

**GOVERNMENT HEALTH AND
SAFETY LEAD**

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

From Lance Goodall - Director GHSL

LIAM ACTING AS DIRECTOR GHSL

I am away from 28 June to 27 July, travelling and re-filling my tanks. In my absence, Liam Bourne will be Acting Director and available to meet and discuss any ideas or concerns you have. Please reach out to Liam at liam.bourne@mpi.govt.nz and I'll see you all in August.



NEW REFERENCE GROUP MEMBERS URGENTLY NEEDED

The GHSL Sector Reference Group has been established to help the GHSL to prioritise and focus its efforts to enhance wellbeing, health and safety within the public sector. Members will support the GHSL by providing a sounding board to give consideration of future and emerging risk profiles as well as providing a realistic view of current sector maturity and needs.

Ongoing restructures across the public sector means a second place on the GHSL Reference Group has opened. Ideally, we would be looking for someone to join the Reference Group from a large agency (4001 – 6000 FTE) and another from a medium sized agency (2501 – 4000 FTE).

CONSULTATION - DRAFT H&S REPORTING GUIDE FOR GOVERNANCE AND EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP

Reporting to the governance function is a constant source of discussion and requests, alongside the difference in reporting for governance versus senior management functions. With this in mind, the GHSL has drafted a H&S Reporting Guide for Governance and Executive Leadership. This early draft has been favourably reviewed by a handful of folk across the GHSL membership and so it is time to get a wider review and consultation completed. Does it cover the right topics, is it helpful, is it accurate – Please feedback your views during July and we'll make any changes with a view to finalising the Guide in August or September. The draft has been included in the latest Tier 2 HSW Leaders Environment Scan, which is about to be circulated.

KEEPING OUR PEOPLE SAFE 2024/25

Launched at the conference and presented on tables, copies of this year's collation of agency stories are being distributed to agency T2 HSW leaders and Heads of Health and Safety, with a digital version available for everyone to read and print [accessible here](#). If you would like to have your agency featured next year, please get in touch.



SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME - EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST OPEN

We invite agencies to join our Summer Internship Programme, scheduled to run from 18 November 2025 to 13 February 2026. Our interns bring fresh perspectives, support team workloads, and offer professional development opportunities for your existing staff. Last year, 100% of host managers reported satisfaction with the quality and quantity of work delivered by their interns - Check out our 'How to Become a Host Manager' guide. Please submit Expressions of Interest by Thursday, 19 July 2025 by contacting Debbie Bridge, Principal Advisor at ghsl@mpi.govt.nz.

We understand current fiscal constraints, however, for those who can participate, this programme offers a cost-effective way to access a motivated, short term dedicated resource while supporting your team's operational needs and contributing to an important future pipeline of health and safety talent for the public sector workforce.

- Cost: \$16,000 per intern (3 months at \$28.60/hour)
- Recruitment period: 29 July – 15 September 2025

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - SENIOR HEALTH AND SAFETY ADVISOR (FIXED TERM/SECONDMENT OPPORTUNITY)

The Department of Conservation (DoC) is seeking Expressions of Interest for a Senior Health and Safety Advisor to join their team on a 12-month fixed-term contract or via secondment. This opportunity is expected to commence at the end of July 2025. If you know someone who might be interested, there is more detail here and then they can contact Shayne Gray at sgray@doc.govt.nz for a further discussion.

BUSINESS LEADERS HEALTH AND SAFETY FORUM MEMBERS: CRISIS AND EMERGENCY LEADERSHIP WEBINAR

On 1st August the Business Leaders' Health and Safety Forum will be hosting David Gawn (Chief Executive, National Emergency Management Agency) for a webinar on Leading through Crisis and featuring Christchurch Airport CEO Justin Watson. [Register here.](#)

ACC AT THE CONFERENCE - AN OFFER AND A CHALLENGE

At the GHSL H&S Rep Conference and Awards Event, ACC offered free Ride Forever motorcycle skills training for agencies able to coordinate groups of 6 riders of equal ability. If interested, please contact nigel.kapa@acc.co.nz to arrange or find out more.

They also posed a 'Have a Hmmm' challenge, where a box of chocolate fish will be awarded for the best photo, story or idea for a 'hmmm' moment or campaign in your workplace. These obviously need to be creative and appropriate - photos and story entries can be sent to the GHSL at ghsl@mpi.govt.nz by the end of July.

STROKE AOTEAROA - Health15

The Health15 team attended the conference completing 62 blood pressure assessments throughout the day, producing a report that makes for confronting reading, with the majority of people having a higher than ideal reading. Many strokes and related health conditions are preventable – take action and get tested, encourage your workmates and family, together we can make a difference. For those interested in exploring how Health15 can benefit their workplace more information can be found here or contact enquiry@health15.com.

GHSL H&S REP CONFERENCE AND AWARDS

On 5 June, we celebrated the hard work our public sector Health and Safety Reps do every day, with the 2025 GHSL Health and Safety Rep of the Year Conference and Awards Event. Over 300 H&S Reps and senior leaders attended, with this year's topic being critical risk management.

We had a great range of speakers who discussed ways that H&S Reps can be involved in managing critical risks both before and after an event has taken place and the post Conference feedback indicates this really hit the mark.

Our six individual H&S Rep and two team Finalists were presented with beautiful awards, carved at Whanganui prison and training vouchers from +IMPAC, one of our Bronze sponsors.

The overall individual and team winners also received carved awards, along with a \$1000 training voucher for the Individual winner and \$2000 training voucher to be shared across the members of the winning Team.

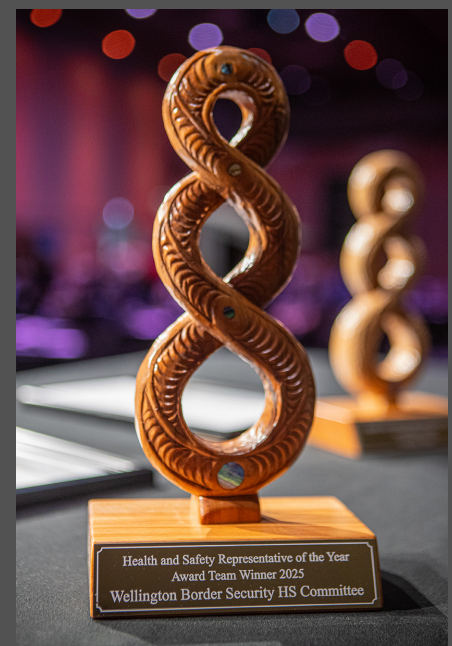
This year's individual winner was Felicity "Flick" Sime from the Department of Conservation and the winner of the Team award was the Wellington Border Security HS Committee from Ministry for Primary Industries.

A quick reminder that the Conference only remains free for attendees because of our sponsors:

- Gold Sponsor: Ministry for Primary Industries
- Silver Sponsors: ACC and Umbrella
- Bronze Sponsors: Department of Corrections, +IMPAC, HSE Global and MBIE

If anyone knows of an agency that would be keen to Sponsor the Conference in 2026, please let me know.

For more information on our finalists and winners, to see photos of the event and to access some of the resources provided on the day, check out our [website here](#)



NZISM WORKSHOP: THE FUTURE OF WORK AND THE FUTURE HEALTH AND SAFETY PROFESSIONAL

Tickets to this year's NZISM national roadshow featuring Dr Drew Rae presenting on the changing nature of work, emerging risks, and how safety professionals can prepare for and adapt are now available for Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch, or online sessions throughout August.

FREE V&A AND WELLBEING ONLINE MODULES

Workplaces today are navigating complex challenges — from rising incidents of violence and aggression toward frontline staff to the growing mental health impacts of harmful online content and the need for better support of neurodivergent employees.

Umbrella, in partnership with **ShopCare**, has developed a series of free de-escalation and wellbeing modules to support frontline staff around recovery after a violent incident at work, insights into how online harm affects young people, and a range of practical resources, workshops and webinars to help workplaces embrace neurodiversity.

SAFEGUARD NEW ZEALAND HEALTH AND SAFETY AWARDS



Whilst we didn't win our category, it was great to see the public sector well-represented at the New Zealand Safeguard Health and Safety Awards where the good work in workplaces across the country in recognising the importance of health and safety is celebrated.

Big congratulations to Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) for winning the Governance Category for their improving critical control assurance programme, the Department of Corrections for winning the Safety II Category using the HOP Principles and learning teams to improve efficiency and engagement and to NZ Post for winning the Wellbeing and Mental Health Champion Categories.

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