

MANUFACTURING

WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY SECTOR PLAN



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

The New South Wales manufacturing industry is one of the driving forces behind the state's economy. It employs seven percent of all employees in the state, and produces a wide range of goods that are integral to NSW workplaces and households.

Yet every day, SafeWork NSW Inspectors attend devastating incidents in the manufacturing sector that are, for the most part, completely avoidable. More than 40,000 workers' compensation claims were lodged for this industry between 2013/14 and 2015/16. Tragically, 24 people lost their lives during that same period.


As Minister for Innovation and Better Regulation, I am committed to helping improve safety in NSW workplaces to ensure everyone gets home from work safely.

SafeWork NSW recently released its Work Health and Safety Roadmap for NSW 2022. The Roadmap is a product of extensive consultation that acknowledges a fundamental truth: we no longer accept fatal or serious injuries and illnesses in the workplace.

One of the key deliverables of the Roadmap is this Manufacturing Work Health and Safety Sector Plan. This plan sets the way forward to keep people in the manufacturing industry healthy and safe. It provides strong leadership and direction for best practice in work health and safety.

By collaborating with industry, the NSW Government can build on the good work already done by so many. We are committed to continuing to work with manufacturing businesses, employers and workers, industry associations and unions to improve manufacturing safety in NSW.

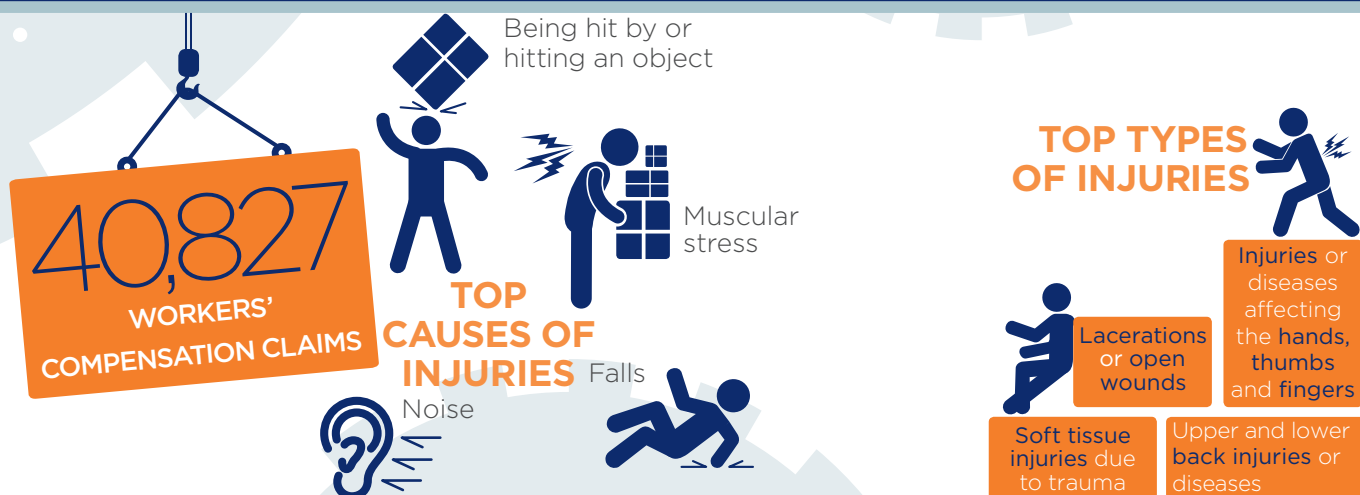
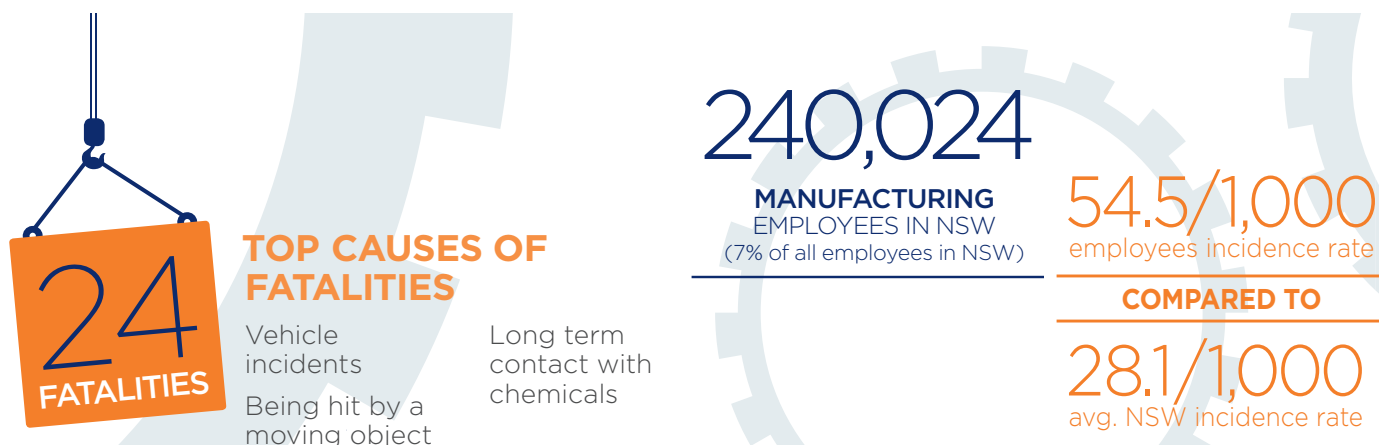
Thank you to everyone who participated in the development of this Manufacturing Sector Work Health and Safety Plan. I commend you all, I am in no doubt there will be many successes as this plan is rolled out.



The Hon. Matt Kean MP
Minister for Innovation and
Better Regulation
Member for Hornsby



NSW PROFILE: MANUFACTURING SECTOR 2013/14 - 2015/16



COSTING
\$558 m
over 3 years

218,236
weeks lost

\$13,669
average cost
per claim

Source: Manufacturing Industry Report, SIRA September 2017, WC Data 2013/14 - 2015/16, NSW number of employees data provided by SafeWork Australia

PURPOSE

The purpose of this plan is to drive and influence safety improvements in the NSW manufacturing industry. This plan is an integral part of the Work Health and Safety Roadmap for NSW 2022 with initiatives being delivered over the next five years.

VISION

Our vision for all people working in the manufacturing industry is for them to have healthy, safe and productive working lives. This vision will be achieved through the sustained commitment from SafeWork NSW, industry and worker representatives and leaders across the manufacturing sector.

WHAT DOES SUCCESS LOOK LIKE?

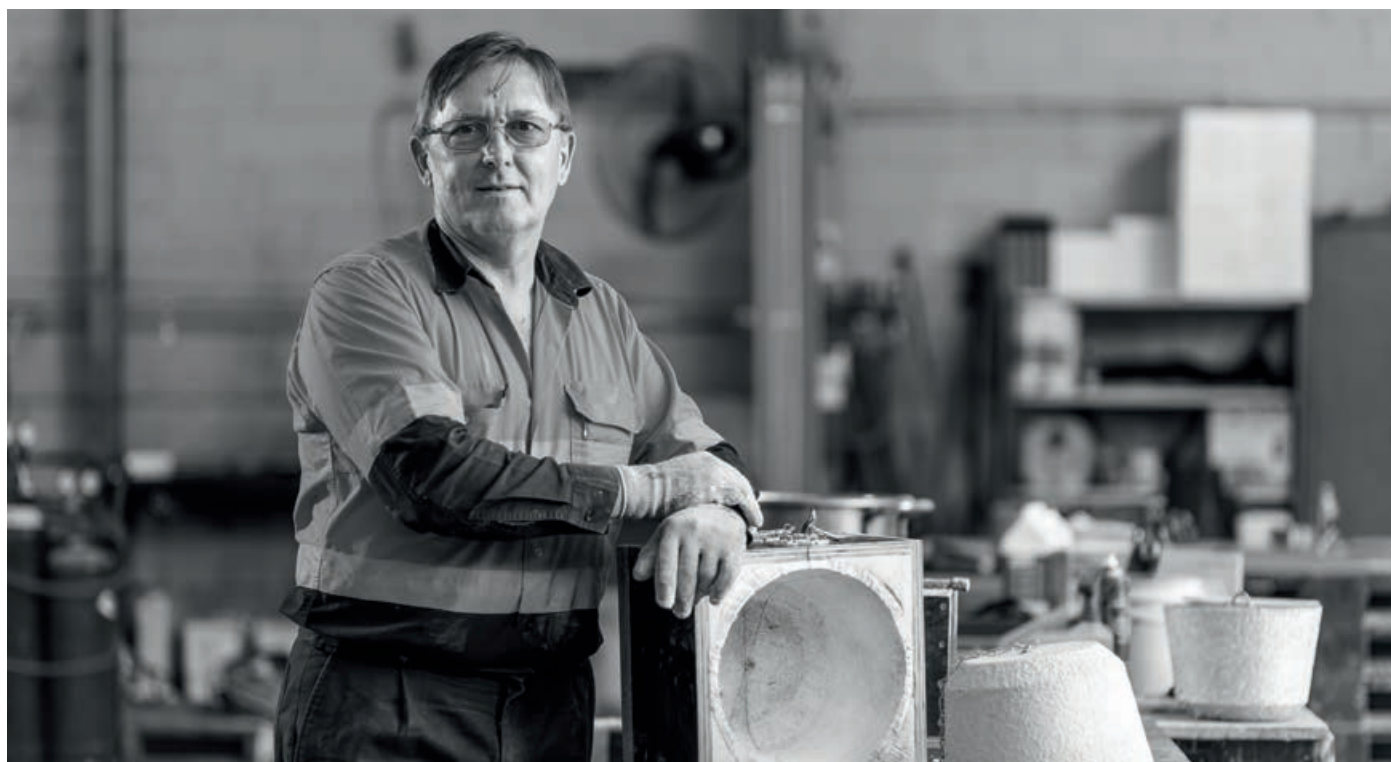
The SafeWork NSW Work Health and Safety Roadmap identified the following three key action areas:

Action Area I – Embed the ‘Health and Safety Landscape’ in NSW workplaces

Action Area II – Prioritise sectors, harms, workers and workplaces where the most significant WHS risks exist

Action Area III – Build exemplar regulatory services

This plan delivers through these key action areas:



Sector plan priorities

ACTION AREA 1 – Embed the ‘Health and Safety Landscape’ in NSW workplaces

Programs

Leadership from the top

- Develop a leadership program aimed at raising the standard of safety leadership and improving safety culture in the manufacturing sector, for different sized businesses in metropolitan and regional areas.
- Initiate a Manufacturing Safety Symposium for leaders to identify, share and promote effective safety leadership approaches.
- Promote the SafeWork NSW Mentor Program, which pairs small businesses with safety experts who share their expertise and best practice in workplace health and safety.
- Promote the Safety Promise online tool that encourages leaders to make a public commitment to improving health and safety in their workplaces.

Contractor safety management

- Develop labour hire, contractor/sub-contractor management guidelines and tools to support small, medium and large businesses.

Consultation, communication and engagement

- Establish the Manufacturing Safety Reference Group to develop and promote manufacturing safety initiatives and share safety solutions to address high risks.
- Promote the SafeWork NSW Consultation@Work Program, a program that provides an opportunity to use the knowledge and experience of your staff to achieve a safer and healthier workplace.
- Engage with leaders, unions, peak bodies and industry associations in the manufacturing industry to drive and influence better safety.

Safe environment/worker capability

- Strengthen worker capability and awareness of work health and safety through safety education guides and programs.

Organisational capability

- Develop training and education tools to build understanding of incident investigation and risk management.
- Develop easy to understand safety regulation guidance information.
- Deliver a SafeWork NSW small business rebate program tailored to manufacturing, to encourage small businesses to buy and install eligible safety items to address a safety problem in their workplace.

Sector plan priorities

ACTION AREA II – Prioritise sectors, harms, workers and workplaces where the most significant WHS risks exist

Forklifts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote forklift safety in manufacturing. Explore the regulatory approach to forklift safety.
Machine safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a machine safety campaign. Develop a rebate program for machine safety, to encourage small businesses to buy and install eligible machine items to address a safety problem in their workplace. Develop simple tools to assist business to understand machine safety requirements. Develop guidelines to ensure machine safety during maintenance and repairs. Collaborate with the SafeWork NSW Centre for WHS to research machine safety and effective approaches. Collaborate with industry to educate and ensure safe installation, maintenance and use of machinery. Collaborate with designers, manufacturers, installers and users to improve the flow of safety information taking into consideration the lifecycle of the machine.
Muscular stress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with industry to develop strategies to raise awareness of and reduce muscular stress injuries. Promote SafeWork NSW Participative Ergonomics for Manual Tasks (PERforM) workshops and implementation support program, which helps to effectively manage hazardous manual tasks.
Noise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and promote strategies to reduce noise risks.
Falls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote SafeWork NSW falls from heights guidelines and education resources.
Chemicals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote SafeWork NSW silica and formaldehyde guidelines and prevention program.
Electrical safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and promote electrical safety guidelines and education resources.
Mental Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote SafeWork NSW mental health initiatives across the manufacturing sector to enable mentally healthy workplaces.
At-Risk Workers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop safety education materials targeting at-risk workers including young workers, culturally and linguistically diverse and migrant workers.

Sector plan priorities

ACTION AREA III – Build exemplar regulatory services	Exemplar regulator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide tools, resources and education to the manufacturing industry to enable leaders to implement safety solutions.• Initiate SafeWork facilitated forums to provide safety leadership education for senior managers of small to medium manufacturing businesses.• Identify and showcase case studies to share effective manufacturing safety approaches.• Conduct targeted compliance campaigns for specific risks such as unsafe use of forklifts and unsafe machinery.
	Recover at work	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monitor and support manufacturing businesses to ensure they have good recover at work practices.• Promote awareness of employer workers' compensation and recover at work obligations.• Promote SIRA resources and programs that support and incentivise employees to achieve improved recover at work outcomes.

LINKS TO OTHER ROADMAP STRATEGIES

- Musculoskeletal Disorder Strategy.
- Consultation at work.
- Hazardous Chemicals and Materials Exposures Baseline and Reduction Strategy.

IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

The progress of this strategy will be reviewed annually and we will communicate the progress and consult with stakeholders.

Disclaimer

This publication may contain information about the regulation and enforcement of work health and safety in NSW. It may include some of your obligations under some of the legislation that SafeWork NSW administers. To ensure you comply with your legal obligations you must refer to the appropriate legislation.

Information on the latest laws can be checked by visiting the NSW legislation website www.legislation.nsw.gov.au

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