

GOVERNMENT HEALTH AND
SAFETY LEAD

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

From Lance Goodall - Director GHSL

SAFE_GOV & THE SAFEGUARD NEW ZEALAND WORKPLACE
HEALTH AND SAFETY AWARDS

This month the GHSL attended the Safeguard New Zealand Workplace H&S Awards as a Finalist in the governance category for our digital leadership initiatives including the [Safe-Gov mobile app](#) and the H&S Resource Hub. Whilst we didn't win, it was great to be at the Awards, alongside colleagues from MPI, NZTA and Police and to celebrate all the amazing work being done.

Most member organisations have now successfully tested downloading and signing-in to Safe-Gov from work devices and are beginning to consider use by their executives and officers.

I am keenly aware of the challenges faced in retaining governance presence and engagement, so if you'd like any support from the GHSL with implementing Safe-Gov into systems and practices, or for us to present or demonstrate to governance forums and teams, please get in touch.

THE ANNUAL PUBLICATION – KEEPING OUR PEOPLE SAFE 2025/26

We launched the third publication of 'Keeping our People Safe', this year's collation of agency stories, at the H&S Rep Conference on 4 June. Copies are also being distributed to agency T2 HSW leaders and yourselves, with a [digital version](#) available for everyone to read and print. If you would like to have some of the work your agency has done or is doing featured next year, please get in touch.

GHSL RESOURCE HUB

Member Health & Safety Resource Hub

Monthly focus:



Risk Management



Critical Risk - Overarching

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.

With the H&S Amendment Bill progressing, a particular area each PCBU needs to be prepared for is the new definition and prioritisation of critical risks.

Please can you upload any of your organisations sharable artifacts related to the identification, assessment, management and governance of critical risks into the folders pictured and update the two spreadsheets found within, or e-mail us and we can.

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

HOST A HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING INTERN THIS SUMMER

We are inviting all agencies to submit Expressions of Interest to host a Health, Safety and Wellbeing intern in our Summer Internship Programme (18 November 2026 – 19 February 2027). Our well-established programme offers a cost-effective way to access motivated, high-calibre talent while supporting the development of future HSW professionals. Last year, 100% of host managers were satisfied with the quality of work delivered by interns.

Why host an intern?

- Access a dedicated short term motivated talent at low cost
- Fresh perspectives, new ideas and innovative solutions into your team
- Support staff development through mentoring and stretch opportunities
- Minimal admin – GHSL manages recruitment and coordination process all you need is to select your preferred candidate to interview.
- Check out the work completed in the '[How to Become a Host Manager](#)' guide

Cost: \$16,000 per intern (3 months)

Register your interest Submit your Expression of Interest by 27 July.

Email GHSL at ghsl@mpi.govt.nz to get started.

NEW HEALTH AND SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE LEARNING PATHWAY

A new, flexible eLearning pathway for Health and Safety Representatives (H&S Reps) is now available across the public sector.

Developed in partnership with HSE Global Academy, DIA, MBIE, MoJ and GHSL, this innovative programme offers a scalable and sustainable way to build confidence and capability in the H&S Rep role. Designed to be flexible, engaging and interactive, the programme incorporates a mix of case studies, scenarios and practical exercises tailored to public sector H&S Reps.

The H&S Representative Pathway provides a structured learning journey aligned with the New Zealand Institute of Safety Management (NZISM) H&S Rep Knowledge Wheel. It supports H&S Reps to build or refresh their skills, knowledge and confidence, with learning that can be applied immediately to make a meaningful impact in organisations of any size.

The pathway includes 10 engaging eLearning modules (approximately 20 minutes each). Learners will benefit from:

- A clear, step-by-step development journey – progressing from foundational health and safety legal concepts and worker representation through to advanced core capabilities
- Relevant, practical learning – covering topics such as the role of an H&S Rep, legal context, communication, risk management, and incident and near miss reporting
- Flexible, self-paced delivery – enabling learning that fits around work commitments

The full programme is available for \$200 per learner, providing access to all 10 modules.

To enrol for the H&S Rep pathway, [go to our website](#) or [HSE Global website](#).

GHSL H&S REP CONFERENCE AND AWARDS

On 4 June, we celebrated the hard work our public sector Health and Safety Reps do every day, with the 2026 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 influencing work by design.

We had a great range of speakers who discussed ways that H&S Reps can be involved in influencing work by design, 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.

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 Kat Kimiangatau from the Ministry of Justice, and the winner of the Team award was the Counties Manukau Team from Kainga Ora.

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

- Gold Sponsor: HSE Global
- Silver Sponsors: Umbrella and HSI Donesafe
- Bronze Sponsors: +IMPAC, Department of Corrections, MBIE and Worksafe

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](#)



H&S AMENDMENT BILL:

The Workforce and Education Select Committee has returned its report to parliament. Should it pass second and third readings, the proposed amendments would come into law on 1st November 2026 (except for two clauses related to Approved Codes of Practice) following royal ascent. Areas of particular interest to the work of the public sector include the definition and prioritisation of critical risks, overlapping duties between large and small PCBUs, how the H&S at Work Act interacts with other laws and regulatory regimes, the use of recreational land and seismic risk.

12 MONTH FIXED TERM ROLE AT MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

Ministry of Justice is looking to recruit a Principal Advisor – Psychosocial Risk fixed-term until 25 June 2027. Closing date is 6 July.

The role will shape and embed a Ministry-wide psychosocial risk management approach, bringing a strategic, evidence-based lens to how risk is identified, assessed and managed. They will influence senior leaders and build capability to support psychologically healthy work environments. They are seeking an experienced practitioner with deep expertise in psychosocial risk or organisational wellbeing, organisational framework design, strong strategic thinking and a track record of influencing in complex systems. For more information speak to Matthew Leaver at Matthew.Leaver@justice.govt.nz

SHOPCARE H&S REP DEVELOPMENT DAY

Giving your H&S Reps the skills, knowledge, and confidence to lead.

Date: Wednesday 29 July 2026, 9am – 4pm

Location: Te Manawa NorthWest, 11 Kohuhu Lane, Westgate, Auckland.

Who should attend? H&S Representatives, H&S professionals, safety champions

Open to all. [View event details here](#)

Presented by ShopCare

Health and Safety Representatives (H&S Reps) play a crucial role in workplace safety, but to do this effectively, they need the right knowledge, skills and confidence.

The ShopCare H&S Rep Development Day is focused on building capability and confidence so your H&S Reps can engage their teams and help shape better health, safety and wellbeing outcomes in your business. Attendees will learn from leading experts in workplace health and safety, with a mix of practical sessions, discussions, and real-world insights.

ShopCare is New Zealand's charitable trust for improving health, safety, and wellbeing outcomes across the retail sector and its supply chain.

ADVANCING DISABILITY INCLUSION IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR WORKING SESSION

Whaikaha and the NZ Disability Employers' Network are hosting the inaugural Advancing Disability Inclusion in the Public Sector Working Session on Thursday 17th July in Auckland. This is an opportunity for public sector professionals to come together at no cost and discuss the disability value proposition. [Further information and registration here.](#)

