

NZISM National Manager's Update January 2018



Hi all NZISM members,

It only seems like a week or two since my last message to everyone prior to the Christmas period, I trust you, your family and friends had the opportunity for a relaxing holiday period and are back at work looking towards another year of contributing to the betterment of New Zealand's health and safety performance. For those who still might be on holiday, well done.

Just prior to Christmas the HASANZ Register was made available for those wishing to apply to be listed on this register, the response from NZISM members so far has been fabulous. As at the 19th of January we have had 54 members submit an application for assessment, well done to you all. A special thanks to the small group of members who are part of the assessment team and for the time and effort you are putting in to assess each and every application. We are targeting about 80 members to be on the register by the end of March, so we are well on our way.

For those submitting applications remember to supply as much verifiable evidence for each of the competencies you are claiming. We are looking for more than just evidence of your baseline health and safety qualifications, so whether its targeted training in the areas of competency, evidence of work in each of the areas and even testimonials from customers, this will help in making the assessment process more streamlined.

For some, it hasn't been a great start to the year with two really serious and tragic events occurring in the construction industry in the first week or two of January. No doubt many of you will have seen the media around both of these events, one of which resulted in fatal injuries. Both these events involved mobile plant and together with the two fatal injuries that occurred in the forestry sector in late 2017 and the poor performance in the agriculture sector which has had a number of vehicle related incidents, it continues to highlight the significant risks many businesses have in this area. If you are involved in any business where vehicles and mobile plant are used, please ensure that appropriate risk management controls have been implemented and workers have been involved in developing those controls and are competent to use and work around those machines.

On a brighter note NZISM is set for a bumper year in terms of its development. We are looking to really work hard on ensuring better alignment of our accreditation system with the INSHPO Capability Framework. We are looking forward to further opportunities to engage with government and WorkSafe NZ as we work towards improving NZ's Health and Safety performance and the part the Health and Safety industry plays in the system. Of course, there will be more activity in the area of engaging with the tertiary sector to challenge them to improve the products they are delivering, you may have seen some articles late last year from me on this and there is more to come in that area.

Lastly, I would just like to highlight two projects that occurred in 2017 that I believe will contribute to improved outcomes in the wider health and safety system. The creation of the whole of government health and safety group, led by the Department of Corrections, is a great initiative. You may have seen as part of this that a group of interns secured placements to help develop their skills in the health and safety area. This, along with the launch of the SafePlus Assessment product has introduced two projects which were positive stories to come out of 2017.

I really encourage everyone to promote good news health and safety stories, all too often it is the tragic, and bad news that we see too much of and use to direct our effort. Remember there are a lot of people doing good things to help business deliver on their statements that their *"People are their most valuable assets!"* Let's learn from success.

Greg Dearsly

National Manager

If you wish to contact me, please do so by email at nationalmanager@nzism.org