



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
HIKINA WHAKATUTUKI

WorkSafe New Zealand

A new era for workplace health and safety

Presentation to Forum on Workplace Carcinogens, 28 November 2013

Professor Gregor Coster
WorkSafe NZ Board



The men lost at Pike River



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](#)



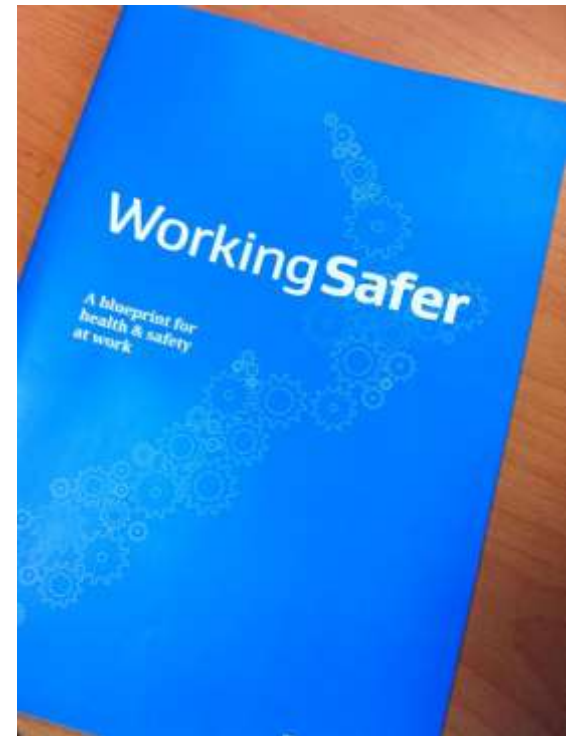
WorkSafe NZ priorities



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

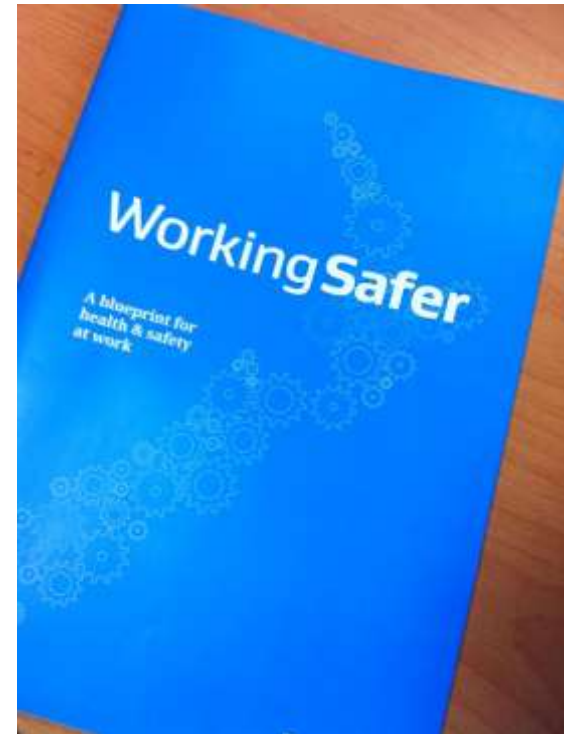


Working Safer blueprint for reform



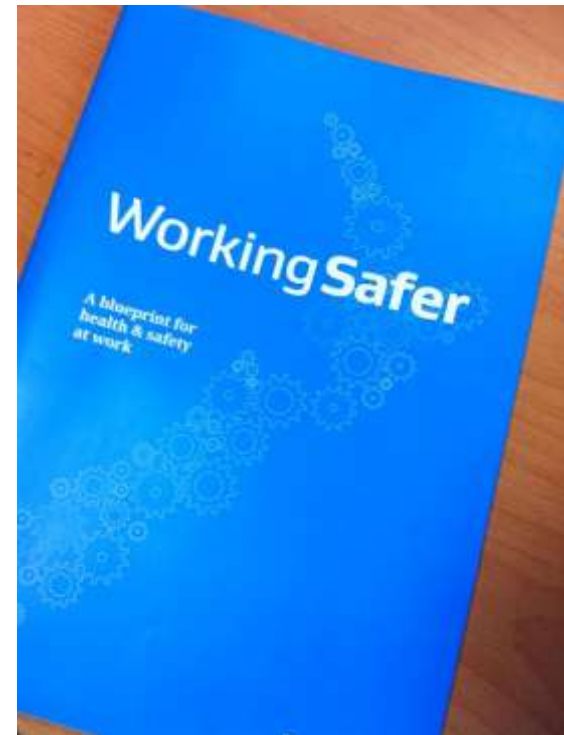
Working Safer blueprint for reform

- Law overhaul
 - Based on Australian Model Law



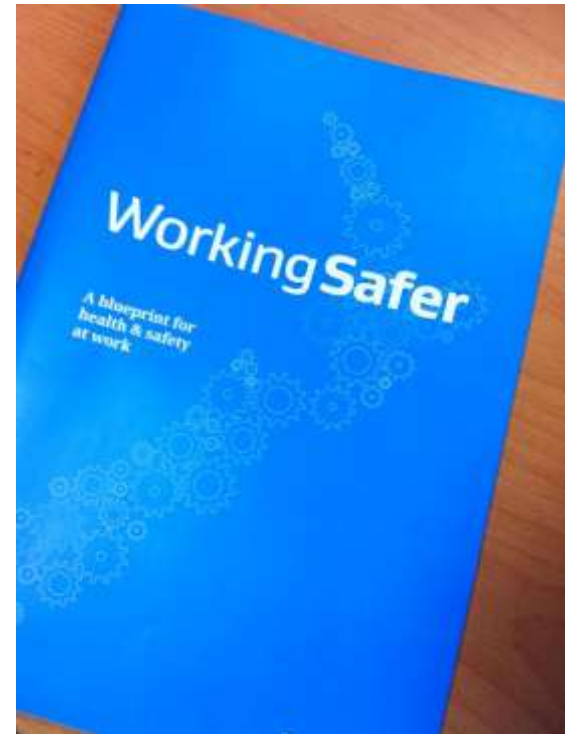
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- Law overhaul
- More guidance



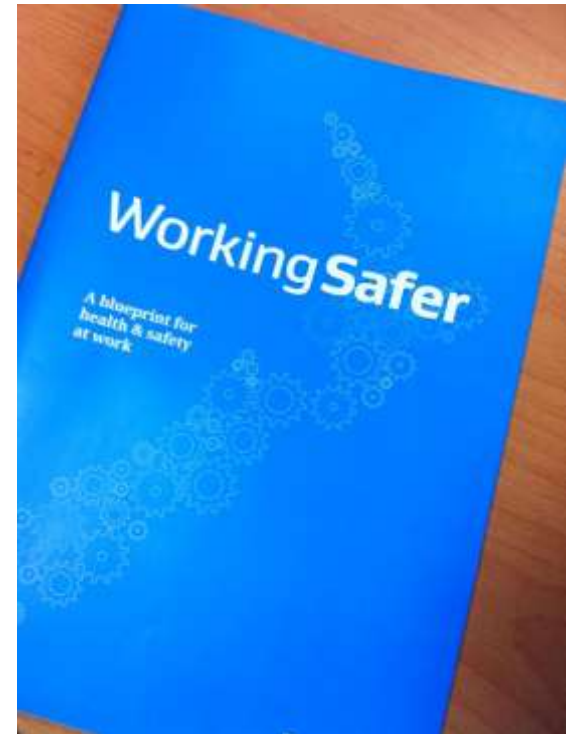
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- More guidance
- Facilitate worker participation



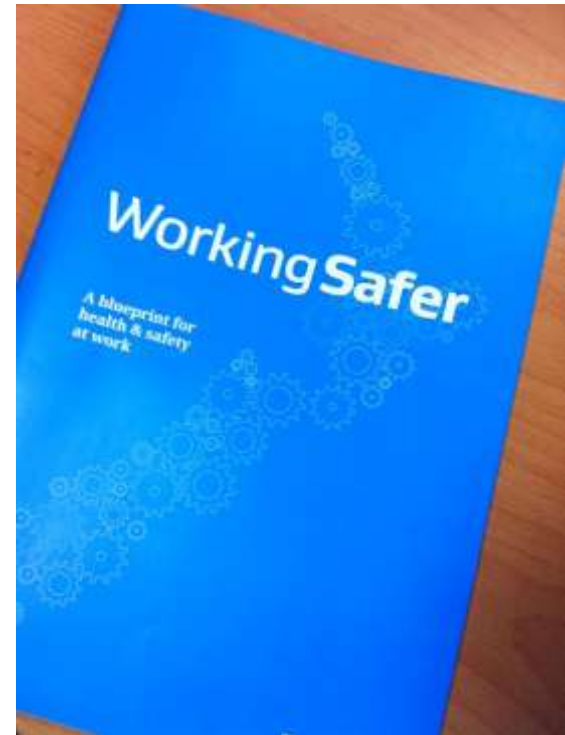
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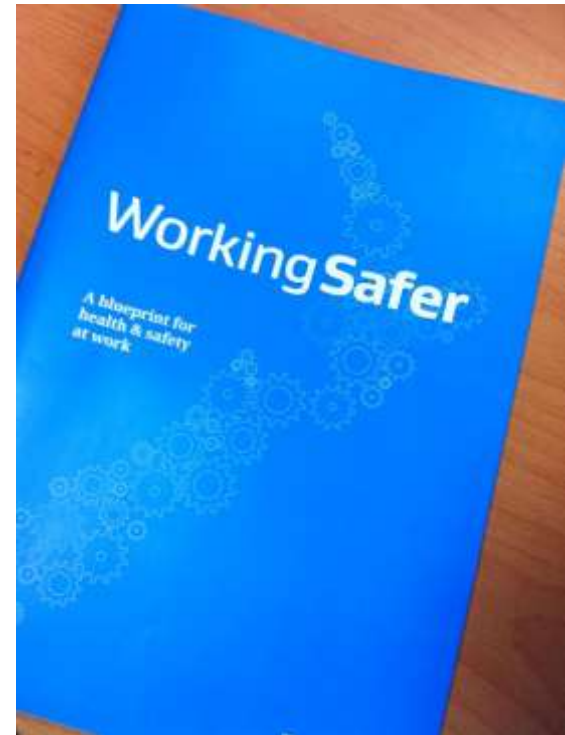
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- Focus on high-risk areas



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- More funding
- Focus on high-risk areas
- Better coordination across govt



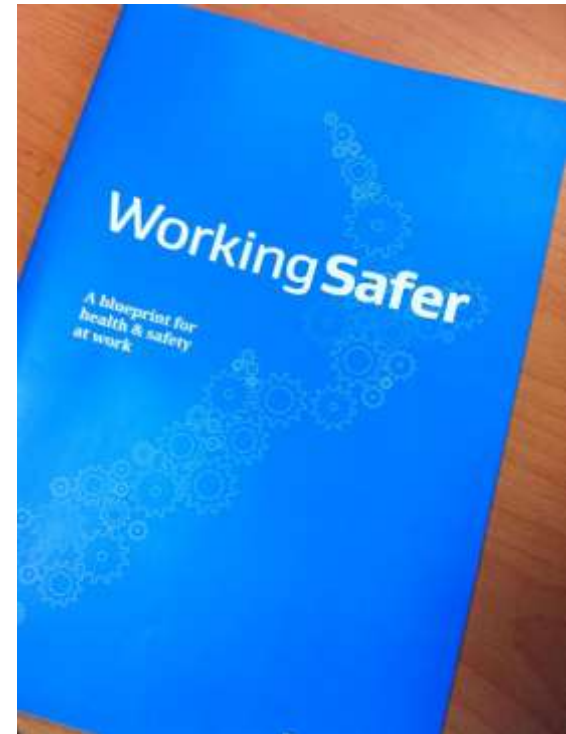
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- More guidance
- Facilitate worker participation
- More funding
- Focus on high-risk areas
- Better coordination across govt
- Stronger penalties, enforcement tools & court powers



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- Law overhaul
- More guidance
- Facilitate worker participation
- More funding
- Focus on high-risk areas
- Better coordination across govt
- Stronger penalties, enforcement tools & court powers
- Enhanced capability and knowledge, eg. HaSPA



Working Safer blueprint for reform

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- Facilitate worker participation
- More funding
- 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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- Occupational health advisory group to WorkSafe NZ Board
- Targets for future



Health and safety ...



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

