

**GOVERNMENT HEALTH AND
SAFETY LEAD**

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

From Lance Goodall - Director GHSL

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to KiwiRail, Public Trust and Sport NZ, the newest agencies to join the GHSL:



If you have contacts in the wider public sector, such as state-owned enterprises, Crown entities, or local authorities, and you think they may benefit from GHSL membership, Please feel free to connect us with them at any time for a discussion.

RESUMING THE ANNUAL GHSL SURVEY

We are refining the annual GHSL survey to send to key stakeholders. This is built on previous surveys that identify trends, explore the H&S environment and the value the GHSL provides to the sector. Any themes or areas you believe pertinent to explore please let us know. The survey will be targeted towards Head of H&S and T2 HSW Leaders and we look forward to getting your insights.

REFERENCE GROUP VACANCIES

The GHSL convenes a Reference Group quarterly. Made up of member representatives balanced by agency size this group supports the GHSL to stay tuned into the changing context of work, advises where to best direct expertise and focus toward, and to identify collaborative opportunities in support of the collective.

The Group has two vacancies for small sized agency representatives. We would like to hear from anyone interested in participating and well-positioned to contribute toward advancing H&S for the public sector workforce.

2026/27 INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Recruitment for the summer internship programme will run from the 10th – 18th August. The programme starts on 16 November 2026, running until mid-February 2027. We currently have four agencies offering an internship placement. There is still time to join the programme, so if you have budget (\$16,000 approx.) and work to be done, please get in touch with me.

HOHS AND PRACTITIONER FORUMS

What topics would you like to see discussed at a Forum?

Let me know the topic, whether you are happy to front the discussion and any expert you would like to bring along for the session.



SAVE THE DATE – PUBLIC SECTOR 'SAFE DRIVING FOR WORK' CONFERENCE

Thursday 12th November 2026 at Shed 6 Wellington

The GHSL has lined up an exciting array of speakers focused on Safe Driving for Work. More information is available on our website, with registrations expected to open in August.

[2026 Driving Safely for Work Conference | Government Health and Safety Lead](#)



AUTOSENSE – THE IMPACT OF DRIVER FATIGUE ON NEW ZEALAND ROADS

Fatigue remains one of the most significant risks facing drivers and fleet operators. It impacts concentration, reaction times and decision-making, often long before a driver recognises they're tired.

Proudly sponsored by AutoSense, Transporting NZ's **Fatigue Management: Road Freight Update** combines industry research, expert commentary and real-world fleet data to highlight why fatigue remains one of the most significant risks facing drivers today.



DRIVING WORKING GROUP

Our cross agency driving working group is continuing to work on creating a set of principles based around safe driving for work. While we appreciate many of you have limited capacity for additional work, if you or any of your team would like to help with this work, please email anita.mcghie-filkins@mpi.govt.nz

Member Health & Safety Resource Hub

Monthly focus:

 Risk Management

 Driving

Many sector personnel have now accessed and contributed to the [Member Health and Safety Resource Hub](#) (*approval required for link to function*), growing the number of items available that support our collective work.

Planning for the Driving Conference is well advanced and as the Driving Working Group progresses, the more items we can collate to inform these activities the better.

Please can you upload any sharable artifacts related to the governance or management of driving risk into the folders pictured, or e-mail us and we can.

For inquiries related to access or adding content please contact liam.bourne@mpi.govt.nz

NEBOSH COURSE – AUCKLAND

HSE Global is intending to run a second program based in Auckland, hosted by Auckland University. The course is held over 10 days (two block weeks) in class with online study support from experienced tutors through the HSE Global Academy. Week 1 is 7-11 September, week 2 is 12-16 October.



A minimum of 8 confirmed students in is required for the course to go ahead. For more information check out our website [here](#)

T2 HSW LEADERS AUGUST BREAKFAST EVENT

Our next T2 HSW Leaders breakfast event is happening on Tuesday 11th August. Sharon Thompson, Chief Executive, WorkSafe New Zealand, will be talking about, and taking questions on, WorkSafe's Role, Priorities and Strategic Direction to Advance HSW Across New Zealand. This breakfast meeting is for Tier 2 Leaders responsible for the HSW function within their agency, so if your tier 2 hasn't RSVP'd yet please remind them to do so.

SUPPORTING WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE

The Ministry for Women has launched two initiatives recently to better support women in the workplace. The new guides are RECOGNISE, RESPOND, SUPPORT: Practical workplace responses to stalking and a toolkit developed in partnership with Health NZ Making Menopause Work



HSWA AMENDMENT BILL PROGRESS UPDATE

The Government has passed the Health and Safety at Work Amendment Bill, which is now awaiting formal sign-off by the Governor-General, with amendments to the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 and regulatory system coming into effect on 1 April 2027. [Summary of key changes.](#)



THE STATE OF A THRIVING NATION

The Business Leaders' H&S Forum in September is hosting Auckland and Christchurch events to launch the annual report State of a Thriving Nation, where economist Shamubeel Eaqub will present key findings on how NZ can improve H&S performance and productivity. [Register here.](#)



HASANZ SCHOLARSHIPS OPEN

Applications for the 2026 HASANZ
Scholarships are Open!

The HASANZ Scholarship Programme is back for 2026 —looking for passionate people ready to take their health and safety career to the next level. Whether you're just starting or ready to specialise, now's your chance to apply.

This year, HASANZ is offering scholarships across five categories. Applications open on 3 July and close at midnight on 25 September 2026.

For more information [click here](#)

HASANZ
HEALTH & SAFETY ASSOCIATION NZ

SAFEGUARD SAFESKILLS H&S REP CONFERENCE ROADSHOW

The [SafeSkills Health & Safety Rep Conference](#), presented by Safeguard, is a one-day conference that will assist HSRs to develop the core skills they need to be more effective in their role in representing their fellow workers and increasing worker engagement and participation. Now in its 9th year, SafeSkills will take place in Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Wellington and Christchurch in August/September.

SAFEGUARD
SafeSkills

H&S Rep Conference Roadshow 2026



MPI H5 BIRD FLU



With the H5N1 avian Influenza strain now being detected in New Zealand, MPI has released a large amount of information to help people become aware and informed. Please feel free to share this information with your teams and wider agency, or anyone else who may benefit from these resources:

- [General public health advice](#)
- [Avian influenza, food safety, and human health](#)
- [About bird flu and the risk to New Zealand](#)
- [How to report suspected bird flu](#)
- [Bird flu and protecting your birds](#)
- [Bird flu: staying safe and alert when outdoors - Advice for hunters, trampers, gardeners, and others spending time outdoors](#)
- [H5 bird flu – information for game bird hunters](#)