WORKING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE SAFETY IN THE HOUSE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY.

INDUSTRY ACTION PLAN 2014-2015
WHERE WE STARTED

WorkCover NSW and its industry partners have jointly developed this action plan to improve health, safety and recover at work outcomes in house construction.

WHY HOUSE CONSTRUCTION?

NSW house construction industry employs 44,000 people.

Annual workers compensation claims total $10 million, at an average cost of $16,000 per claim.

12% of claims result in permanent disability, more than double all other industries combined - and with poorer recovery at work outcomes.

60% of claims are major claims - compared to 35% for all industries combined.

House construction is growing. Industry revenue forecast to grow by 3%, residential building approvals are up by 12%.

Almost 9,000 policy holders in NSW.

COMMON CAUSES OF INJURY AND ILLNESS ON-SITE

Muscular stress while lifting or handling objects.

Sun exposure.

Falls from heights.

Falls on the same level.
Nearly half (45%) of the industry is aged 30–49, with a quarter aged 50 or over.

84% of industry employment is located in Sydney, Newcastle and Illawarra-Wollongong, and 81% of claims come from the metropolitan region.

In NSW, 80% of building activity is undertaken by subcontractors.

84.5% of the industry is small business, with 85% of claims, and poorer recovery at work rates than larger businesses.

Fingers, lower back and knee injuries are the most common within the industry.

60% of workers have smart phones.

Almost 60% of workers have post-school qualifications - which is higher than the national average.

WHAT THE INDUSTRY LOOKS LIKE
HOW WE GOT HERE

WE RESEARCHED

- Reviewed various sources of data.
- Current understanding of on-site safety and best practice.
- Demographics of the industry.
- High risk areas of industry and work types.

WE LISTENED

- Met with industry, business and worker representatives.
- Validated field data to understand trends.
- Identified key issues and focus areas.
- Identified causes, contributing factors and potential solutions.

WE VISITED

- Visited industry workplaces to gain insight.
- Knowledge of potential risk areas and safe work practices.
- Determined practical application of safe work guidelines in everyday situations.
- Discussed views of businesses and workers.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KEY ISSUES AND STRATEGIES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>ISSUES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>STRATEGIES</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>FALLS THROUGH VOIDS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce fall related injuries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UNSAFE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND MATERIALS ON-SITE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improve accessibility and reduce injury on house construction sites.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUN EXPOSURE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce exposure to UV radiation causing skin cancer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DELAYED RECOVERY AND RETURN TO WORK</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Build employer and worker capability to improve recovery, return to work and injury management.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WorkCover will:

- Work with industry to identify and promote best practice, innovative solutions that target high risk work activities.
- Provide on-site support and advice to small businesses at a building site level as well as through established channels including the Customer Service Centre and the WorkCover website.
- Offer incentives to provide businesses with additional opportunities to move towards becoming a safer workplace.
- Offer support and information on early recovery and return to work benefits to employers and workers.
- Work with industry partners to continue promotion of existing industry standards in relation to safe work practices.
- Support businesses identified as needing assistance to deliver improved outcomes.
- Ensure that businesses are keeping their workers safe by providing relevant and practical support.
PROJECT PARTNERS

WILL:

- actively promote safe work on-site within the construction industry, through all available communication channels and opportunities
- support WorkCover messaging through established member forums, communication channels and events, driving change within the industry
- source and create best practice case study content for sharing via industry and WorkCover communication channels
- hold and/or partner with WorkCover to deliver a series of demonstration days with members to provide guidance and best practice examples focusing on reducing falls through voids, unsafe movement of people and material on-site, sun exposure and recovery at work

MEASURES OF SUCCESS

Reduced fatalities, injuries and illnesses.

Reduced exposure to hazards causing injury and disease.

Elimination/minimisation of high-risk hazards through higher level controls.

Injured workers are protected and have sustained recovery and return to work arrangements.