone a minor restructure process.

The Senior Adviser and Senior Adviser H&S Capability positions have been disestablished and are now replaced by a Principal Adviser Mentally Healthy Work and a Principal Adviser H&S Capability.

I am pleased to confirm Millie Thompson has been confirmed into the Principal Adviser Mentally Healthy Work position, and Debbie Bridge has been confirmed into the position of Principal Adviser H&S Capability.

We have also added a new fixed term Adviser Positive Workplace Cultures role, which our intern Bailey Cavanagh-Welch has been confirmed into. We look forward to having Bailey's help as the Positive Workplace Cultures programme picks up again this year.

CONTACT US

Please reach out to us if you have any questions, suggestions, or want more information on any of our programmes GHSL@mpi.govt.nz