Preventing occupational cancer in 2022: Australia’s strategic focus

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Draft Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012-202

provides opportunities for a national strategic focus on more effectively preventing exposure to carcinogens over the next decade
Draft Strategy Overview

- Healthy and Safe by Design
- Supply Chains and Networks
- Reduced Incidence of Work Related Death, Injury & Illness
- Reduced Exposure to Work Related Hazards Causing Injury & Illness
- Improved Work Health and Safety Infrastructure
- Improved Quality of Workplace Controls
- Research and Evaluation

Healthy, Safe and Productive Working Lives
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action Area</th>
<th>Strategic Outcomes</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Healthy and Safe by Design</strong></td>
<td><strong>Expected Outcomes</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Healthy and Safe by Design</strong></td>
<td>1. Structures, plant, equipment and substances are designed to eliminate or minimise hazards. 2. Work and work processes and systems are designed to eliminate or minimise hazards.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Supply Chains and Networks</strong></td>
<td><strong>Expected Outcomes</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Improved work health and safety through supply chains and networks</strong></td>
<td>1. All levels along a supply chain understand their cumulative impact and actively improve the health and safety of the supply chain. 2. Commercial relationships within supply chains and networks are used to improve work health and safety. 3. Industry leaders champion health and safety in supply chains and networks.</td>
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<td><strong>Work Health and Safety Capabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>Expected Outcomes</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Improved work health and safety capabilities</strong></td>
<td>1. Everyone in a workplace has the work health and safety capabilities, knowledge and skills they require. 2. Those providing work health and safety education, training and advice have the appropriate capabilities, knowledge and skills. 3. Inspectors and other staff of work health and safety regulators have work health and safety capabilities, knowledge, skills and resources to effectively perform their role. 4. WHS skills development are appropriately integrated into relevant education and training programs.</td>
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<td><strong>Culture and Leadership</strong></td>
<td><strong>Expected Outcomes</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Community and organisational culture and leadership improve work health and safety</strong></td>
<td>1. Proactive communities and their leaders drive improved work health and safety. 2. Organisational leaders foster a culture which actively improves health and safety. 3. Health and safety is given priority in all work processes and decisions.</td>
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<td><strong>Research and Evaluation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Expected Outcomes</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Evidence-informed policy, programs and practice</strong></td>
<td>1. Research and evaluation are targeted to provide the evidence to prioritise and progress areas of national interest. 2. Australia has an effective research infrastructure and capacity. 3. The results of research are disseminated and implemented.</td>
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<td><strong>Government</strong></td>
<td><strong>Expected Outcomes</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Governments improve work health and safety</strong></td>
<td>1. Work health and safety is actively considered in the development, implementation and evaluation of government policy. 2. Governments use their investment and purchasing power to improve work health and safety. 3. Governments exemplify good work health and safety.</td>
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<td><strong>Responsive Regulatory Framework</strong></td>
<td><strong>Expected Outcomes</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The regulatory framework responds and adapts to changing circumstances to maintain effectiveness</strong></td>
<td>1. Legislation, policies and regulatory practice are reviewed and monitored to ensure they are responsive and effective. 2. Relationships between regulators and all who have a stake in work health and safety are effective, constructive, transparent and accountable.</td>
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Targets - Options

- 20 per cent decrease in number of traumatic injury fatalities from 274
- Injury target measured using
  - injury and musculoskeletal disorder claims of one week or more (account for 90 per cent of all one week or more claims) or
  - all claims of one week or more
- Injury target
  - percentage reduction in incidence rates or
  - target incidence rate of claims per 1000 employees
- Body stressing target – 30 per cent reduction
- Lead targets (as data becomes available)
  - Exposure to injury and disease causing hazards
  - Type and effectiveness of workplace controls
  - Infrastructure improvements
National Priority Industries - Options

- Priority Industries (broad sectors)
  - Agriculture
  - Transport
  - Construction
  - Manufacturing
  - Health
Proposed National Disease and Hazard Priorities

Work-related

- cancer including skin cancers
- asthma
- contact dermatitis
- musculoskeletal disorders
- mental disorders
- noise-induced hearing loss
Building a more responsive regulatory framework for carcinogens

Generate better evidence on:

- What chemicals are being used in different sectors
- The hazards presented by the chemicals
- Who is exposed, how many workers and where
- The type and level of harm that may result from exposure
- Effectiveness of existing controls compared with best practice
- What strategic prevention approaches are likely to be most effective where required for example
  - Minimising unnecessary bureaucracy around development of legislative instruments
  - Targeted enforcement campaigns and compliance support
Reviewing Exposure Standards

• A review of current exposure standards:
  – Is the overarching framework achieving its objectives?
  – Are Australian exposure standards reflecting current evidence and best practice?
  – Options for improving the responsiveness of the current framework for example
    • Investigate control banding as a means of compliance
Improving Chemical Labelling

• WHS Regulations adopt the GHS for classification, labelling and SDS
  – Consistency with international labelling
• Change to labelling of Agvet chemicals
  – All hazards must be communicated
Improving Health Monitoring

• A review of health monitoring requirements
• Update Schedule 14 of the WHS Regs:
  • Examine international requirements
  • Review criteria for including chemicals on list
  • Consider need to add new chemicals to the list
  • Investigate use of biological exposure indices
Next steps in developing the Strategy

- Public comment  26 March – 20 May 2012
- Launch October 2012, around Safe Work Australia week
- Development of implementation plans
- Opportunities for key bodies to lead implementation