

## Waikato Safety Liaison Group meeting

Friday 26 October 2018 at 12.30pm - Site Safe Offices 67A Seddon Road

### **Present:**

Rodger Hollins (Site Safe), Karen Goodburn (WSF), Grant Wharry (Downey), Mark (Gibson), Doug Sweeney (Gibson), Sandra Williams (WorkSafe), Karl Emslie (Edge Protection), John Dennis (Roy Dennis Construction), David Sopp (ISS) John Arand (AMS), Lisa Taylor (ACC)

### **Apologies:**

Gary Lightfoot (WSF), Rae MacDonald (RTE), David Holmes (Transformation Ltd), Annette McKenzie (Placemakers), Kim Wihare (LBL), Kevin (Stride)

Apologies Accepted

Welcome

- Thank you to SiteSafe for use of Venue and food provided
- Health & Safety - Site Safe Venue

### **Minutes of previous meeting – Accepted**

Matters arising?

- Update from Kim re The Vertical Construction Leaders group – (Naylor Love)
  - Kim not at WSLG meeting
- Karl from Edge Protection
  - Sent photos through to WorkSafe
  - SARNZ Guidelines for Scaffolding & Asbestos
    - Covers requirements for scaffolding and edge protection

### **Focus Group Presentation**

- Ideas for future focus group presentations - Rodger – feedback from the group on what they would like to have:
  - Vertical construction leaders group update
  - Mental health & Suicide in the construction industry
  - Requirements for clothing to be worn on construction sites – no hard or fast rules
    - Best practice – reasonably practicable steps
      - Sweating causes more safety issues – glasses fogging up
    - Sunscreen
    - Molemap?
    - Hazard & Risk assessment per site
  - Education for residential builders on Health & Safety
  - SiteSafe website has a lot of good resources

### **ACC Update – Lisa Taylor**

Consultation for 19/20 & 20/21 closed on Thursday 25 October. (from 1/4/19)

Proposals:

- Reduction in Employer payments by 6.9%
  - Increase in the freight sector
- Staff payments for ACC up 2.5% (\$20 annually based on \$50K Salary)
- Increase in Petrol ACC tax

- Increase in Rego ACC by 12%
- Motorbike levy @\$25.00 is not changing
- Experience rating – this is on your ACC invoice
  - This is how industry perform against peers (from 2<sup>nd</sup> week ACC onwards), currently based on last 3 years
  - Claims above the industry average can incur a loading of up to 75% (Proposed to increase this to 100%)
  - Claims below industry average may get a discount of up to 50% (Proposed this will remain the same)
- Any queries or disputes regarding ACC injuries (especially if employee has not reported anything) – on your ACC Employee Claim form – e-mail [workinjury.inquiries@acc.co.nz](mailto:workinjury.inquiries@acc.co.nz), 40% of disputes are upheld
- Also try using a physio if the injury is minor (e.g. sprain or strain) as they cannot issue a ACC18 (time off work) but can provide advice on a treatment plan.
  - The doctors ACC45 should have three things on it
    - Diagnosis – what the issue is
    - Prognosis – time to heal
    - Restrictions – what duties the employee can do

*Follow up from Lisa on Questions asked at WSLG Meeting:*

### **Following up on the query regarding changes to the Holidays Act.**

Changes were made to the Holidays Act that came into play in January 2018.

The changes relate to a changing of the term Medical Practitioner to Health Practitioner as defined by the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003. E.g. Registered nurses will be able to issue sick leave certificated, (subject to other criteria being met).

However, this **does not** extend to ACC.

Within the current legislation (Accident Compensation Act 2001) only those that are registered with the Medical Council of NZ can issue ACC18's and incapacity. The changes to the Holidays Act will not alter who can and cannot write put a person off work due to an injury.

### **\$500 Medical Fees (as part of the Experience Rating Calculation)**

This query related to the claims above \$500 that contribute to an employer's experience rating. The question was asked if the \$500 is being reviewed as it could easily be gobbled up with x-rays and specialist appointments. At this stage it is not being reviewed.

To further clarify, the \$500 is not what an injured person or the employer pays after seeing a treatment provider... it is what ACC pays. i.e. it is the amount that ACC pays directly to the treatment provider as a subsidy.

e.g. We will pay a GP\$36.26 for a ACC claim. (The amount that a person pays at the GP is in addition to that and is determined by that GP. For a physio, osteo, chiro etc. we will pay \$26.52 as a flat rate.

So for a person going to a GP and having treatment, it would take a lot of sessions to get up over \$500.

When I look at invoices and claims info and see that companies have high med fees, it can be an indication that:

1. The risk management system is not working as well as it could, because there are some more serious injuries occurring that are not coming through in other similar sized businesses doing the same work, or

2. That a review of the treatment plan is needed to see if it is appropriate for the type of injury being presented

Happy to take any questions on this.

And the offer is there if you would like to go over your experience rating information for your business and what it is showing you. (You would just need to provide me with the company employer ACC number) We can do this over the phone.

- Grant also reminded everyone about the ACC up to 50% Funded Health & Safety Training for Supervisors and H & S personnel. It is industry specific and well worth the value.

### **WorkSafe Update**

- None available from WorkSafe, but
- David Sopp was involved in the Safety Guidelines for Precast Concrete, which will be available on the WorkSafe website

### **WSLG Around the table:**

- Grant Wharry – 3M, through Safety & Apparel did a Toolbox Fit test for Respiratory risk - - free presentation
  - I spoke to our Safety & Apparel Rep and you apparently have to be using the 3M products to get the free Toolbox presentation – but do ask. (Karen at WSF)
  - 3M also offering a Hearing Conservation Session
  - Also asked 3M about training employees on Exposure to Hazards
  - Documentation of employee training
  - How to read MSDS
  - There is a short section on Hazardous Substances in the SiteSafe training (Rodger)
  - Also – Sport Waikato's, Watene, has done a presentation on mental health & wellbeing – maybe as a focus group presentation?

### **General Business:**

Dates for 2019 Meetings

- Friday 22nd February 2019
- Friday 26th April 2019
- Friday 28th June 2019
- Friday 30th August 2019
- Friday 25th October 2019
- Friday 13th December 2019??

Meeting closed at +- 1.45pm