

MINUTES OF THE NZISM HAWKES BAY BRANCH MEETING

Date: Friday 26 February 2021

Venue: Hastings District Council, 100 Warren Street South, Hastings

Attendees: Jo Graham, Jo Roe, Murray Smith, Shaun Lines, Jennie Kuzman, Noel Giddens, Jarrod Graham, Paul McClusky, Peter Jones, Anthony Walsh, Alex Pegg, Kevin Phillips, Hannah Portas, Andrea Ball and Sherralynne Smith (Secretary)

WorkSafe Update

Presented by Jo Roe, WorkSafe.

There has been a recent restructure.

Nigel Formosa was seconded to the White Island investigation for the bulk of 2020 and has now been appointed as WorkSafe's Central Regional Manager.

There is a new career pathway for WorkSafe Inspectors and there are now Principal Inspectors spread around New Zealand.

Currently there are two Inspectors in the Napier WorkSafe office and two Inspectors in the Gisborne office. Jo commented on the challenges in being visible.

There has been a spate of Asbestos notifications, not just in the Hawkes Bay, but in other regions too.

The current areas of focus are asbestos, forestry, manufacturing and construction.

Asbestos management plans are also a focus area for WorkSafe.

A new bullying/harassment specialist team has been established.

WorkSafe have also established a dedicated team of Health Inspectors across New Zealand. Currently six people in this team. The closest team to the Hawkes Bay is located in Palmerston North.

WorkSafe is focusing on proactive assessments around New Zealand.

In 2020 only urgent visits were carried out. A lot of non-compliance reports. WorkSafe are part of the government's response to Covid19.

WorkSafe are focused on their core business but are wishing to carry out more general inspections and investigated more accidents. They are also developing traffic management guidance, will be running forklift road shoes and promoting seat belt usage.

There was a discuss on the length of Safety Data Sheets. There are currently 16 sections for high risk hazardous substances and seven sections for lower risk hazardous substances.

There will be advice for businesses around respiratory equipment coming out from WorkSafe.

New guidance around high level controls for silicosis.

Maruiti – has links in with Iwi and Maori Health and Safety.

Respirator Protection Programme

Jarrod Graham presented a learning programme around respirators.

The fundamental goal of this programme is to protect people from adverse health effects.

These conditions can be a result of poor respiratory processes:

- COPD
- Asbestosis
- Silicosis
- Occupational Asthma
- Cancer
- Hearing damage
- Mutation of DNA from chemical exposure

The goal is to eliminate the risk.

Don't default to RPF.

Duty to provide information, supervision, training and instruction.

Respirators must be a suitable size and fit. They must also be reasonably comfortable.
Applicable standard is AS/NZ 1715:2009

Selection of respirator should follow the following guidance:

- Type of contaminants
- Level of contaminants
- Comfort and fit
- Suitability for task
- Conforms to AS/NZ 1715:2009
- Medical clearance from GP
- Medical screening is important
- Pre-employment screening
- Regular monitoring and picking up any changes
- Exposure monitoring (blood and urine samples)
- Monitoring must be carried out by Occupational Health professional

Training – covered in parts nine and 17 of General Risk and Workplace Management regulations (General Risk and Workplace Management) and Hazardous Substances regulations.

Issuing of respiratory equipment – should be for individual's exclusive use, no beards, equipment should have an ID mark, filters marked for date of issue and equipment inspected regularly.

Fitting of respiratory equipment

- Must be fitted to wearer
- Self-checks each time the equipment is used
- Two types of tests Qualitative and Quantitative. Each has its pluses and minuses
- Respiratory equipment must be fit tested using quantitative method

Wearing of respiratory equipment

More likely to be worn when it is comfortable, fits well and is accepted.

Most important factors for compliance – comfort, vision, communications, heat.

If people take off their respiratory equipment for 10 minutes, it offers 50 percent less protection.

Attendees completed an exercise on best and worst levels of protection.

Kirsty Basher, Hawkes Bay District Health Board

Kirsty presented on the current roll out of the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination programme around New Zealand. There is a national catchup campaign for MMR vaccines. A large number of people between 15-30 weren't fully immunised when they were children. Over 2000 cases recorded in 2019, however there were no deaths. Samoa recorded 5000 cases and there were 85 deaths directly attributable to measles. We need to protect New Zealand and our neighbours. People born after 1969 had access to measles vaccinations. The DHB wish to vaccinate people at their workplaces to gain maximum coverage. Only DHB's can purchase MMR vaccines until August 2021. The priority is to vaccinate against Covid19 and MMR vaccines after that. Non-resident/international students are eligible for free vaccines. It is estimated that 300,000 people in New Zealand need vaccinating and 7,500 in the Hawkes Bay need the vaccination. It is critical to ensure that women planning to fall pregnant are vaccinated prior to falling pregnant.

Currently in the very early stages of Covid19 immunisations.

Consent forms can be provided prior to vaccination teams visiting workplaces.

Branch Manager election

Two nominations for Branch Manager and Deputy Branch Manager were received.

Jennie Kuzman has been elected as Branch Manager and Dan Davis has been elected as Deputy Branch Manager.

General discussion

A general discussion followed.