GOVERNMENT HEALTH AND SAFETY LEAD

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

From Lance Goodall - Director GHSL

NEW MEMBER

I am delighted to welcome Bioeconomy Science Institute (BSI) to the GHSL membership

CHANGES IN THE GHSL TEAM

I am very fortunate that Imilia Ruocco has joined the team for a few months to provide some administrative support, particularly in the driving space. Imilia has worked with the MPI H&S team over the last few years and is a very welcome addition. All of you will know who Anita McGhie-Filkins is and the support she has provided to the team and the sector over the years as the Executive Coordinator. It is my pleasure to announce that Anita is now the H&S Advisor in the GHSL team.



DRIVING SAFELY FOR WORK CONFERENCE - LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER

Our Driving Safely for Work Conference is less than two weeks away. Registrations have been strong but we still have space so if you haven't already, please register here and feel free to share the link with anyone you think might be interested.

WHY DRIVING FOR WORK REMAINS A MAJOR BLINDSPOT FOR EMPLOYERS

Read this RoSPA article to learn why occupational road risk remains a major blind spot for many employers and discover practical actions that can help protect workers and other road users.

TIER 2 HSW LEADERS EVENTS

On Thursday, 22 October 2026 we held our third 2026 Tier 2 Health, Safety and Wellbeing (HSW) Leaders Breakfast with Dave Gawn, Chief Executive, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) as our guest speaker. Drawing on lessons from major events, such as Pike River, and his experience in emergency management, Dave emphasised that while systems, processes and assurance mechanisms are important, they do not replace the need for leaders to stay connected to what is happening on the ground.

We have two additional events scheduled for the 25 November and 1 December.

25 November - T2's have received a special invitation from Paula Tesoriero, Chief Executive of Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People to take a tour of the new Whaikaha workplace. The tour will showcase how Whaikaha, working with Design Stapleton Elliott (DGSE) and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), has created a safer, more accessible, and effective workplace for kaimahi, tāngata Whaikaha Māori and disabled and deaf visitors. More than an office refurbishment, the workplace has been purposefully designed to improve accessibility and capacity, enable new ways of working, and address barriers disabled and deaf people can experience in the workplace.

1 December – T2's will have the opportunity to hear from Peter Landon-Lane, Chair, and Kim Ballinger, Chief Executive of AsureQuality who will share their insights into effective engagement with Boards and health and safety reporting in a State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) environment.

If available from the speakers, Slides and speaking notes, will be distributed for each event.

OFFICER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS FOR 2027

The GHSL has again partnered with the Institute of Directors to provide the Officer Development training programme. This is aimed at Tier 1- 3 leaders and those who have health and safety responsibilities. It aims to clarify the role of an officer under the HSWA and what their responsibilities are compared with those of an operational senior leader. Content from the IoD Directors' Advanced Health and Safety course has been tailored to meet the specific needs of the public service and is set across four modules.

The 2027 course dates are:

Course 17: Thursdays, 18th March and 13th May

Course 18: Thursdays, 5th August and 9th September.

If you are interested in booking a place on either of these courses, please contact anita.mcghie-filkins@mpi.govt.nz

WORKSAFE IMPLEMENTING H&S AMENDMENTS

Last month we hosted our best attended webinar to date, with WorkSafe discussing the HWA amendments. The recording can be viewed and shared here.
The next tranche of guidance has been releasing and includes clarifying the officer duty and working with other PCBUs to manage work risks.

OMBUDSMAN AI GUIDANCE FOR OFFICIAL INFORMATION

Ombudsman NZ has released guidance on official information and use of AI for requesters, agencies and complainants. As this article from the Ombudsman this article from the Ombudsman says, it offers practical advice to help get the most out of AI while avoiding some of the common problems that can occur.

CRITICAL RISK MANAGEMENT GOOD PRACTICE GUIDANCE

The GM Health and Safety Forum is a volunteer group of senior safety executives and general managers who collaborate, learn and drive change together for the good of our profession and NZ Inc. There is a gap in critical risk management good practice guidance and the Forum is looking for senior health and safety professionals to share their experience and help shape a new guide. Direct consultation is via webinars, and the Forum is encouraging key stakeholders to attend.
There are four online workshop webinars being hosted over the period 24 November – 2 December 2026 and those interested can attend any of these.

- Tuesday, 24 November, 1-2pm - Industry PCBU Representatives
- Wednesday, 25 November, 1-2pm - Unions and Worker Representatives
- Tuesday, 1 December, 1-2pm - Regulators & Government Agencies
- Wednesday, 2 December, 1-2pm Industry Sector & Professional Groups

If you would like to attend one of the workshops, please email gmsafetyforum@hasanz.org.nz

Member Health & Safety Resource Hub

Monthly focus: Incident Reporting and Investigation

This month we've received several enquiries surrounding H&S software systems, used predominantly for incident reporting and investigation.

Please consider uploading your supporting guidance and tools that describe investigation methodologies and approaches such as ICAM, Learning teams, Just and Integrity cultures. Sharing with other public sector organisations in the Incident, Reporting and Investigation folder will support the development of good reporting and response behaviours and actions in practice throughout the sector.

WELCOMING OUR 2026/27 HEALTH AND SAFETY SUMMER INTERNS

On 18 November, we will welcome five interns to the 2026/27 Health and Safety Summer Internship Programme, which runs through to 19 February 2027. Of our five interns, two are based in Auckland and three in Wellington.
Now in its tenth year, the programme is a well-established initiative that helps build a pipeline of future Health, Safety and Wellbeing (HSW) practitioners for the public sector. Over three months, interns will gain valuable on-the-job experience, participate in learning events and workshops, and work on projects that develop their HSW knowledge and practical skills.

One of the most valuable aspects of the programme is the opportunity for interns to hear directly from experienced practitioners across the public sector. If you can spare 30 minutes to speak with the cohort about your role, your organisation, or the health, safety and wellbeing challenges and opportunities facing your workforce, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Debbie Bridge at deborah.bridge@mpi.govt.nz
A special thank you to Corrections, Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People and New Zealand Customs Service for hosting interns this year's interns.

RESEARCH ON EXECUTIVE-LEVEL WORKPLACE H&S LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE

Conducted by Victoria University PhD candidate Rodgers Mundembe (Supervised by Dr. Chris Peace and Prf. Joanne Crawford) this research exploring how sustained WHS performance excellence may be influenced by executive leadership, and how that leadership is shaped, to consider a practical framework to help executives embed WHS leadership excellence principles into their routines and decision-making.
An anonymous 10-minute survey seeks the views of current and former executives, managers, supervisors, workers, health and safety professionals, and regulators.
For further information contact rodgers.mundembe@vuw.ac.nz

CURRENT VACANCIES

At Toitū Te Whenua - Land Information New Zealand is looking for a knowledgeable and experienced Senior Health, Safety and Wellbeing Business Partner based in Christchurch or Wellington.

Toitū Te Whenua Land Information New Zealand

New Zealand Police is recruiting a Wellington based Director, Safer People to lead health, safety and wellbeing across the organisation. Applications close 10 November 2026.

NEW ZEALAND POLICE
Ngā Pirihimana o Aotearoa