

Date 18 November 2008

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# Department of Labour Moving Forward on Occupational Health

*“Healthy people in Safe and  
Productive Workplaces”*

Department of Labour  
TE TARI MAHI



# Workplace Health and Safety Strategy

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Strategy vision:

***“Healthy people in safe  
and productive  
workplaces”***



# WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY STRATEGY FOR NEW ZEALAND TO 2015

Rautaki mō te Haumarū me te Hauora o te  
Wāhi Mahi mō Aotearoa ki te 2015

Hon Ruth Dyson, Associate Minister of Labour

June 2005



Department of Labour  
TE TARI MAHI



# Workplace Health and Safety Strategy

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Three outcomes:

- Government leadership
- Preventative workplace cultures
- Industry and community leadership



# *“Healthy people in safe and productive workplaces”*

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- Context:
  - Government
  - Department of Labour
  - Workplace services



“Working Together to  
Make New Zealand  
Workplaces Work Better”.



# **“Working Together to make New Zealand Workplaces Work Better”.**

- NOHSAC occupational disease “burden” report
- Defining the “need”
- Capacity, capability
- Planning, targeting, prioritising
- Intervention Logic



# Workplace Services Role

## The Health and Safety in Employment Act 1992

- Enforcement
- Modern Regulation
- Information and Guidance
  - Advice?
- Prevention
- Surveillance



# Surveillance v Activity (outputs)

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- Serious Harm Reporting
- NODS reporting
- All of Government response?



# NODS Panels

- Asbestos and Respiratory
- Chemical and Solvents
- Musculoskeletal/Ergonomic
- Infectious diseases
- Dermatitis
- Physical Hazards
- Psychosocial





## Asbestos and Other Occupational Lung Diseases in New Zealand

1992-2007



# What of the Health Challenge in H&S?

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Fiscal limitations

Investigation

Assessment

Enforcement

Historic exposures

Specialists



# Modern Regulator

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- Transparency
- Accountability
- Consistency
- Proportionate
- Targeted





# Workplace Health and Safety Strategy

## National Priorities

- Airborne substances
- Manual Handling
- Psychosocial work Factors
- Vulnerable workers
- Small business
- High-risk industries
- Workplace Vehicles
- Slips, trips and falls



# Four activity streams:

- Information (including research)
- Legislation
- Improving workplace performance
- Improving services to workplaces





## Health and safety in hairdressing

AN EVALUATION OF HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT  
PRACTICES IN THE HAIRDRESSING INDUSTRY



## Leptospirosis

REDUCING THE IMPACT ON NEW ZEALAND WORKPLACES



# Occupational Health Strategy

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Additional emphasis on Health intervention

Redefining the “need”

Prioritisation of resources

Surveillance

NODS and NODS Panels

Specialist / technical staff



# Working Together to Make New Zealand Workplaces Work Better

- Working towards the same goal
  - Reducing current exposures and preventable harm
  - Sticking to your knitting
  - Collaboration
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- Dame Carol Black's Review of the health of Britain's working age population
  - *'Working for a healthier tomorrow'*



Thank you

