

Towards Zero

Learn Safe
Work Safe
Home Safe



Welcome to Toward Zero. News and views from the PEER WHS Office.

There is a lot that happens in safety from day to day outside of PEER, in South Australia, nationally and internationally. I will attempt to provide information to inform and educate PEER employees, students, apprentices, trainees, and host employers about what's going on in work health and safety field.

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Who's Who in Safety

I'm going to kick off this newsletter with some refresher of key terminology in Work Health and Safety.

As you are aware, new WHS legislation was introduced on 1 January 2012 that contains some changes that employees will need to be familiar with. One of these changes is the introduction of new terminology to be used when referring to organisations and its employees.

Previously, there were two categories that were used when talking about an organisation and its workforce – 'Employer' and 'Employee' respectively. Under the current legislation, there are now three terms.

- Person Conducting the Business or Undertaking (PCBU)
- Officers
- Workers.

Person Conducting the Business or Undertaking

The Person Conducting the Business or Undertaking (PCBU) now replaces 'Employer' and refers to the company or business that has the primary duty of care for providing a safe and healthy workplace.

In most instances the PCBU refers to a company or organisation and not an individual person. However, a PCBU does refer to an individual when that person is conducting a business in their own right – such as a sole trader or those who are self-employed.

Officers

The term, 'Officers' refers to those people who are responsible for making, or helping to make, decisions that affect the whole or most of the business.

Under the legislation, 'Officers' are required to exercise due diligence – that is, to extend all reasonable care to ensure a safe work environment - to ensure the business meets all its WHS requirements.

Are you an Officer?

This may depend on your role in the organisation and your responsibilities in the workplace.

Workers

The term 'Workers' replaces the general term 'Employees' and relates to the broader workforce, including.

- Employees
- Apprentices and trainees
- Labour hire staff
- Volunteers / work experience students
- Contractors and sub-contractors.

It doesn't matter if the worker is paid or not, or who pays the worker. The definition relates to who they are doing work for or who is directing the work. Under a GTO arrangement as in PEER, an apprentice with a host employer, the apprentice is the host employer's worker and all the WHS obligations apply.

SEARCH THE NEWS

SA: Regulator warns SA builders to manage fall from height risks

SA: Safety Alert Issued After Workers Injured in Trench Collapses

WA: Mining company fined \$102,000 after worker injured in fall from height

NT: Hot Air Balloon Company Fined \$130,000 Over Tourist Death

Vic: Demolition Company Fined \$100,000 After Fatal Wall Collapse

Vic: Safety Alert Issued Over Refilling Gas Cylinders

Qld: Worker Suffers Electric Shock Forming Concrete Slab

Qld: Roofing Company Fined \$75,000 After Worker Shocked by Powerlines

National: Safety Alert Issued Over Palfinger Stabiliser Locking System

National: Workers at Higher Risk of Depression If Employers Neglect Psychological Health

Contact Us

Do you have feedback? Like to know more or have you got something to share? Email: safety@peer.com.au,



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