

'It's no accident' is the OHS newsletter of the AMWU. Feedback and story ideas to amwu@amwu.asn.au

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AMWU MEMBERS



Image courtesy of Hazards.org

Contracting out is a safety hazard

A report by the superannuation industry on Australia's 200 largest public companies, found that in 2018, there were 22 work fatalities from 13 of these companies. This is a rather shocking statistic - the richest and biggest are not protecting workers and appear to be contracting out their dangerous jobs.

The report said:

"A majority of these involved contractors, suggesting that workplace health and safety standards are not uniformly applied. We are concerned that the lack of transparency about workplace fatalities in Australia may mask the extent of this tragedy and slow the identification of systemic risks."

These big companies should listen to the advice of an AMWU member:

"A safe workplace is where workers have built relationships. Management big stick methods don't work. Safety is controlled by the workers, not by systems but by attitude. Attitude and relationships build safety culture."

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IT'S NO ACCIDENT

HEALTH AND SAFETY NEWS

AUGUST 2019

Work Shouldn't Hurt: ACTU Survey of 25,000 workers

"This survey shows that you are almost twice as likely to have suffered an injury at work than to have a secure job."
Liam O'Brian, ACTU

Over 1,000 AMWU members were among the 25,000 who answered the ACTU Health and Safety Survey. Thank you to all who took part.

We used your answers in the AMWU submission to the government about the need to adopt the 34 recommendations of the Boland Review into WHS laws.

A sobering 30% of AMWU respondents know someone who has been killed or died from a work-related disease.

The survey showed overwhelming support for our three key issues:

1. Justice for victims including industrial manslaughter laws
2. Improved HSR rights to training and assistance
3. A regulation on psychological risks.

Many respondents commented on the problems of work and mental health:

"Physical health and safety where I work is good. But on-call, out-of-hours, overwork and lack of staff are causing mental health issues. The push down the line culture with doing more with less is a real issue."

"Psychosocial hazards need to be more clearly enshrined in WHS laws. This would aid in destigmatisation and make it harder for employers to bully or exploit staff."

"Yes mental health is becoming a major issue throughout our industry due to the shift in the employment structure. Labour hire /casual and under employed."

Take the
Review of Australian Work Health and Safety Laws worker survey



Findings include:

- 12% answered that they had experienced a psychological injury/illness due to work
- 36% had experienced a physical injury and 32% had experienced both

In the last year:

- 52% had experienced long work hours
- 54% had experienced high workloads
- 43% had experienced poor workplace relationships – bullying, aggression, harassment, etc.

PLEASE PLACE ON NOTICEBOARD

Long work hours are dangerous

Sleep is the body's second most powerful urge, after breathing.

The longer the shift, the higher the risk of injury.

What's needed:

- **Regular breaks during and between shifts**
- **A limit of 2-3 consecutive nights or 12-hour shifts**
- **Ensure at least two days off in a row, twice a month.**

