

**GOVERNMENT HEALTH AND
SAFETY LEAD**

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

From Lance Goodall - Director GHSL



REGISTRATIONS OPEN – PUBLIC SECTOR 'DRIVING SAFELY FOR WORK' CONFERENCE

Thursday 12th November 2026 at Shed 6 Wellington

We have an excellent line-up of speakers focused on Driving Safely for Work. Free to attend, registration can be completed [here](#), with more information available on our [website](#).

WORKSAFE WEBINAR - HSWA CHANGES

[Register for this session](#) to hear directly from WorkSafe on the Health and Safety at Work legislative and regulatory changes commencing 1st April 2027, such as:

- Critical risk,
- Proportionate duties based on business size, and
- Approved Codes of Practice

Guidance, tools and resources are currently being prepared and WorkSafe is engaging with stakeholders, peak bodies and industry associations to support consistent delivery and understanding of the implications for businesses and undertakings throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

We look forward to having you attend the event!

ANNUAL SURVEY REMINDER

The GHSL annual survey is currently live. This is a valuable mechanism for gathering insights on value and impact, areas of collective focus and direction.

For these results to be meaningful it is important we hear from and understand a range of views, especially from those in Executive and H&S leadership positions. If you haven't already, please take 5-10min to complete the [GHSL annual survey](#).

GHSL AND NZISM - CRITICAL RISK PROGRAMMES SESSION

Oct 13th GHSL & the NZISM Wellington Branch are hosting Margaret Van Schaik to discuss [Designing and Executing Successful Critical Risk Programmes](#).



KEEPING OUR PEOPLE SAFE – ANNUAL PUBLICATION STORIES

We are once again starting to compile the health and safety stories from across the public sector to create our next annual publication. What H&S wins has your agency celebrated in the last year? How are you using technology to change your approach to critical risks? Did you submit a nomination to the Safeguard Awards? If you have something you think might be worth sharing, please get in touch – stories don't need to be long or complex and they can help inspire other agencies to look at things differently, taking a fresh look from a different viewpoint.

[link to last year's publication](#)

RECRUITMENT UPDATE - SUMMER INTERN PROGRAMME

We received 102 applications for our five intern placements this year and are now in the final stages of recruitment for positions across our four host agencies: Department of Corrections, New Zealand Customs Service, Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People and Ministry of Primary Industries.

As in previous years, we were fortunate to attract a strong pool of high-calibre candidates. With only a limited number of placements available, several appointable candidates were unable to be offered a position. If your team is looking for short-term support, please get in touch. These students would be valuable additions to any team and are keen to apply their skills and experience in a workplace setting.

OTHER ROLES BEING ADVERTISED

6-month fixed term Senior Health and Wellbeing Advisor role at Ministry of Education

Ministry of Education is looking for a [Senior Advisor Health and Wellbeing](#) for six months. This may be a good secondment opportunity for anyone wanting to gain experience in scoping a strategic wellbeing framework for the Ministry and hands on BAU work. Closing date is 7 October. Contact John Lammas- Manager People and Safety and Wellbeing at john.lammas@education.govt.nz for more information.

Health and Safety Delivery Manager for South Canterbury/Southern at Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora.

This is a fantastic opportunity to join the Health NZ Health and Safety team and play a key leadership role in supporting their people and services across the Districts.

If you're an experienced Health and Safety professional looking for a leadership role where you can make a real difference, I'd encourage you to take a look and consider applying.

NZ SHAKEOUT EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI DRILL

ShakeOut 2026: Practise Today, Be Ready Tomorrow

Mark your calendar for 21 October 2026 at 1:30pm, when New Zealanders across the country will participate in [NZ ShakeOut 2026](#), our annual national earthquake drill and tsunami hīkoi.



MENOPAUSE...DID YOU KNOW?

A new [international standard](#) for supporting menstruation and menopause in the workplace has been launched.

The ISO 45010:2026 standard, developed over two years, provides guidance for developing workplace policies and practices that support workers' menstrual and menopausal health and experiences, including identifying practical adjustments, supportive mechanisms and inclusive approaches to reduce stigma and address barriers at work.

MENTAL HEATH AWARENESS WEEK – 12 – 18 OCTOBER

This year's theme is [Belonging Matters](#) – are you doing anything interesting at your organisation? Some items that may be of interest to you:

- Umbrella is doing some [free webinars](#).
- Health NZ has developed a [Business mental health toolkit](#) for SMEs.
- Ministry of Health has launched their [Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2026–2036](#)

Member Health & Safety Resource Hub

Monthly focus:



Emergency Management and
Business Continuity

The number of documents loaded into the GHSL H&S Resource Hub is steadily growing, with increasing numbers of member agencies contributing (access is for approved individuals only)

We don't have many Emergency Management and Business Continuity (EMBC) responses in the system. With the new Emergency Management Act 2026 having commenced, many agencies are actively working on their plans.

Please have a look at your EMBC plans, templates and frameworks, role definitions and guidance (specifically the Safety and Welfare functions) and upload them into the [Emergency Management and Business Continuity](#) folder pictured supporting other partner organisations that will be relied upon in a future incident.

BLHSF STATE OF A THRIVING NATION

The Business Leaders Health and Safety Forum has released their fourth [State of a Thriving Nation Report](#)

CYBER THREAT REPORT

GCSB's National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) has released their [Cyber Threat Report 2026](#).

CHANGES TO ROAD RULES

[Four new New Zealand road and lane use rules](#) took effect on October 1, 2026, as outlined by the NZ Transport Agency Waka Kotahi.

What is Changing:

- Children aged 12 years and under are now allowed to ride bikes on footpaths, and can be accompanied by their caregiver
- Drivers must leave a 1.5m gap when passing other road users
- People can ride e-scooters in cycle lanes
- Drivers must give way to buses on roads with speed limits of 60km/h or less

SHOPCARE NATIONAL CUSTOMER AGGRESSION SURVEY RESULTS

[The ShopCare National Customer Aggression Survey](#), prepared by KPMG, included public sector workers. The headline figure is that 91% of the 2,500 respondents experienced customer aggression in the last 12 months.



IMPROVING PUBLIC SECTOR INTEGRITY THROUGH ACTION - RESEARCH REPORT

ANZSOG in partnership with the Victorian Public Sector Commission, has released their recent [Improving Public Sector Integrity through Action](#) Research report.

STRENGTHENING THE H&S WORKFORCE IN NZ

HASANZ, with the support of Scarlatti, has [released research findings](#) which describe the growth in number of H&S generalists exceeding the target set in the Building the Professions 2019 report. Applying an impact model, opportunities to achieve harm reduction have been identified that include helping employers to better understand their needs, enhancing capability through the influence of senior H&S practitioners and fill workforce gaps remaining in the allied disciplines.