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INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**  
HIKINA WHAKATUTUKI

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# WorkSafe New Zealand

A new era for workplace health and safety

Presentation to Forum on Workplace Carcinogens, 28 November 2013

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Professor Gregor Coster  
WorkSafe NZ Board



# The men lost at Pike River



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# Why we need to change

- 75 deaths a year
- 6,000+ serious harm notifications
- 600 – 900 deaths from occupational ill health
  - 150+ from asbestos-related diseases including mesothelioma
- The national “system” is crippled



# Three years after Pike River

- A new regulator – WorkSafe New Zealand
- *Working Safer* – the reform blueprint
- Clear target – 25% reduction in work-related deaths and injuries by 2020



# WorkSafe NZ Board

- Prof. Gregor Coster (Chair)
- Paula Rose
- Don Stock
- Dr. Patrick Strange
- Ross Wilson
- Kerry Prendergast
- Chris Ellis

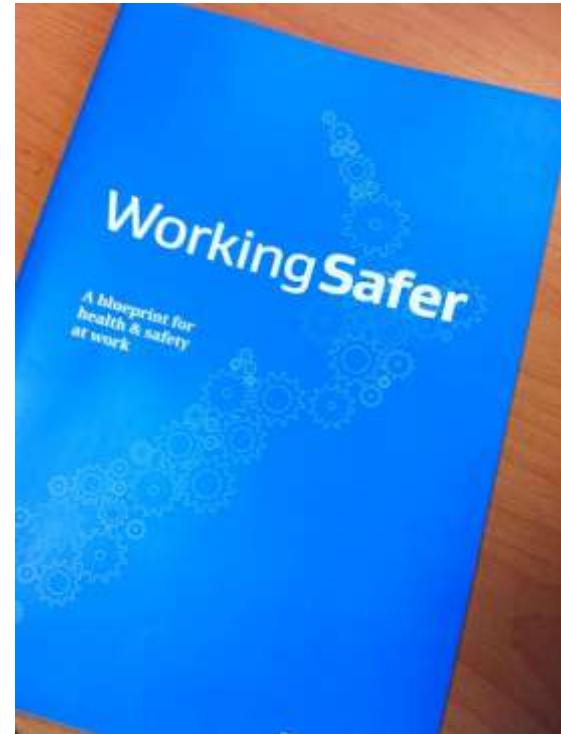
Acting Chief Executive-Designate **Geoffrey Podger**

# WorkSafe NZ priorities



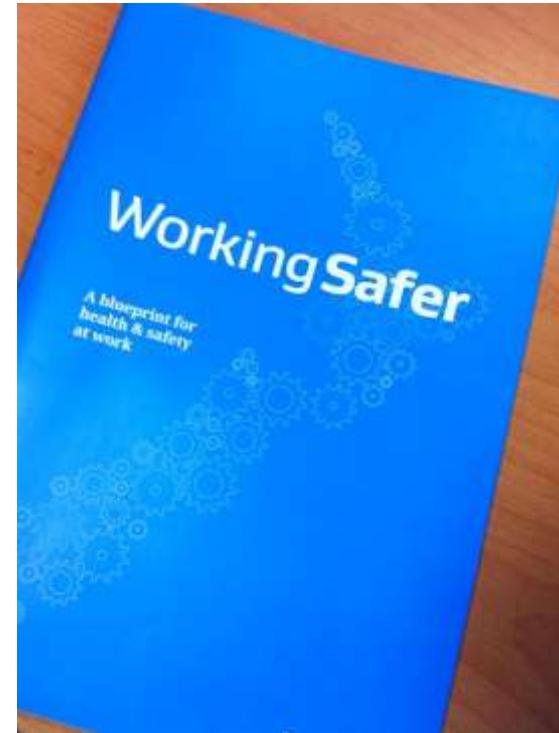
1. **Targeting risk:** focus on acute, chronic & catastrophic harms
2. **Working together:** work collaboratively with others for maximum effect
3. **Rebuilding Canterbury safely:** focus on construction, occupational health & high-risk populations
4. **Working smarter:** implement a clearer regulatory regime
5. **Strengthening our organisation:** build a high-performing agency

# *Working Safer* blueprint for reform



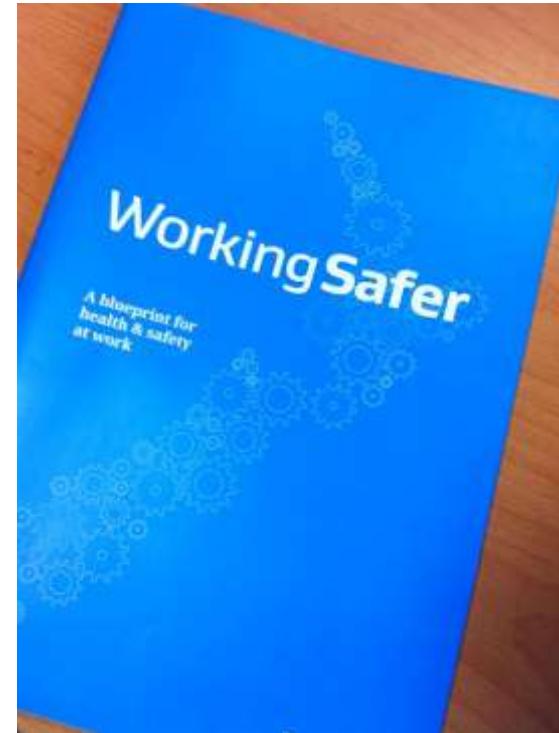
# *Working Safer* blueprint for reform

- Law overhaul
  - Based on Australian Model Law



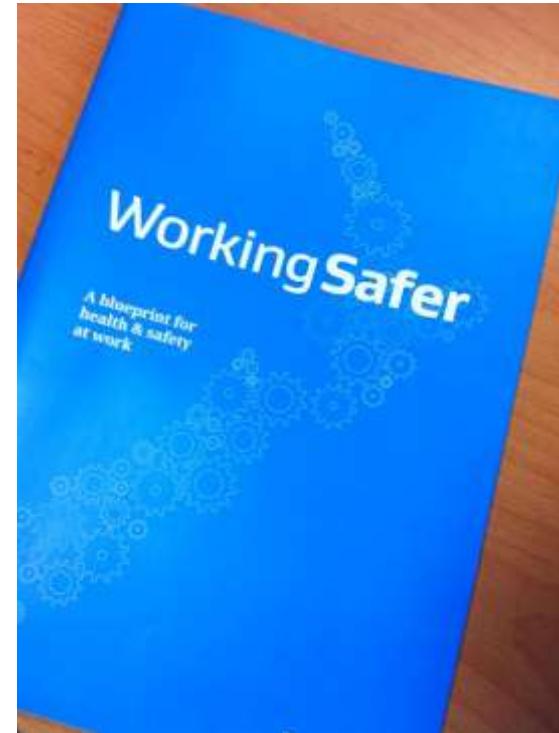
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- Law overhaul
- More guidance



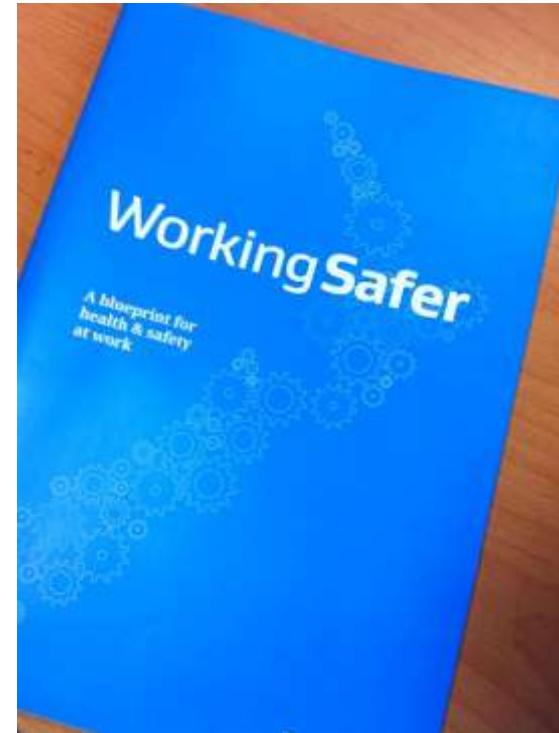
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- Law overhaul
- More guidance
- Facilitate worker participation



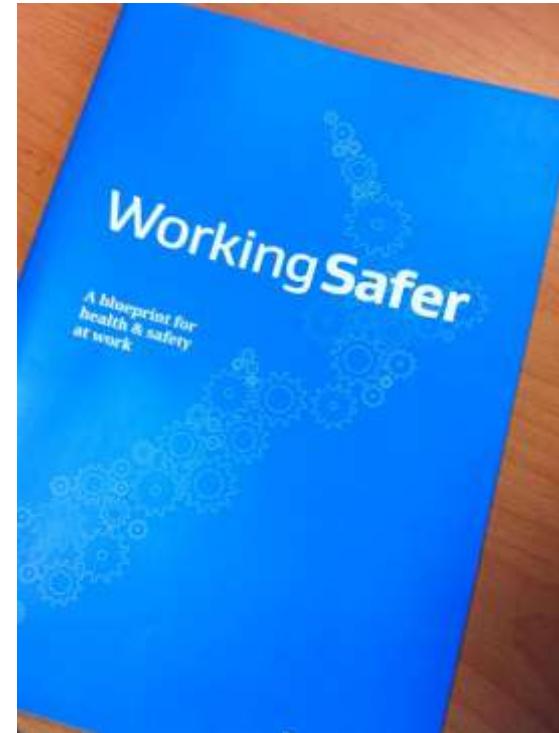
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- Law overhaul
- More guidance
- Facilitate worker participation
- **More funding**



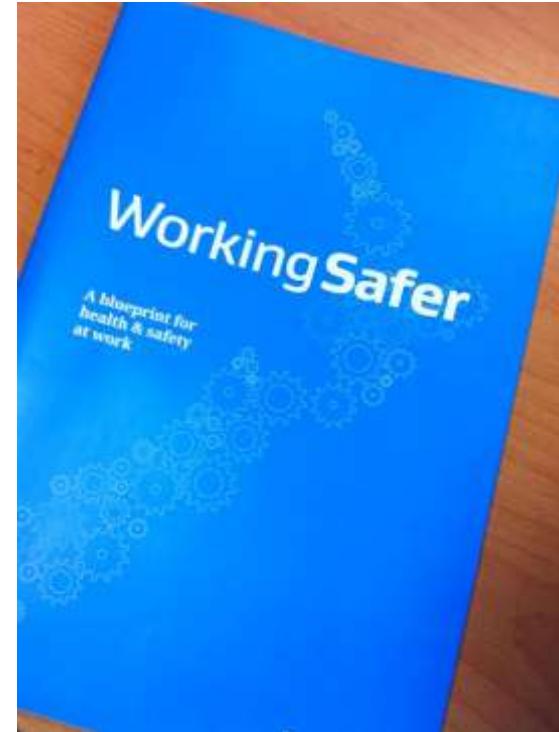
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- Law overhaul
- More guidance
- Facilitate worker participation
- More funding
- Focus on high-risk areas



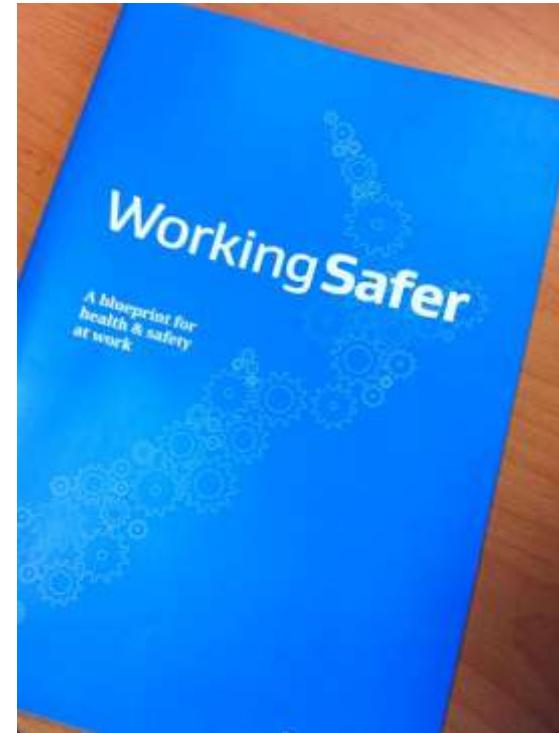
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- More guidance
- Facilitate worker participation
- More funding
- Focus on high-risk areas
- Better coordination across govt



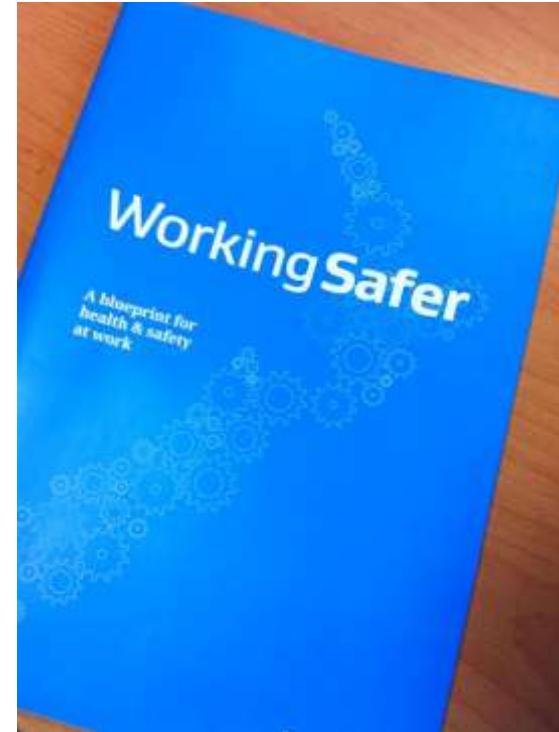
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- More funding
- Focus on high-risk areas
- Better coordination across govt
- Stronger penalties, enforcement tools & court powers



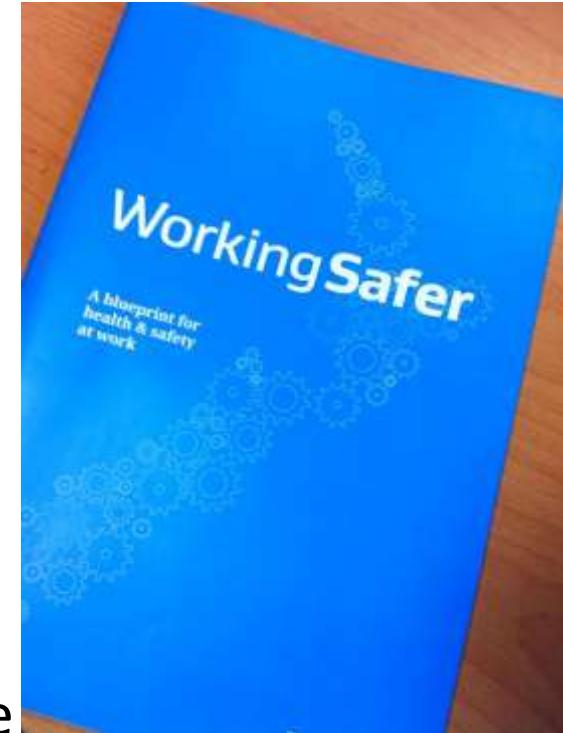
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- Stronger penalties, enforcement tools & court powers
- Enhanced capability and knowledge, eg. HaSPA



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- Facilitate worker participation
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- Focus on high-risk areas
- Better coordination across govt
- Stronger penalties, enforcement tools & court powers
- Enhanced capability and knowledge
- **Focus on occupational harm & hazardous substances**



# So what do we know?

- “Work-Related Disease in New Zealand: the State of Play in 2010”, published 2013
  - An estimated 600-900 deaths in 2010 from work-related disease
    - 170 from asbestos-related disease
  - An estimated 29,000-30,500 cases of non-fatal disease
    - More than a third of these were cancers

# Current initiatives

- Ongoing asbestos focus in Canterbury rebuild



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- Ongoing asbestos focus in Canterbury rebuild
- Occupational health advisory group to WorkSafe NZ Board



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- Ongoing asbestos focus in Canterbury rebuild
- Occupational health advisory group to WorkSafe NZ Board
- Targets for future



# Health and safety ...



... is **everyone's** responsibility



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