

AMIC/WORKCOVER PRIORITY PROGRAM

3rd Wagga Wagga AMIC/WorkCover Priority Program Workshop

On 11th September 2013 the third priority program workshop was held at the WorkCover offices in Wagga Wagga and was attended by representatives of 8 meat processing plants representing southern NSW.

As previously advised these workshops will be ongoing into the coming years. The format and content will be based on priority Work, Health and Safety subjects as well as intended themes so that others from the establishments can attend, such as maintenance, supervisors, managerial staff.

The presenters and presentations at this workshop included the following:

CRAIG PRZILBILLA - Craig is the principal Inspector from the Albury office of WorkCover NSW. Craig presented on the obligations on PCBU's and others with respect to bullying and harassment in the workplace, and how best to deal with matters that arise. A new national Code of Practice from Safe Work Australia will soon be released.

MARK BARBER - Team Coordinator – South West Hub (encompassing Orange, Wagga Wagga, Griffith & Albury office locations.) Mark provided a presentation on Traffic Management in relation to the national Code of Practice. Mark also provided a couple of case studies from his own experience as a WorkCover inspector in relation to fatalities and serious injuries sustained from poor traffic management.

KEN MCKELL - The AMIC's HR Manager, provided an evaluation of the recent AMIC WH&S Conference. Over 85 delegates attended the conference in addition to 22 speakers and 9 sponsor representatives. The next conference is scheduled for 2015 in Queensland.

JANIS ROSS - From JTA Health, Safety and Noise Specialists provided an informative and visual presentation on the importance and legislative requirements regarding audio-metric testing in workplaces.



STEVE AUTRY AND SUZANNE JONES - Both from Xchanging talked about their ergonomic assessment, risk profiling and injury prevention tools that they are applying for businesses.

STEVE FLEMING – Manager of Member Services with AMIST Super, provided an update of changes to the Superannuation requirements affecting all employers and workers from next year.



Southern Regional NSW Abattoir representatives

Inaugural Tamworth AMIC/WorkCover Priority Program Workshop

On 22nd May 2013 the inaugural priority program workshop for all Northern NSW meat processors was held in Tamworth and was attended by 29 industry representatives from 11 separate plants.

As with the first workshop for Southern NSW IN Wagga Wagga last year, John Watson, General Manager Work Health & Safety Division, WorkCover NSW, officially opened the workshop and highlighted the productive relationship between the AMIC and WorkCover NSW, which has assisted in the understanding and improvements in health and safety in the meat industry. John will also be presenting at the AMIC WH&S Conference in July this year.

Other sessions at the workshop included:

Key Findings of the Regional Priority Program - WorkCover NSW Inspectors Keven Pile and Paul Irwin;

The Dangers of dismissing an ill or injured worker;

Return to Work and Injury Management report;

Results of using effective on-site treatment programs to reduce workers compensation costs;

The attendees agreed that this workshop initiative should continue and for it to include information and discussion on WH&S/Workers Compensation subjects for the benefit of the meat industry.



Northern Regional NSW Abattoir representatives

2nd Wagga Wagga AMIC/WorkCover Priority Program Workshop

The second Priority Program Workshop was held on 15th November 2012 at the WorkCover offices in Wagga Wagga and was attended by representatives of six of the seven plants covered within the South West Hub region of NSW.

As previously advised, these workshops are intended to be ongoing into 2013 with the option for the format and content to be based on certain themes so that various employees such as maintenance workers, supervisors and managerial staff from the establishments can attend.



Southern Regional NSW Abattoir representatives

The presenters and presentations at this workshop included the following:

Mark Stothard is the current State Inspector, Industry Relationships Group Regional Service Delivery South, based in Wollongong. Mark's presentation was on the new National Hazardous Manual Tasks Code of Practice and how it applies to the meat industry.

William McColl is the current team manager of RSDS (Regional Service Delivery South – Wollongong). William talked about the current WorkCover NSW activities and projects.

Mark Barber was recently appointed Team Coordinator – South West Hub (encompassing Orange, Wagga Wagga, Griffith & Albury office locations). Mark provided a presentation on the amendments to the NSW Workers Compensation legislation, including payments to injured workers.

Ken McKell, AMIC's HR Manager gave two presentations. One related to the dangers of dismissing an injured worker and the other related to the duty of care obligations regarding people other than employees such as contractors, labour hire workers and work experience persons.

Steve Fleming is the Manager of Member Services with AMIST Super. Steve provided an update on changes to the superannuation requirements affecting all employers and workers from next year.

Inaugural Wagga Wagga AMIC/WorkCover Priority Program Workshop

AMIC and WorkCover NSW have been conducting a project for meat processing plants in the South West region of NSW for the purposes of addressing OH&S and Workers Compensation injury issues. The South West Hub relates to 7 processing plants.

The purpose of the project is to reduce the risk of injuries in such workplaces by focusing on the prominent types of injuries and causes. This project will provide direct and indirect information to assist the meat industry to reduce the hazards in their workplace and provide suggestions for improvements and the potentially to reduce the cost of workers compensation claims.

The project involved 3 stages:

1. Preliminary visit and discussion on the purpose of the project and a highlighting of the injury data for the 7 plants;
2. Onsite validation visit to look through the plant;
3. Holding of a workshop to highlight key findings and provide networking opportunity amongst representatives of the 7 plants, AMIC and WorkCover NSW.

A workshop was held at the Wagga Wagga RSL and was attended by representatives of the 7 plants as well as officers from WorkCover, including John Watson, General Manager of the WH&S Division, AMIC and various presenters.





Wagga Wagga RSL workshop



Ken McKell-AMIC, John Watson-GM of the WH&S Division & Mark Stothard-WorkCover Inspector

