

Project 2.1

Safety Impacts of Alcohol and Other Drugs in Construction

RESEARCH PROGRAM 2: DEVELOPING INNOVATION AND SAFETY CULTURES

Project Outputs for 2011

The overarching goal of this project is to enhance the safety of all workers engaged in the Australian infrastructure and building construction workforce by reducing the risk of accidents resulting from impaired performance caused by the use of alcohol and other drugs.

A nationally consistent collaborative approach across the construction workforce - involving employers and employees, unions, clients, contractors, and sub-contractors is required to engender a cultural change in the construction workforce - in a similar manner to the on-going initiative in securing a cultural change to drink-driving in our society where peer intervention and support is encouraged.

Project partners include: John Holland, Queensland University of Technology, Swinburne University of Technology and Curtin University. This project has active participation from leaders in applied research in the evaluation of drugs and alcohol impacts in mining, energy, aviation and rail sectors: Professor Jeremy Davey, Centre for Accident Research and Road Safety - Queensland (CARRS-Q, QUT) and Professor Steve Allsop, Director of the National Drug Research Institute (NDRI, Curtin University).

The challenge is to build safer workplaces through working together on this key national project. The project will be led in a strategic sense by an Industry Steering Committee chaired by a high-profile industry leader, with membership comprising representatives from:

- Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner
- Australian Constructors Association
- Austroads
- Engineers Australia
- Australian Procurement and Construction Council
- Civil Contractors Federation
- Master Builders Australia
- The Australian Workers Union
- Construction Forestry Mining Energy Union
- NSW Roads and Maritime Services

- Bert Biggs presented at the 10th National Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion. Alcohol and other drugs in construction: Safety impacts and roads to the right approach. November 2011, Brisbane.
- Bert Biggs presented at the Safety in Construction Conference. Safety Impacts of Alcohol and Other Drugs in Construction: A mid-term report. November 2011, Sydney.
- Article published in the Engineers Australia Magazine, October 2011 "A Safer Construction Industry".
- A Refereed Conference Paper, "Alcohol and other drugs in construction: Safety impacts and roads to the right approach" was published in the Proceedings of "The 1st International Conference on Safety and Crisis Management in the Construction, Tourism and SMEs Sectors" held in Cyprus, June 2011.
- A Refereed Journal Article, "The role of education and awareness in workplace alcohol and drug use in the Australian construction industry: Proposed program and preliminary results" was submitted for peer review in December 2011.
- Data collection commenced in September 2011 with site visits in Victoria and South Australia. Further site visits in early 2012 are planned in the Northern Territory and South Australia.



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