

## Wellington Branch Newsletter – June 2023

### What's in this month's newsletter?

- ★ Upcoming events
- ★ Summary of Junes event
- ★ H&S Amendment Bill
- ★ Free asbestos guide for homeowners
- ★ National roadshow
- ★ Loss of postgraduate OHS teaching at Victoria University

### Upcoming events

Remember to keep an eye on other [NZISM events](#) that are happening online throughout the year, including sector forums on various industries where you can connect and network with other practitioners and professionals working in the same sector across NZ. We also have a [Wellington page](#) which shows our upcoming Wellington events and previous newsletters.

### Wellington Branch

#### Using social identity to increase wellbeing and H&S

**Presenter - Hugh Norris**

**When - Tuesday 4 July 12pm**

**Where - NZ Rugby, 100 Molesworth St, Thorndon or online via Zoom. [Register here](#)**



#### Safety Connection: Worker Engagement - Equitable

**Outcomes**

**Co-ordinator - Tom Jones**

**When - Tuesday 12 July 12pm**

**Where - Online via Zoom. [Register here](#)**



## Risk and Control Velocity Recap

Robyn Parkin shared with us her Master of Health research into risk and control velocity, and how you can use this practically and simply with a standard Bowtie analysis to improve your risk management outcomes. The underlying theme was when we think about risk, we usually think about likelihood and consequence: how possible it is that something will happen, and how bad (or good!) it will be if it does.

What we don't usually think about is time: how long it takes before it begins to impact us (risk landscape), how fast it will happen, how long it takes from the "top event" and how long it takes to recover. We also don't think much about how long a control will be effective for, and how fast it fails. It was good to hear about how her work could be utilised in businesses, including but not limited to being used in harmony with asset management.

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## H&S Law Change to Help Keep Workers Safe

The Health and Safety at Work (Health and Safety Representatives and Committees) Amendment Bill has recently been passed. These changes increase workers' access to health and safety representatives, and health and safety committees.

These changes mean that:

- If a worker asks for a health and safety representative, the business must initiate an election. Previously, smaller businesses in sectors that were not prescribed high-risk could decline these requests.
- If a health and safety representative of 5 or more workers asks for a health and safety committee, the business must establish one. Previously, a business could refuse a request to establish a committee where the business is satisfied existing practices sufficiently meet the requirements.

The Act does not make H&S representatives or committees mandatory for businesses. But it is a requirement to have worker participation practices so workers are engaged with health and safety. Businesses will only be required to initiate an election for representatives or establish a committee when they are requested by workers.

For more information here is the [Amendment Bill](#) and information from [MBIE](#).

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## Free Asbestos Home Owners Guide

NZDAA has released the new [Asbestos Awareness guide](#) - produced for homeowners and DIYers, which includes photos of common asbestos problems.

## National Roadshow with Dr Nippin Anand

NZISM members have had the pleasure of working with Nippin before. In 2020, when COVID hit and our plans for a touring roadshow were abruptly scuppered, Nippin worked with us to develop our first online masterclass series. We learnt a lot about accident investigation from a human perspective. Through Nippin's own thoughtful and reflective style we also began to realise the power of language and the art and value of listening. So when we started to hear about the positive reviews of Nippin's new "iCue" programme, we wanted to know more.



We are delighted that Nippin will be flying in to join us this year to provide members with a personal introduction.

For more information click [here](#).

## Loss of postgraduate OHS teaching at Victoria University - Chris Peace

Victoria University of Wellington has a \$33 million hole in its budget. As a result, the university is consulting on disestablishing more than 250 jobs across the university. On 20 June I was told this includes two in workplace health and safety. If you think that postgraduate education of occupational health and safety generalists and research is important for our profession read on!

Jobs in other universities are also “under review” and add up to the equivalent of shutting down one New Zealand university – ignoring that we are part of the engines of research and future wealth!

### The background

The Pike River mine disaster in 2010 killed 29 men. New Zealand responded to that tragedy by changing the legislation to the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 and established WorkSafe NZ as a modern regulator so that both were fit-for-purpose for the 21st century. As part of the changes WorkSafe funded the appointment of Professor Joanne Crawford as the Chair in Workplace Health and Safety at Victoria University of Wellington, leading to development of the Master of Health in workplace health and safety at Victoria University and the appointment of Danae Anderson and me.

## Deaths and injuries continue

Despite the changes to the law and regulator, since 2010 there have been:

- more than 10,000 deaths of men, women and (sometimes) children who have died at or because of work
- nearly half a million people so injured at work that they had to take a week or more off work
- \$6,725 billion dollars of ACC compensation costs 2015-2022
- unknown indirect costs of deaths and injuries to whānau and employers (we can guess at the grief, pain and lifetime economic disadvantage).

WorkSafe can provide some leadership, but New Zealand needs competent health and safety practitioners and professionals working within businesses or consulting to them to help make change. Part of that competence will be gained by tertiary and postgraduate education in health and safety. This will help fulfil the recommendations in the 2013 Independent Taskforce report about health and safety training and education.

## Effects of the cuts in universities and loss of the Master of Health

Think about the effects of the cuts on the future tertiary education of your children, grandchildren, workers, and others! Think also about loss of the Master of Health in Workplace Health and Safety when we have barely begun the programme after the pandemic.

## What you can do to help

If you don't like the planned cuts and their effect on tertiary health and safety training here's what you can do.

- Sign the online Tertiary [Education Union petition](#) today.
- Thinking about enrolling with us for the Master of Health? Enrol before the end of June! This will be a strong signal to the Vice Chancellor; ([more information here](#)).
- Using the above, write a letter about New Zealand's poor health and safety performance; send it to your MP ([email addresses here](#)) and other election candidates. Quote the numbers of deaths, injuries and dollars, and emphasise the need for postgraduate education in health and safety.
- Send a copy of your letter to the Minister of Workplace Safety and to the Minister of Education ([addresses here](#)). Remind your MP and the Ministers this is an election year.
- If you are a member of the New Zealand Institute for Safety Management or New Zealand Safety Council send similar letters from your branch to the Ministers and your local MPs.
- Write to the Victoria University Vice Chancellor ([nic.smith@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:nic.smith@vuw.ac.nz)) expressing support for continued postgraduate OHS teaching at VUW.
- Repost this on LinkedIn so we get maximum support.

Please help ensure the future of tertiary health and safety education in New Zealand!

[Source](#)