

GHSL UPDATE

November 2022



As always, we're keen to hear of any great ideas you may have, best practice, or potential case studies - please contact our team at ghsl@mpi.govt.nz

GHSL 2022/23 SUMMER INTERNSHIP

Earlier this month we welcomed 12 new interns in to the summer internship programme. This internship programme is a key part of introducing Health and Safety careers in the public sector, with more than 50% of the interns going on to part or full time work in the public sector. Debbie Bridge has once again done a great job putting together this year's programme. The 12 interns are spread across 12 public sector agencies, and include 10 intern's based in Wellington and 2 based in Auckland. With the learnings gained through the COVID pandemic, Debbie has developed a blended programme of online bite-sized sessions and some fantastic in person events, such as discussing Critical Risks with Corrections; meeting Phil Parkes, the CE of WorkSafe and my personal favourite, a session at Wellington Zoo, working through how they manage the issues they face every day.



EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR 2023 HEALTH AND SAFETY REP CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL AWARDS

An email will be sent out shortly to gain expressions of interest for attendance at the annual GHSL Health and Safety Representative Conference and Awards presentation, being held on the 8th June 2023. We are excited to be hosting a much larger event after the pandemic disruptions in the last few years. This year's conference will be held at Te Papa and we have 480 places available. It focuses on Mentally Healthy Work and what the H&S Rep role is in this space. Once we have the EOI data, we'll be sending formal registration information early in the new year but now is a good time to start thinking now about who in your agency is worthy of being nominated this year.

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POSITIVE WORKPLACE CULTURES

The draft Positive Workplace Cultures Plan to 2024 was presented by Ray Smith (MPI) and Rebecca Kitteridge (NZSIS) to chief executives at the November Advance meeting. Peter Hughes has also directly written to chief executives, highlighting the importance he places on this work. The Positive Workplace Cultures programme team is now seeking feedback as part of a sector-wide consultation ahead of finalising the plan in early 2023.

The Plan to 2024 focuses on positive workplace behaviours and relationships, recognising the importance of creating and enabling workplaces where poor behaviours, including bullying and harassment, are crowded out. We welcome your feedback – please send anything to ghsl@mpi.govt.nz

PROTECTING WORKERS FROM SOLAR UV RADIATION

With the arrival of warmer weather there is an increased risk to workers from exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation from the sun, particularly those who are required to work in outdoor settings. Exposure to solar UV radiation increases the chance of developing serious health conditions, such as skin cancer. Although serious harm may appear long after a workers exposure, the health risks from sun exposure should be treated as serious as there is a credible potential of causing long term illness and early death.

We'd love to hear what you are doing in this space, perhaps building on the WorkSafe Guidance, and maybe share some good practice via the practitioners forum or the GHSL website, if you'd be comfortable with that? Feel free to send your examples through to anita.mcghie-filkins@mpi.govt.nz or give Lance a call.



SLIP
Slip into the shade of an umbrella or a leafy tree



SLAP
Slap on a hat with a wide brim or a cap with flaps



SLOP
Slop on plenty of broad spectrum sunscreen of at least SPF 30



WRAP
Wrap on close fitting, wrap around style sunglasses

