

GOVERNMENT HEALTH AND SAFETY LEAD

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

From Lance Goodall - Director GHSL

LAST CALL – GHSL ANNUAL PUBLICATION – KEEPING OUR PEOPLE SAFE

If you recently submitted a nomination for the Safeguard awards, is it a story worth sharing with the rest of the public sector? There is still space for more great examples of the work being done across the sector, and the GHSL team is happy to help turn your Safeguard nomination into a great story for our annual publication. Please reach out if you think you may have something.

NEW MEMBER



CONTROLLER AND AUDITOR-GENERAL
Tumuaki o te Mana Arotake

I am delighted that the Office of the Auditor General is now on board as a member.

BOOK YOUR PLACE ON THE EARLY IN CAREERS H&S CERTIFICATE (NZQA MICRO-CREDENTIAL)

Audience: H&S Coordinators, Advisors, H&S Reps, and HR professionals
Starting in May, the Early in Careers Health & Safety Certificate offers a practical, hands-on introduction to the role of an H&S generalist—ideal for H&S coordinators and Advisors, H&S Reps, and HR professionals building their capability. Delivered through four in person workshops in Wellington, the programme covers core competencies and concepts around the corner stones of the HSW Act 2015.

Workshop Modules (Wellington – Pastoral House)

- Risk Fundamentals: 13 May
- Engagement & Participation: 17 May
- Working with other PCBUs: 22 July
- Reporting & Measuring Performance: 12 August



This is a valuable opportunity to build confidence and foundational H&S knowledge. Price: \$1,165 + GST per person for 16 hours training. Registrations close at the end of April—participants need to sign up by 30 April to secure their place.

H&S REP CONFERENCE AND AWARDS EVENT 04 JUNE – REGISTRATION OPEN

Registration is open for the [2026 H&S Rep Conference and Awards Event](#), to be held at Shed 6 on Thursday 4th June. The theme this year is Influencing the Design of Work and presents a great development day for H&S Reps across our member agencies. We have once again secured sponsorship for the event, so it remains free to attend for our Reps, with networking from 9am and a formal start time of 10am, to reduce the need for overnight stays. If you have any questions about the conference or registration, please email anita.mcghie-filkins@mpi.govt.nz



CRITICAL RISK MATRIX ON THE GHSL H&S RESOURCE HUB

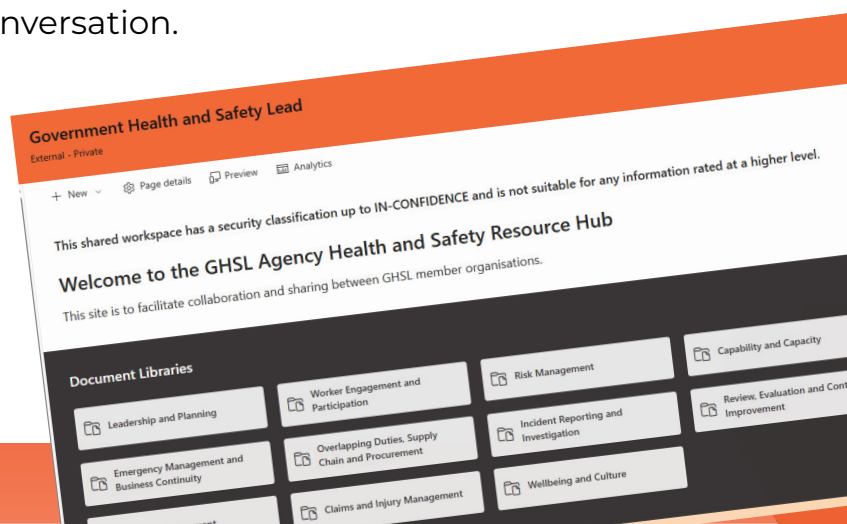
We get a lot of requests from agencies as to which other agencies have the same critical risks as them, or which agency has developed a response to a particular critical risk. With this in mind, I have added two spreadsheets to the GHSL H&S Resource Hub.

The **first spreadsheet** lists every agency and twenty or so common critical risks. As a first step, it would be great if you could please go into the Hub and mark the critical risks you face with a “Yes”. As a second step, can you please then upload (drag and drop) any documentation about managing that risk into the Hub. As an example, I have pre-filled in a couple of columns where I have discussed this risk or where you have already added documents to the Hub – please feel free to amend these. If your critical risk is not visible in the spreadsheet, please feel free to let me know or to add it as a new column.

The **second spreadsheet** lists the same critical risks but this time asks that you identify those where you have done a deep dive. If possible, can you then add any documentation related to that deep dive.

In some cases, it won't be appropriate to load documentation because it is too sensitive. If so, it will still be good to know that you face the risk and have done the work, so that any interested agency can contact you for a conversation.

You'll want to bear in mind that only authorised people can access the Hub. Heads of H&S can send an email to the GHSL asking for additional people to be given access.



OFFICER DEVELOPMENT – COURSE 16

Our next Officer Development course is already over half booked, with some spaces still available. This is crucial training for those with officer duties under HSWA, and this is the last course the GHSL is running for 2026. To book your place email anita.mcghie-filkins@mpi.govt.nz

| COURSE 16 | | | | |
|--------------|---|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Module | Topic | Location | Date | Time |
| Module 1 & 2 | Managing, leading and governing health and safety and H&S Risk Management | In person* (Wellington) | Thursday 20th August | 8.30am - 1.00pm |
| Module 3 & 4 | Overlapping duties and Monitoring what matters | In person* (Wellington) | Thursday 24th September | 8.30am - 1.00pm |

UMBRELLA AND GENEVA WELLBEING REPORT 2026

Umbrella and Geneva have recently published their [Wellbeing Report 2026](#), highlighting those psychosocial risks – more than personal health behaviours alone – that are key drivers of worker wellbeing outcomes, underscoring the need for organisations to redesign work environments to reduce harm, support sustainable performance, and build healthier teams.

New analysis of data from more than 11,000 working New Zealanders shows that common workplace factors such as high workload, poor change processes, and low psychological safety significantly increase the risk of psychological distress, reduced performance, and ill health for employees.

PRIVACY IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR TRAINING COURSE

Registration for the next [Privacy in the Public Sector](#) course is now open. It is offered through Wellington Uni Professional at Victoria University and was developed in partnership with the Department of Internal Affairs. The next course starts on 20 April 2026, runs for six weeks, is delivered online with weekly interactive tutorials and costs \$995.00.

“I thought I knew a lot about privacy, but the information in this course and the sharing by other participants on this course, allowed me to see that I still had a lot to learn about Privacy. I would recommend this course to anyone who wants to know more about privacy and increase their network of contacts.”

SELECT COMMITTEE – ORAL SUBMISSIONS ON THE H&S AT WORK ACT AMENDMENT BILL

If anyone missed the oral submissions, the recordings can be found [here](#).

There was some support and some opposition but overall, there were two themes repeated throughout the sessions I listened to:

- The proposed definition of critical risk is likely to cause more confusion and require more effort to use.
- The proposed carve out for organisations with less than 20 employees to only focus on critical risks introduces a two-tier H&S system, creates inequity and would be likely to increase costs and reduce productivity.

MFAT HEAD OF H&S ROLE

It's a bit late in the process but hopefully you will have seen that MFAT is looking for a Head of Health and Safety. This looks like a fabulous opportunity and if you would like to discuss it further and get some context around the role, contact Kirsty Clarke at Beyond on 027 222 8488 or kirsty.clarke@beyond.co.nz

Details of the role can be [found here](#) and I've confirmed with Kirsty that it has been extended to a final closing date for applications is **9am on Tuesday 7 April**.

NZISM

Membership renewals are on the way for all NZISM members with an expiry date of 31 March 2026.



SAVE THE DATE - GHSL DRIVING CONFERENCE

The GHSL will be delivering a conference on **12 November 2026**, the theme of which will be based around driving – "Keeping Our People Safe while on the Road for Work". The target audience of the conference is GHSL Heads of H&S, Fleet managers, H&S practitioners and HR professionals.



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