

Safe Design Project

Literature Review & Stakeholder Interviews

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Aims

- ✂ Broadly - develop greater recognition of the role of safe design in improving OHS in the workplace.

- ✂ Aims of this part -
 - ✂ review literature; and
 - ✂ describe initiatives by OHS authorities and other NOHSC stakeholders.

Target Groups

- “Upstream” groups:
 - ✂ designers, manufacturers, importers and suppliers of **plant and equipment**;
 - ✂ designers, constructors and installers of **buildings and structures**; and
 - ✂ designers, manufacturers, importers and suppliers of **materials and substances**

Questions

- ✂ What approaches have the stakeholders taken to **help** the target groups understand and implement safe design?
- ✂ What do the target groups currently **know** about their OHS obligations in regard to safe design?
- ✂ What do the target groups currently **do** to meet their OHS obligations?
- ✂ Who are the key intermediary/contact groups or individuals who **influence** the target groups on safe design issues?
- ✂ What are the overall **implications** of these findings on possible strategies for influencing the target groups?

Methods

- Literature review
- Interviews
 - stakeholders identified by NOHSC
 - mainly OHS regulatory and compensation authorities

Findings

(a) What approaches have the stakeholders taken to help the target groups understand and implement safe design?

- **Ad-hoc approach (e.g. taking action as issues arise), e.g.**
 - Follow through to manufacturer/supplier
 - Develop “hazard alert” if issue affects other manufacturers, etc
- **Targeted project, e.g.**
 - NSW WorkCover Memorandum of Understanding with Constructors and associated projects
 - Victorian WorkCover Aged Care “Safe Building Design” project
 - Often awareness/information in association with new regulations

Findings

(b) What do the target groups currently know about their OHS obligations in regard to safe design?

- **Design practitioners** such as engineers and architects
 - seen to have limited knowledge of OHS law
 - seen to have limited understanding of OHS “process”
 - I.e. hazard id, assessment and control, hierarchy of control, etc
- **Manufacturers**, etc especially of substances
 - seen to have better knowledge of responsibilities

Findings

- (c) What do the target groups currently do to meet their OHS obligations?
- **Manufacturers** sometimes adopt “life cycle” approach.
 - **Construction companies** in NSW engaging in safe design process (*Safety in Design Guideline for Major Building & Civil Projects*)

Findings

(d) Who are the key intermediary/contact groups or individuals who influence the target groups on safe design issues?

- **Design practitioners**

- Professional bodies (IEAust, RAIA)
- Standard-setting bodies
- Educational institutions

- **Manufacturers, etc**

- Industry Associations
- Public pressure (especially about substances)

- **“Everyone”**

- Influenced by workers' compensation and OHS regulatory authorities

Where to from here

(e) What are the overall implications of these findings on possible strategies for influencing the target groups?

1. OHS safe design law and concepts

- seen to be poor among target groups
- need to establish a baseline and identify issues

Where to from here

2. Designers

- establish baseline (as above)
- assess integration of OHS/safe design in design courses
- plan improvements to courses, e.g:
 - risk management
 - hierarchy of controls
 - inherently safe/fail safe design
 - ergonomics
 - life-cycle approach to safety
 - innovation
- provide professional development.

Where to from here

3. “Consumers”

(e.g. users of plant or substances in a workplace;
owners of a building development, etc)

- encourage “consumers” to build safety into purchasing decisions.
- provide assistance to “consumers” re purchasing (e.g. Aged Care Project)

Where to from here

4. Building law

- investigate possibilities of the inclusion of “process-based” models of risk management in building law (e.g BCA).

Where to from here

5. Awareness of safe design

- create safe design awards schemes based on interventions that improve safety “downstream”
- give prominence to “upstream” parties in OHS information such as the internet sites of the authorities.
- prosecute upstream parties (give prominence in prosecution guidelines)

Where to from here

6. Information

- coordinate information such as “hazard alerts”
- include a keywording to allow searching and email alerts to likely interested parties
- use a database like the NOHSC solutions database

Where to from here

7. “Life Cycle” approach

- promote life cycle approaches through industry bodies (e.g. NSW Construction industry project)
- evaluate these programs and to determine how best to use these ideas further

Where to from here

8. Funding agencies

- give priority to safe design issues and encourage research and publication