



ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

Freedom of Information Publication Coversheet

The following information is provided pursuant to section 28 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*.

FOI Reference: CMTEDDFOI 2018-0041

Information to be published	Status
1. Access application	Published
2. Decision notice	Published
3. Documents and schedule	Partially released
4. Additional information identified	No
5. Fees	N/A
6. Processing time (in working days)	17
7. Decision made by Ombudsman	N/A
8. Additional information identified by Ombudsman	N/A
9. Decision made by ACAT	N/A
10. Additional information identified by ACAT	N/A

[REDACTED]

20 February 2018

Amy Phillips
FOI, Decision Maker
A/g Director, Policy Governance & Support
Access Canberra
Via Email - AccessCanberraGBC@act.gov.au

Dear Ms Phillips

Re: Freedom of Information (FOI) Request - [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter dated 2 November regarding the [REDACTED] freedom of information request of 4 October.

Noting that this response is past the 28 day review time-period, I would like to narrow the scope of the request.

In the original FOI request, I requested "all documents, papers, minutes of meetings and supporting materials" related to Access Canberra's activities for 2017's National Safe Work Month (Safe Work Month).

To narrow the scope of the request, [REDACTED] requests under the Freedom of Information Act the following:

For the period of 1 January 2017 to 4 October 2017, copies of:

- Minutes and notes (excluding emails) of meetings held between the Work Safety Commissioner (Director, Construction, Environment and Workplace Protection) and the Minister for Workplace Safety in relation to Safe Work Month activities;
- Briefing documents (excluding emails) to the Minister for Workplace Safety by officers of Access Canberra in relation to Safe Work Month activities; and
- Plans, minutes and briefing documents created by the *Deputy Director General, Access Canberra*, the *Deputy Director, Strategic Communications and Media, Access Canberra*, and the *Director, Construction, Environment and Workplace Protection, Access Canberra*, in relation to Safe Work Month. This excludes emails.

I hope this narrowed scope assists with the capacity for Access Canberra to action this request.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

Our ref: CMTEDDFOI 2018-0041



via email: 

Dear 

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST

I refer to your application under section 30 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* (the Act), received by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) on 20 February 2018, in which you sought access to:

- Minutes and notes (excluding emails) of meetings held between the Work Safety Commissioner (Director, Construction, Environment and Workplace Protection) and the Minister for Workplace Safety in relation to Safe Work Month activities; and
- Briefing documents (excluding emails) to the Minister for Workplace Safety by officers of Access Canberra in relation to Safe Work Month activities; and
- Plans, minutes and briefing documents created by the Deputy Director General, Access Canberra, the Deputy Director, Strategic Communications and Media, Access Canberra, and the Director, Construction, Environment and Workplace Protection, Access Canberra, in relation to Safe Work Month excluding emails.

Authority

I am an Information Officer appointed by the Director-General of CMTEDD under section 18 of the Act to deal with access applications made under Part 5 of the Act.

Timeframes

In accordance with section 40 of the Act, CMTEDD is required to provide a decision on your access application by 21 March 2018.

Decision on access

Searches were completed for relevant documents and 7 documents were identified that fall within the scope of your request.

I have decided to grant full access to 6 documents and partial access to 1 document. The information redacted in the documents I consider to be information that would, on balance, be contrary to the public interest to disclose under the test set out in section 17 of the Act.

I have included as Attachment A to this decision the schedule of relevant documents. This provides a description of each document that falls within the scope of your request and the access decision for each of those documents.

My access decisions are detailed further in the following statement of reasons and the documents released to you are provided as Attachment B to this letter.

In accordance with section 54(2) of the Act a statement of reasons outlining my decision is below.

Exemption claimed

My reasons for deciding not to grant access to the identified documents and components of these documents are as follows:

Public Interest

The Act has a presumption in favour of disclosure. As a decision maker I am required to decide where, on balance, public interests lies. As part of this process I must consider factors favouring disclosure and non-disclosure.

In *Hogan v Hinch* (2011) 243 CLR 506, [31] French CJ stated that when ‘used in a statute, the term [public interest] derives its content from “the subject matter and the scope and purpose” of the enactment in which it appears’. Section 17(1) of the Act sets out the test, to be applied to determine whether disclosure of information would be contrary to the public interest. These factors are found in subsection 17(2) and Schedule 2 of the Act.

Taking into consideration the information contained in the documents found to be within the scope of your request, I have identified that the following public interest factors are relevant to determine if release of the information contained within these documents is within the ‘public interest’.

Factors favouring disclosure (Schedule 2.1)

- promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government’s accountability;
- contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest.

Factors favouring non-disclosure (Schedule 2.2)

- Prejudice the protection of an individual’s right to privacy or other right under the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Material considered

Having considered the factors identified as relevant in this matter, I consider that release of information contained in these documents may promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government's accountability and contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest by allowing you to have a more complete record of the interactions leading into Safe Work Month.

However, when considering this finding against the factor favouring non-disclosure, I am satisfied that the protection of an individual's right to privacy, especially in the course of assisting in the planning stages of major safety campaign with a government agency, is a significant factor as the parties involved have provided their personal information for the purposes of contributing to a notable and worthy cause which, in my opinion, outweighs the benefit which may be derived from releasing the personal information of the individual's involved in this matter. These individuals are entitled to expect that the personal information they have supplied as part of this process will be dealt with in a manner that protects their privacy. Considering the type of information to be withheld from release, I am satisfied that the factors in favour of release can still be met while protecting the personal information of the individuals involved.

I therefore weight the factor for non-disclosure more highly than the factors in favour of release in this instance. As a result, I have decided that release of this information (contacts names) could prejudice their right to privacy under the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Having applied the test outlined in section 17 of the Act and deciding that release of personal information contained in the documents is not in the public interest to release, I have chosen to redact this specific information in accordance with section 50(2). Noting the pro-disclosure intent of the Act, I am satisfied that redacting only the information that I believe is not in the public interest to release will ensure the intent of the Act is met and will provide you with access to the majority of the information held by CMTEDD within the scope of your request.

Folio 1 of the identified documents contain information that I consider, on balance, to be contrary to the public interest to disclose under the test set out in section 17 of the Act.

Charges

Pursuant to *Freedom of Information (Fees) Determination 2017 (No 2)* processing charges are not applicable for this request because the total number folio's to be released to you is below the charging threshold of 50 pages.

Online publishing – Disclosure Log

Under section 28 of the Act, CMTEDD maintains an online record of access applications called a disclosure log. Your original access application, my decision and documents released to you in response to your access application will be published in the CMTEDD

disclosure log after 21 March 2018. Your personal contact details will not be published. You may view CMTEDD disclosure log at:
<https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/functions/foi/disclosure-log>.

Ombudsman Review

My decision on your access request is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the Act. You have the right to seek Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published in CMTEDD disclosure log, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman. If you wish to request a review of my decision you may write to the Ombudsman at:

The ACT Ombudsman
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Via email: ombudsman@ombudsman.gov.au

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) Review

Under section 84 of the Act, if a decision is made under section 82(1) on an Ombudsman review, you may apply to the ACAT for review of the Ombudsman decision. Further information may be obtained from the ACAT at:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal
Level 4, 1 Moore St
GPO Box 370
Canberra City ACT 2601
Telephone: (02) 6207 1740
<http://www.acat.act.gov.au/>

Should you have any queries in relation to your request please contact me by telephone on 6207 7754 or email CMTEDDFOI@act.gov.au

Yours sincerely,



Daniel Riley
Information Officer
Information Access Team
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

16 March 2018



ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST SCHEDULE

NAME	WHAT ARE THE PARAMETERS OF THE REQUEST	Reference NO.
	<p>Minutes and notes (excluding emails) of meetings held between the Work Safety Commissioner (Director, Construction, Environment and Workplace Protection) and the Minister for Workplace Safety in relation to Safe Work Month activities;</p> <p>Briefing documents (excluding emails) to the Minister for Workplace Safety by officers of Access Canberra in relation to Safe Work Month activities; and</p> <p>Plans, minutes and briefing documents created by the Deputy Director General, Access Canberra, the Deputy Director, Strategic Communications and Media, Access Canberra, and the Director, Construction, Environment and Workplace Protection, Access Canberra, in relation to Safe Work Month excluding emails.</p>	2018-0041

Ref No	Page number	Description	Date	Status	Reason for Exemption	Online Release Status
1	1	Agenda – National Safe Work Month	20-Sep-2017	Partial release	Schedule 2 section 2(a)(ii) Personal Information	Yes
2	2-6	Brief to Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations	27-Sep-2017	Full release	N/A	Yes
3	7-8	Media release as Attachment A to the above brief	02-Oct-2017	Full release	N/A	Yes
4	9-12	Talking points as Attachment B to the above brief	04-Oct-2017	Full release	N/A	Yes
5	13-30	WorkSafe posters as Attachment C to the above brief	Undated	Full release	N/A	Yes
6	31-32	Program of activities as Attachment D to the above brief	Oct-2017	Full release	N/A	Yes
7	33	Media release	17-Oct-2017	Full release	N/A	Yes
Total No of Docs						
7						



AGENDA
National Safe Work Month

Location: Level 3, Executive Board Room,
Dame Pattie Menzies House,
Dickson

When: 2:30pm-3:30pm
20 September 2017

AGENDA: National Work Safe Month - working meeting

Attendees invited: Craig Simmons (AC), Greg Jones (AC), Vicki Hagen (AC), Emily Springett (AC),
Sch 2 s2(a)(ii) [REDACTED] Sch 2 s2(a)(ii) [REDACTED]

- 1. Welcome and introductions**
- 2. The landscape: what are we all doing for National Safe Work Month?**
- 3. Access Canberra initiatives ideas for discussion**
- 4. Next steps/Actions**



ACT
Government

Chief Minister, Treasury and
Economic Development
Directorate

UNCLASSIFIED

To: Rachel Stephen-Smith, Minister for
Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations

TRIM No.: 2017/003317
17/27443

CC Gordon Ramsay, Minister for Regulatory Services

From: Deputy Director-General Access Canberra

Date 29 September 2017

Subject: Launch of National Safe Work Month 2017

Critical Date: 3 October 2017

Critical Reason: To allow sufficient time to coordinate media activities associated with the
launch on 4 October 2017

Purpose To outline activities organised to support National Safe Work Month

Recommendations

That you:

1. Agree to launch National Safe Work Month and issue media release at Attachment A and note talking points at Attachment B

Agreed / Not Agreed / Please Discuss

2. Indicate preferences of National Safe Work Month events you may like to attend during the month at Attachment D

Agreed / Not Agreed / Please Discuss

3. Note the information contained in this brief

Noted / Please Discuss

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA/...../.....

Minister's Office Feedback

Background

1. In Australia, October is National Safe Work Month – a time for employers and workers to commit to building a safe and healthy workplace.
2. This year's theme is *Sharing safety knowledge and experience benefits everyone*.
3. Nationally work-related injury and disease cost the Australian community \$61.8 billion a year. Poor work health and safety costs \$5000 per worker each year and equates to 4.1 per cent of Australia's gross domestic product.
4. The past 12 months have seen mixed reports on the state of work health and safety in the Territory. A national comparison report released by Safe Work Australia (2017) showed the rate of serious injury and disease in ACT workplaces had fallen each year since 2010-11.
5. An independent actuarial review of 2015-16 workers' compensation data also showed that lost time injury frequency rates in the ACT reached a historic low of 0.26 for every million dollars in wages earned. This represents a reduction of almost 19 per cent in the serious injury frequency rate over a three year period.
6. That Report also showed that for the third year in a row, the Health Care and Social Assistance Industry experienced the highest rate of lost time injuries, followed by the Construction Industry.
7. These two high risk industries together account for more than 40 per cent of all lost time injuries, despite the fact that they employ only around 20 per cent of the private sector workforce. In both industries, the most common causes of work injury were manual handling and slips trips and falls, which accounted for more than half of all injuries.
8. These sectors, as well as the risk areas of manual handling and slips trips and falls, will be a key focus of ACT activities around Safe Work Month.
9. In the ACT public sector, work injury numbers are also trending downwards. In 2016-17 the number of work injuries was 4 per cent lower than in 2015-16 and 13 per cent lower than in 2014-15. Across the ACT public service, safety reminders will be provided throughout the month.
10. Access Canberra continues to work with industry, industry bodies, workers and unions to ensure safety is a key priority during the month of awareness, but also every day of the year.

Issues

11. This year Access Canberra has taken a coordinated approach to Work Safety Month partnering with a range of interest groups such as: Ozhelp, Healthy Tradie Project, SunSmart, Care Inc, Nutrition Australia, R U OK and Sexual Health ACT to provide safety and wellbeing information to local workers. The ACT's Government Healthier Work initiative is also an active support partner.
12. An exciting partnership has also been created for the first time with the Westfield Group.
13. Westfield Woden is partnering with Access Canberra during October by holding a

series of pop up events for retailers on safety which Access Canberra will lead. This will include providing information on slips, trips and falls and manual handling workshops for retailers, noting the risk areas.

14. Westfield has also indicated an interest in partnering with Access Canberra every month around safety issues in the retail sector, noting safety is an ongoing focus.
15. Access Canberra has worked with local construction companies to have a series of barbecues during the week on construction sites.
16. WorkSafe inspectors as well as members of Access Canberra's leadership and proactive teams will attend to talk to workers. Information from partners will also be provided.
17. The barbecues are an initiative strongly supported by industry as they provide a relaxed and collaborative way to inform, engage and support the sector. Barbecues will be publicised through social media.
18. Access Canberra has also been working with local construction companies to develop a series of safety awareness raising posters, featuring local tradies and their families. Examples are at Attachment C. It is proposed this initiative is launched as part of an official recognition of the month in early October 2017.
19. There are a number of strategic regulatory activities and outcomes which have also been coordinated during the month including:
 - a. Launch of the next NSW/ACT cross-border activity and outcome and lessons learned to date
 - b. The commencement of the proactive Young Worker's audit being undertaken by WorkSafe ACT
 - c. The outcome of the proactive Scaffolding Audit being released
 - d. Forward calendar of WorkSafe ACT's proactive activity being presented to key stakeholders
20. To officially launch National Safe Work Month locally a media event is proposed for 9.30am on Wednesday, 4 October 2017 at the Campbell 5 construction site, pending your availability. Timing is flexible.
21. The Healthy Tradie Project has agreed to be part of a launch and provide 30 mins of Tradie Power Yoga for the construction workers to support the general wellbeing push and the Work Safety Commissioner as well as a site construction safety manager would also be present.
22. At this time noting some stakeholder pressures, it is proposed a launch is kept to Access Canberra and other month partners.
23. The summary of events and activities are at Attachment D which includes a column you can mark interest in being part of.

Financial Implications

24. The construction companies and the Westfield shopping centre hosting events will meet the associated costs. The costs associated with the event merchandise and corflute signs will be managed within existing budget.

Consultation

Internal

25. Consultation has taken place across the ACT Public Service to capture and coordinate any activities planned during the month.

Cross Directorate

26. The Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations Division in CMTEEDD have been kept informed of activity and the Healthier Work Team are active partners.

External

27. A meeting was held earlier this month with the Master Builders Association ACT, Canberra Business Chamber, Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union and UnionsACT to discuss how the month can be used to raise the profile of safety in the workplaces and on worksites across the ACT throughout the month. Feedback from this meeting has been used to inform activities.

Benefits/Sensitivities

28. Unions ACT has indicated they will use the month to campaign for the following actions to occur when it comes to work safety regulation in the ACT:
 - a. For WorkSafe to be a standalone agency outside of Access Canberra
 - b. For a greater level of enforcement and prosecution to occur by Access Canberra.
29. Unions ACT has advised a rally will be held in Dickson on 26 October 2017 to conclude the month and to push for the above activity.
30. Ongoing tension between Unions ACT and other key stakeholders such as the Master Builders Association has proved problematic in providing a cohesive approach to the activities during the month.
31. On 28 September 2017, Unions ACT provided a request for Access Canberra to co-brand a number of posters for schools on worker safety and rights. Access Canberra has concerns around this approach if only two of the logos are used in terms of community and industry perception and will discuss further with your Office.
32. The Union may also raise concerns that the month does not have a 'dedicated' budget or concerns around level of coordination.
33. It has been outlined to the Union that while Work Safety Month is an important time to put a spotlight on workplace safety, this work is also undertaken every day by Access Canberra and continues to be an important part of the agency's core business.

Client Service Impact

34. Industry, key stakeholders and interest groups have overwhelmingly welcomed supporting the month in partnership with Access Canberra, as indicated by the series of rolling events scheduled during the month.
35. This is the first year that a rolling series of events are being supported as well as connected industry engagement.

Media Implications

36. Work Safe Month provides an opportunity to provide a concerted local push when it comes to workplace safety, to complement the work undertaken by Access Canberra every day.
37. During the month Access Canberra will be highlighting key activity through social media, and will provide a summary of activity through industry newsletters and communication channels at the end of the month.
38. A launch in early October 2017 provides an opportunity to set the agenda for safety which will then continue during the month. It is suggested an opinion piece is also provided to media from your Office highlighting the importance and approach to workplace safety by the ACT Government. This is currently being drafted for consideration.
39. It is expected that the Union ACT's campaign activity will receive media coverage during the month.

Signatory Name: Greg Jones Phone: x70360

Action Officer: Emily Springett Phone: x59093

Attachments

Attachment	Title
Attachment A	Media Release
Attachment B	Talking Points
Attachment C	WorkSafe posters
Attachment D	Program of Activities



Media release

2 October 2017

Workplace safety key priority for Access Canberra

The safety of Canberrans at workplaces across the ACT is the key priority of WorkSafe ACT and a vital priority for Access Canberra.

Access Canberra Deputy Director-General Dave Peffer today said the organisation is committed to delivering safer workplaces across all sectors.

“Ensuring Canberrans go to work at a safe place and go home safely is a key focus of Access Canberra and one on which we continue to work closely with all our stakeholders, including unions” Mr Peffer said.

“Unfortunately, the campaign launched today is based on out-of-date data, which does not reflect improvements made since WorkSafe ACT became part of Access Canberra.

“Since becoming part of Access Canberra, workplace visits across the ACT have nearly doubled, from 2,690 visits in 2014-15 to 4,923 in 2016-17.

“Greater presence of our inspectors in the field is translating into better safety outcomes. The recent Safe Work Australia report shows that the rate of serious injury and disease in ACT workplaces has fallen each year since 2010-11.

“In addition, a recent independent actuarial review of 2015-16 workers’ compensation data reveals that lost time injury frequency rates in the ACT reached a historic low of 0.26 for every million dollars in wages earned. This represents a reduction of almost 19 per cent in the serious injury frequency rate over a three year period.”

Mr Peffer said WorkSafe ACT has a dedicated team of 35 inspectors.

“A great benefit of WorkSafe forming part of Access Canberra is that it enables a greater drawing of resources and expertise from across the organisation to support work safety.

“This means a greater level of safety for workers as well as for the broader community.”

Mr Peffer said he was disappointed to see comments around there not being a dedicated Work Safety Commissioner, with changes made in July 2017 to support this.

“In July Access Canberra made structural changes across the organisation to enhance workplace safety and ensure resourcing is where it is needed most to deliver on government priorities and community needs,” he said.

“We engaged with Unions ACT in the lead-up to these changes, which support an increased focus on work health and safety and greater education to support safety on worksites as well as other workplaces across the Territory.

“Statutory office responsibilities were realigned enabling the Work Safety Commissioner to focus solely on this function, with the statutory responsibilities of Construction Occupations Registrar and Environment Protection Authority filled by other officers.

“These changes are yet to take full effect, due to the need to undertake recruitment for a new position. They will soon be completed and we will continue to monitor the effectiveness of our structures and policies in consultation with all stakeholders.”

Mr Pepper concluded by reaffirming his commitment to working with all stakeholders, including UnionsACT to support safety in the community.

“We all have a responsibility and role in supporting work safety in the ACT – be it government, unions, employers or employees. Access Canberra’s goal is to ensure we can all work together to make a difference.”

Emily Springett **T** (02) 6205 9093 **M** 0413 169 029 **E** emily.springett@act.gov.au

ACT Government | Access Canberra



GPO Box 158, Canberra ACT 2601



13 22 81



www.act.gov.au/accessCBR



ATTACHMENT B: TALKING POINTS
National Safe Work Month

Minister: Stephen-Smith
Date: 4 October 2017

SUBJECT: National Safe Work Month in the ACT

KEY MESSAGES:

General – Work Health and Safety Month

- National Safe Work Month is an opportunity for us to recognise the importance of safety in the workplace and our combined focus to reduce the risk of injury in the ACT.
- While the month provides an important opportunity to recognise and talk about safety, it is the key focus of the ACT Government, WorkSafe ACT and Access Canberra each and every day.
- The theme of the month this year is: *Sharing safety knowledge and experience benefits everyone*.
- During the month, WorkSafe ACT will work closely with the construction and retail sectors to promote safe working practices as well as share safety messages and reminders more broadly across the ACT.
- Access Canberra will be promoting National Safe Work Month through a variety of events. This includes initiatives such as:
 - collaboration with the Healthy Tradie Project, Oz Help and R U OK
 - pop-up safety information displays and workshops for retail workers at Westfield Woden
 - barbeques at construction sites and with industry stakeholders to build a safety culture and provide important information and reminders.
- Access Canberra continues to work with key organisations and unions including:
 - the Master Builders Association (MBA), Unions ACT, Canberra Business Chamber, Housing Industry Association (HIA), Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union (CFMEU) and Canberra Business Chamber.
- Over the coming year, Access Canberra and WorkSafe ACT will continue to work with all industries with the aim of educating and reducing workplace injuries.

General – Safety

- Work Safety is a key priority of the ACT Government and of Work Safe ACT.
- Ensuring workers get home safely is everyone’s responsibility: the government, industry, industry bodies, workers themselves, their fellow tradespeople and their site managers.
- We all need to work together to make safety the key priority.
- In the past three years the level of proactive and data-driven regulation by WorkSafe ACT has increased and there continues to be a strong commitment to working with industry to improve health and safety outcomes.
- Infringements are one measure that can be taken when it comes to regulating workplace safety, alongside engagement and education of industry.
- In **2015/2016** WorkSafe ACT:
 - Undertook 4,272 workplace inspections resulting in:
 - 119 Improvement Notices issued under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*
 - one Improvement notice issued under the *Dangerous Substances Act 2004*
 - 65 Prohibition Notices issued under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*
 - three Prohibition notices issued under the *Dangerous Substances Act 2004*.

1,434 (included in total number above) of the workplace inspections were for events and proactive campaigns across the WorkSafe ACT inspectorate.

- In **2016/2017** WorkSafe ACT:
 - Undertook 4,923 workplace inspections resulting in:
 - 140 Improvement Notices issued under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*
 - one Improvement notice issued under the *Dangerous Substances Act 2004*
 - 58 Prohibition Notices issued under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*

1,933 (included in the total number above) of the workplace inspections were for events and proactive campaigns across the WorkSafe ACT inspectorate.

- In line with Safe Work Australia’s National Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012-22 targets, the Government is committed to a reduction of at least 30 per cent in the incidence rate of claims resulting in one or more weeks off work.

- The Government is also committed to providing a greater proactive approach to working with all stakeholders to improve safety outcomes for ACT workplaces and the broader community and this is what WorkSafe ACT has been doing.
- The past 12 months have seen mixed reports on the state of work health and safety in the Territory.
- A national comparison report released by Safe Work Australia recently shows that the rate of serious injury and disease in ACT workplaces has fallen each year since 2010-11.
- While we still have more work to do in reducing serious workplace injuries, a recent independent actuarial review of 2015-16 workers' compensation data reveals that lost time injury frequency rates in the ACT reached a historic low of 0.26 for every million dollars in wages earned. This represents a reduction of almost 19 per cent in the serious injury frequency rate over a three year period.
- That Report also showed that for the third year in a row, the Health Care and Social Assistance Industry experienced the highest rate of lost time injuries, followed by the Construction Industry.
- These two high risk industries together account for more than 40 per cent of all lost time injuries, despite the fact that they employ only around 20 per cent of the private sector workforce.
- In both industries, the most common causes of work injury were manual handling and slips trips and falls, which accounted for more than half of all injuries.
- Identifying ways to reduce the serious injury rate in the Health Care and Social Assistance Industry is a priority for the ACT Work Safety Council.
- In the ACT public sector, work injury numbers are also trending downwards. In 2016-17 the number of work injuries was 4 per cent lower than in 2015-16 and 13 per cent lower than in 2014-15.

Access Canberra approach

- Access Canberra takes an *Engage, Educate and Enforce* approach to compliance; seeking to work with businesses, organisations and individuals to achieve cooperative compliance through engagement and education unless the situation poses an immediate serious risk to the community, workers or the environment, or there is evidence of deliberate and significant non-compliance.

- In addition to taking enforcement action when needed, WorkSafe ACT actively engages with industry to improve safety in an effort to prevent injury. Examples include:
 - Launching the NSW/ACT Cross Border Construction Project 2016-2019. The project aims to increase coordination and cooperation between jurisdictions at a number of levels to create a cultural change in the construction industry. Joint inspections take place four times a year for a week each time and coincide with an information session and industry breakfast.
 - Producing twenty safety videos in partnership with Safe Work Australia, Unions ACT, Housing Industry Association, Master Builders Association, Training Fund Authority and the Construction Industry Training Council to engage and educate members of the construction industry on the areas of high risk activities.
 - Producing a regular industry newsletter sent to 13,000 individual subscribers covering information on construction, environment and workplace matters.
 - Working with Skills Canberra and employers of apprentice training programs to ensure young workers (especially apprentices) are receiving appropriate supervision and to provide education on work health and safety issues relevant to their industry.
 - Developed a variety of education and guidance material with key safety messages distributed through social media platforms.
 - Participated in a range of joint inspection programs with other inspectorate branches of the Directorate, focusing on engagement and education.

Action officer: Emily Springett (x59093)

Cleared by: Greg Jones

Date: 29 September 2017

Did you know most injuries in the workplace are from slips, trips and falls or manual handling?

While injury rates are declining across the Territory, we all need to work together to reduce them even more.

Watch your step by:

- cleaning up spills
- wearing appropriate shoes
- avoiding wet floors
- keeping equipment and stock out of walkways.

Tips to help you lift

- use mechanical aids if available
- ask for help if something is too heavy or awkward to lift
- carry loads close to your body
- lift using your thigh muscles
- take regular breaks

Easier. Simpler. Here to Help.



ACT
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**Access
Canberra.**

Let's all work together
to make our work safe.

Greg Jones

ACT Work Safety Commissioner





ACT
Government

Justice and Community Safety

Alison Playford

in conjunction with JACS Work Health and Safety Team

invites you to attend a

National Safe Work Month Event

Extreme weather events are already occurring and expected to become more common, more severe and longer-lasting as our climate changes.

Join our guest speakers who will discuss their areas of research and how they are preparing the community and workers to cope with the challenges posed by a changing environment.

There will be an opportunity to interact with the speakers and other experts during the event.

CLIMATE CHANGE A risk to workers

Date:

Wednesday 11 October

Time:

09:00 – 13:00

Location:

Johnson Auditorium
Pilgrim House
69 Northbourne Ave
Canberra



WORKSAFEACT



Australian Government
Bureau of Meteorology

Guest Speakers:

Gary Allan, Australian Government, Bureau of Meteorology

Dr Liz Hannah, Honorary Senior Fellow Climate Change Institute ANU

Dominic Lane, ACT Emergency Services Agency, Commissioner

Fergus Gardiner, Senior Research Officer for the Centre for Palliative Care Research, Health Care Bruce and the Australian Catholic University

Greg Jones, Work Safety Commissioner ACT

Dr Anthony Walker, ACT Fire & Rescue, University of Canberra, Bond University

RSVP: JACS WHS Team on 6207 3985 or jacs_ohs@act.gov.au by Wednesday 4 October

My mum works
on this site:


**Help her get
home safe!**



#safeworkmonth

safeworkmonth.swa.gov.au

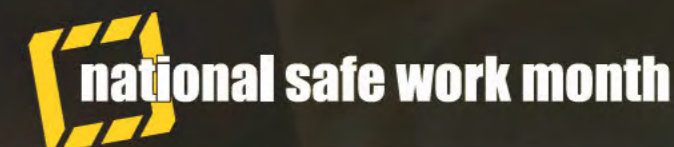




My dad works
on this site:
**Help him get
home safe!**

#safeworkmonth

safeworkmonth.swa.gov.au




A man in a white hard hat and a woman in a yellow hard hat are looking at blueprints on a construction site. The man is holding a pencil and pointing at the plans. The woman is also holding a pencil and looking at the plans. The background shows a brick building under construction.

My daughter
works on
this site:

**Help her
get home
safe!**

#safeworkmonth

safeworkmonth.swa.gov.au

 national safe work month

My son works
on this site:

**Help him get
home safe!**

#safeworkmonth

safeworkmonth.swa.gov.au



DID YOU KNOW?

**YOU CAN
REFUSE TO DO
UNSAFE WORK
AT ANY TIME.**

**FEEL UNSAFE AT WORK?
UNSURE OF WHAT TO DO?**

**CONTACT YOUR SUPERVISOR IF YOU CAN
CALL WORKSAFE ACT ON 13 22 81
TEXT 'SAFETY' TO 0451 562 256**



Authorised by A White for UnionsACT, Canberra 2017

youngworkerscbr.org.au

WC

CT



DID YOU KNOW?

APPRENTICES MUST WORK SUPERVISED.

**FEEL UNSAFE AT WORK?
UNSURE OF WHAT TO DO?**

**CONTACT YOUR SUPERVISOR IF YOU CAN
CALL WORKSAFE ACT ON 13 22 81
TEXT 'SAFETY' TO 0451 562 256**



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youngworkerscbr.org.au

WC

CT



DID YOU KNOW?

**EMPLOYERS
MUST ENSURE
YOU HAVE A SAFE
& RESPECTFUL
WORKPLACE.**

FEEL BULLIED?

UNSURE OF WHAT TO DO?

CONTACT YOUR SUPERVISOR IF YOU CAN

CALL WORKSAFE ACT ON 13 22 81

TEXT 'SAFETY' TO 0451 562 256



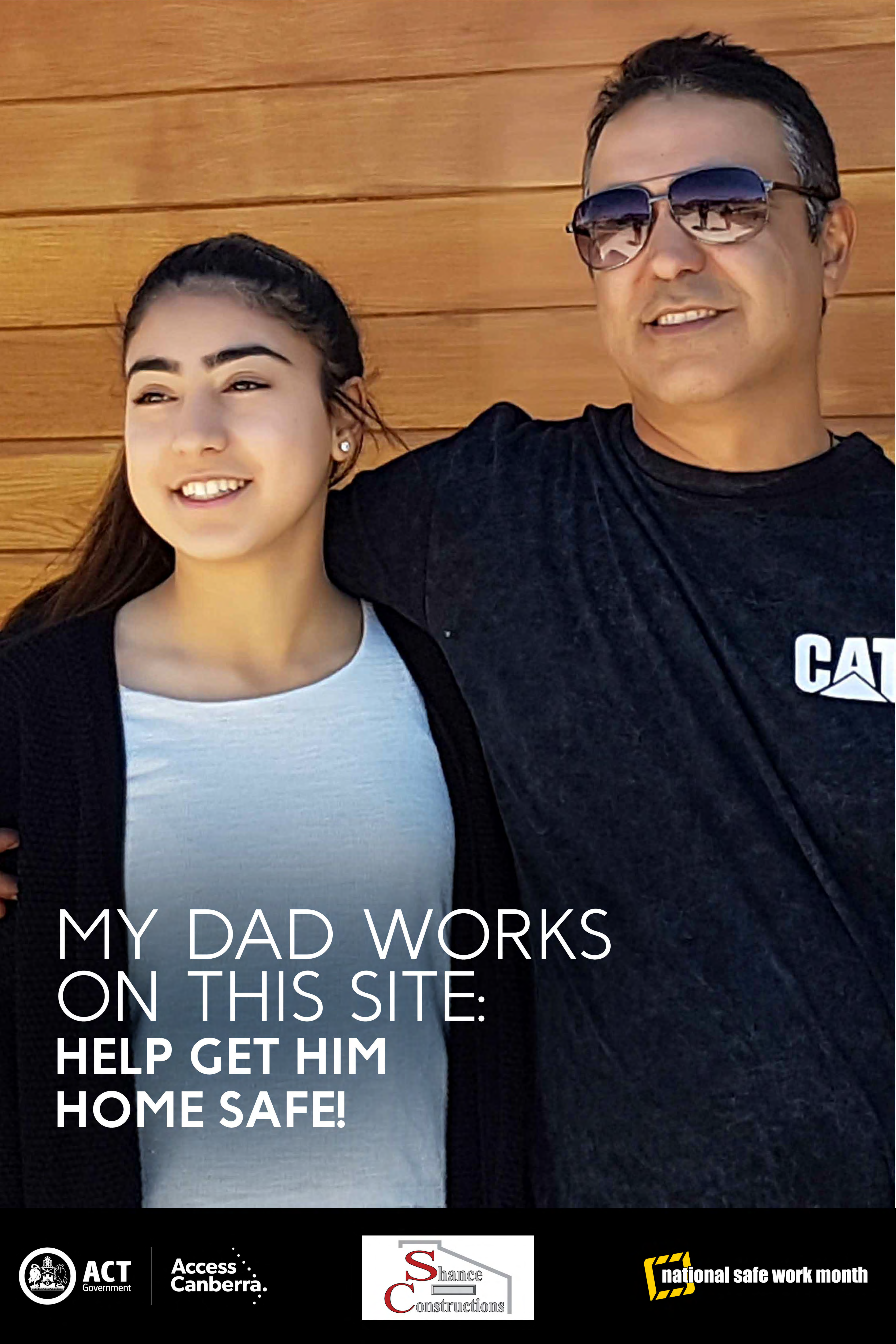
Authorised by A White for UnionsACT, Canberra, 2017.

youngworkerscbr.org.au

WC

CT





MY DAD WORKS
ON THIS SITE:
HELP GET HIM
HOME SAFE!



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MY SON WORKS
ON THIS SITE:
HELP GET HIM
HOME SAFE!

For more information on work safety visit act.gov.au/accessCBR or call **13 22 81**





MY MUM WORKS
ON THIS SITE:
HELP GET HER
HOME SAFE!



MY SON WORKS
ON THIS SITE:
HELP GET HIM
HOME SAFE!



MY SON WORKS
ON THIS SITE.
HELP GET HIM
HOME SAFE!



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MY DAD WORKS
ON THIS SITE:
HELP GET HIM
HOME SAFE!





MY DAUGHTER
WORKS ON THIS SITE:
HELP GET HER
HOME SAFE!





MY DAD WORKS
ON THIS SITE:
HELP GET HIM
HOME SAFE!



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MY DAUGHTER
WORKS ON THIS SITE:
HELP GET HER
HOME SAFE!



National Safe Work Month Activities 2017 – Access CBR/WorkSafe ACT

Date	Event	Host Company	Location
3-31/10	Promotion of ACT Safety Videos throughout month Sharing of SWA materials throughout month	WorkSafe ACT	Social media by Greg Jones
5/10	BBQ Series 1*	Empire Global WorkSafe ACT attend	SQ1 Tuggeranong Social media by Greg Jones
6/10	Cross Border Breakfast (outcomes of NSW/ACT joint compliance activities shared)	WorkSafe ACT	Ainslie Football Club
6/10	Scaffolding audit release	WorkSafe ACT	Media release and social media, report online
8-14/10	Mental Health Week	National initiative	Social media to support
9-13/10	Cross Border Inspections	WorkSafe ACT / SafeWork NSW	Various sites across ACT/NSW Media release and social media Greg Jones
10/10	World Mental Health Day	National initiative	Social media by Greg Jones
10/10	Investigation outcome	WorkSafe ACT	TBC, media release
11/10	Climate Change – A risk to workers presentation by Greg Jones	Justice and Community Safety Directorate WorkSafe ACT	Pilgrim House
11/10	Retail Pop Up session 1 – focus on manual handling and slips, trips and falls* **	Westfield Access CBR attend – WorkSafe proactive, Business Engagement Compliance and enforcement team	Woden
12/10	Information Forum*	Healthier Work	CIT Reid
12/10 TBC	Posters on worksites	WorkSafe ACT/ local construction industry	WorkSafe ACT
13/10	BBQ Series 2*	Manteena WorkSafe ACT attend	Amaroo School Project Social media by Greg Jones
16-20/10	Airport Safety Week	Australia Airports Association	Social media by Greg Jones
16/10	Message to all ACTPS – Greg Jones and Bronwen Overton-Clarke	ACTPS	Message for all ACTPS Screensavers
16/10	Slides at Cosmo screens – tips for safety in ABW	Access Canberra	Screens in Cosmo Message from Greg and Dave to staff

	environment and customer fronting environment		
17/10	BBQ Series 3*	Project Coordination WorkSafe ACT attend	Marist College Project
18/10	Retail Pop Up session 2 - focus on manual handling and slips, trips and falls* **	Westfield Access CBR attend – WorkSafe proactive, Business Engagement Compliance and enforcement	Woden
19/10	BBQ Series 4*	Lend Lease WorkSafe ACT attend	ANU Project Childers Street Social media by Greg Jones
20/10	BBQ Series 5*	PBS Property Group WorkSafe ACT attend	Goodwin Farrer Project Social media by Greg Jones
24/10	BBQ Series 6*	Project Coordination WorkSafe ACT attend	Eastlake Football Club Project Social media by Greg Jones
27/10	BBQ Series 7*	PBS Property Group WorkSafe ACT attend	Ngunnawal Project Monty Place Social media by Greg Jones
30/10	Email newsletter Construction sector	WorkSafe ACT	Summary of month – links to resources
31/10	Retail Pop Up session 3 - focus on manual handling and slips, trips and falls* **	Westfield Access CBR attend – WorkSafe proactive, Business Engagement Compliance and enforcement	Woden
TBC	Launch of Young workers audit	WorkSafe ACT	TBC
TBC	Electrical Trade Union Forum	WorkSafe ACT	Cosmo
TBC	Development of retail sub portal (similar in design to construction sub portal launched in August, with targeted retail information)	Access CBR	
TBC	Mail out posters to key retail and retail union **	Access CBR	

* = provision of safety and wellbeing information packs for retail as well as different ones for construction sector

** = provision of posters for staff areas in retail re: slips, trips and falls and manual handling

17 October 2017

New signs on worksites remind workers why they need to get home safely

WorkSafe ACT has partnered with local construction companies to develop an emotive series of safety awareness signs, featuring local tradies and their families during National Safe Work Month.

ACT Work Safety Commissioner Greg Jones it is often easy to lose sight that workers are also mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, friends and neighbours and deserve to get home safely.

“Supporting safety at work and ensuring workers get home safely has a ripple affect across our entire community,” Mr Jones said. “We unfortunately see the devastating and lasting impact when this doesn’t occur through accident or injury.

“Safety is not an optional extra or more paperwork. It is about ensuring workers go to work in a safe and respectful working environment and after a fair day’s work, head home to their friends and families.”

The signs will be affixed perimeter fencing of construction sites and in worker areas in companies. They feature the following themes and capture tradespeople and their families with messages of:

- My dad/mum works on this site: Help get him/her home safe!
- My son/daughter works on this site: Help get him/her home safe!

A number of local construction companies are already involved including: Project Coordination, Shaw Building Group, Shance Constructions, Rock Construction and VibeFM. Other companies will be invited to participate and it will be explored for other high risk industries into the future such as health and care sectors and retail.

Director and Licensed Builder of VibeFM, Mr Paul O’Keefe, who features on one of the signs alongside his mother, said safety had been a key focus of his over the past 25 years in the industry and welcomed the initiative.

“Work safety is an all year effort but National Safe Work Month reminds you to educate others,” he said. “These days work safety is just too easy so why not be safe and have an incident free work day!”

Mr Jones said he hoped the signs would not only serve as a safety reminder for workers and employers as they entered the worksites each day but also prompt a broader conversation about workplace safety in our community from those walking or driving past and noticing them.

“We are pleased to support this initiative as just one of the strategies we have when it comes to safety education,” Mr Jones concluded.

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www.act.gov.au/accessCBR