

**GOVERNMENT HEALTH AND  
SAFETY LEAD****DIRECTOR'S UPDATE**

From Lance Goodall - Director GHSL

**REMINDER KEEPING OUR PEOPLE SAFE STORIES**

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed a story for the 2025 Keeping our People Safe annual publication, as well as those who have promised to contribute. Over the past couple of months, we've connected with many of you to discuss this request and the great work, lessons learned and projects your teams have delivered in the last year.

If you need inspiration, take a look at last year's [publication](#) to see what others shared. Braden is available to help develop your stories, email [Braden.lister@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Braden.lister@mpi.govt.nz)

We'll launch the publication at the Health and Safety Representative Conference and Awards Event on June 5. To ensure there's time to work with your Communications teams and ours, we'd appreciate receiving your stories over the next six weeks.

Thanks again for helping showcase the work you're all doing to improve safety across the sector.

**OFFICER DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMME 2025**

On the 13 March our first Officer Development Programme of the year will begin in partnership with the Institute of Directors which will be facilitated by Mike Cosman and Craig Marriott. We still have five places available, so if you would like to register, please contact [ghsl@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:ghsl@mpi.govt.nz)

If the 13 March doesn't work for your calendar, then the Inland Revenue has eight spots available on their Officer Development Programme that runs on the 25 March in Wellington. Please contact Jo Kant, Principal Advisor, at [Jo.Kant@ird.govt.nz](mailto:Jo.Kant@ird.govt.nz)

**CHANGES TO THE ACC AEP**

With changes to the ACC Accredited Employer Programme now being operationalised for participating agencies, if anyone is interesting in connecting to discuss how their respective agency is navigating the process and hear about the experience of others, Dave Griffith, Head of WHS at MBIE

([dave.griffith2@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:dave.griffith2@mbie.govt.nz)) and Harry Maher, Director H&S at Department of Conservation ([hmaher@doc.govt.nz](mailto:hmaher@doc.govt.nz)) would be keen to engage. The GHSL is happy to organise a meeting, if that would be helpful. Feel free to contact Dave and Harry direct or through me - [Lance.goodall@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Lance.goodall@mpi.govt.nz)

# MENTALLY HEALTHY WORK

Planning is underway for the 2025 monthly Community of Practice sessions, kicking off with Associate Professor David Tappin presenting on the Psychosocial Safety Climate and insights from the Healthy Work Project, on 5th February at 11:00am. This forum is open to all practitioners and managers working in the area of Psychosocial Risk/Mentally Healthy Work and aims to create space for shared learning through public-private partnerships and across organisational functions (i.e. H&S, HR, OD, Wellbeing). If you or anyone you know would benefit from this session and like an invitation, please e-mail [liam.bourne@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:liam.bourne@mpi.govt.nz).

Umbrella Wellbeing has prepared an article [when does banter become bullying?](#) building on some work done in the National Health Service for England and Wales, which is an interesting read. Alongside a range of articles and interviews freely available in the thinking hub, stay tuned for the next iteration of the Umbrella Wellbeing report for insights into wellbeing, presenteeism and productivity scheduled for release this quarter.

On 17th February the Business Leaders' Health and Safety Forum will host Dr. Louise Cowperwait for a webinar on Neurodiversity and Mental Wellbeing at Work ([Registration for BLHSF members here](#)).

On 21st February, the Office of the Controller and Auditor-General will be hosting two webinars ([further information and registration here](#)). The first is exclusively for Chief Executives - at 08:00-9:30am, Public Service Commissioner Sir Brian Roche and Auditor-General John Ryan will host guest speaker Baroness Casey of Blackstock who led an internal review into the standards of behaviour and internal culture of the UK Metropolitan Police Service. This is followed at 12:00-1:00pm by a session open for all practitioners that support public sector integrity where Auditor-General John Ryan, in association with IPANZ, will host guest speaker Rebecca Rolls, CE of the Sport Integrity Commission, on their experience in improving integrity practice and outcomes.

Registrations are now open online for the Level 5 NZQA micro-credentialled Massey University MHW Practitioner Course, filling a gap in the education offering for practitioners across disciplines to develop foundational knowledge in the area, informing their practice and related work-programmes. The course is expected to start in April. For further information on the course outline and registration see the [Massey University page here](#). Course lecturer Associate Professor [D.C.Tappin@massey.ac.nz](mailto:D.C.Tappin@massey.ac.nz) can also be contacted directly with any enquiries.

# EARLY IN CAREERS (EIC) H&S CERTIFICATE IS BACK FOR 2025

Starting on 27 March 2025, our popular NZQA level 3 micro credentialled [EIC programme](#) is back. This programme has been specifically designed for health, safety and wellbeing (HSW) co-ordinators and Advisors working in the public sector to expand their HSW knowledge and build connections with their peers and is only available through IMPAC+. Those public sector H&S Reps looking to further their professional development or find a stepping stone to transition into a HSW Career have also found this programme valuable.

The four, 3-hour modules listed below are facilitated by IMPAC+ and include a range of interactive activities, discussions and practical exercises which can be applied in the office or onsite.

1. Health & Safety Risk Fundamentals
2. Worker Engagement, Participation and Representation
3. Working with other PCBUs
4. Reporting and Measuring Performance

For GHSL member agencies, the cost is \$1,165 +GST per attendee (for all four modules). To book your place please contact Debbie Bridge ([Deborah.bridge@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:Deborah.bridge@mpi.govt.nz)) or the GHSL directly at [ghsl@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:ghsl@mpi.govt.nz)

All our bookings require the following attendee details (Name, Position, Email and Phone details). Please book early, as there are 25 places and a minimum number of 15 is need for the course to go ahead.

## EXCEPTIONAL HSW TALENT - OUR INTERNS ARE READY TO WORK

Our HSW summer interns will be finishing on Friday, 14 February 2025. Six of this year's intern cohort are open to any full-time, part-time, contract or casual opportunities enabling them to continue to work in HSW.

All our interns have gained foundational experience and competencies to navigate complex workplaces and HSW systems and completed BAU tasks and delivered specific projects to contribute to their team's programme of work.

More than 100 interns that have completed the programme to date. Of these, around 50% have progressed into careers in health and safety and wellbeing, which shows the quality and calibre of interns coming out of the programme. For further information on each intern, please contact Debbie Bridge on 022-0134-884 or [deborah.bridge@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:deborah.bridge@mpi.govt.nz)

# GHSL H&S REP OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Planning for our 2025 H&S Representative Conference and Awards event is in full swing, with registrations now open. This full day conference is a fantastic development day for H&S Reps, with the focus this year on Critical Risks. We are fortunate to again have Dougal Sutherland as a guest speaker and MC for the day, with an exciting line up of other guest speakers.

Awards nominations are still open, please consider nominating one of your deserving H&S Reps or teams for one of these awards.

Registrations for the conference are now open via our [Event Air portal](#) - a reminder that this is a free event for our H&S Reps to attend - Please encourage them to book early to secure their seat.



**05 JUNE 2025**

**SHED 6**

**Wellington**



## VACANCY - CHIEF HEALTH SAFETY AND WELLBEING OFFICER, CORRECTIONS

Corrections is looking for a senior leader who has expertise in the Health, Safety and Wellbeing area and who uses human-centred design to motivate people and achieve strategic goals. Through their career they will have navigated large, complex organisations and resolved sensitive and risk heavy issues. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please contact [Rhiannon Robinson](#) or go to the [Corrections website](#). Closing date is 2 February 2025

## SAFEGUARD UPDATE

Safeguard provides a free monthly email bulletin called Safeguard Insider. If you don't already receive this and are interested, you can opt-in to receive it [here](#). The first edition for the year will go out this week.

All the info about the 2025 NZ Workplace Health & Safety Awards is now up on their website [here](#). It is always great to see public sector entries and to celebrate our successes and I would encourage everyone to consider the categories and whether you have an initiative to put forward.

And finally, their paid subscription newsletter Safeguard Update goes out weekly via email. It is priced at \$223 + GST (48 editions a year for up to five nominated email addresses) and if you are interested, you can contact them at [Care.ANZ@thomsonreuters.com](mailto:Care.ANZ@thomsonreuters.com).

## STAYING IN TOUCH

As always, I and the other members of the GHSL are keen to meet face-to-face or online with you and your teams to discuss respective work programmes, front of mind issues, activity across the sector and opportunities to partner or support. Please reach out to me or any the GHSL team to arrange at your convenience (or e-mail [ghsl@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:ghsl@mpi.govt.nz)).