

SAFEGUARD

November/December 2011 • Issue 130

www.safeguard.co.nz

Check points

Screening for safety



Supreme safety advocates | Arc flashes | Slosh factors

Leading New Zealand to better health and safety performance



Construction Safety Council

The *Construction Safety Council* (CSC) has been established by the construction industry with the aim of making workplaces safer, reducing the amount of time lost through injury, and reducing the number and severity of injuries.

Project director Claire Cohen says the CSC developed out of discussions between key industry organisations about a more collaborative approach to health and safety.

A framework that was already under development for residential health and safety was taken as the basis for exploring options. In late 2009 a three year strategic plan was agreed.

Individual workshops were then held with the residential, civil, and commercial sectors, and with the specialist trades, with the objective of understanding the current position and future expectations of each sector with regard to health and safety.

An important consideration was to determine the degree of alignment (if any) between the sectors. Agreement was reached on nine areas that would underpin an overarching system of health and safety: the visibility of risk; the awareness of consequences; fairness; comprehensiveness; up to date; practicality; consistency; coverage; and affordability.

Workshops identified the gaps that currently exist. Eight representatives from the

residential, commercial, civil and specialist trades sectors were appointed to the CSC and *Warwick Quinn* (CE, *Master Builders' Federation*) was elected as the chairperson. A strategic plan was agreed, which articulates nine areas of action, associated projects, and key performance indicators.

In its first year the CSC will be concentrating on four projects. A draft report has been prepared on health and safety data, which includes recommendations for more joined-up information between the ACC, the Department of Labour, and the sector.

A partnership with the DoL will focus on the elimination of non-compliant behaviour through better sector communication and clearer roles and responsibilities.

A further project, which will be underway by the end of 2011, will establish principles and systems for the endorsement of individual training to meet defined standards.

The project will be based upon a tiered accreditation framework that recognises health and safety training; allows for multi-site endorsement; and rewards compliant health and safety systems. It will be managed by a steering group of industry experts, who will guide sector specific representatives from the commercial, residential, civil, and specialist trades sectors to identify hazards and define the required health and safety training.

The development of the training will



Warwick Quinn, chair CSC

involve Industry Training Organisations, private providers, and polytechnics. The CSC, which resides under the umbrella of the *Construction Industry Council*, has official government recognition and is a partner with the ACC and the DoL on the Construction Sector Action Plan (2010-13). During 2011/12 the CSC will actively support the DoL project to reduce slips, trips and falls from height.

For more information on the CSC contact Claire Cohen, on 021 406 273 or safety@cscnz.co.nz

Holding court

Comedian and MC *Michèle A'Court* is flanked by *Lesley Haines*, deputy chief executive of the DoL's Labour Group, and *Garry Menhennet*, executive director of Site Safe New Zealand, at the celebration dinner in Auckland in November for this year's graduates of Site Safe's Certificate in Construction Site Safety course, run by Unitec. Peter Heaphy, chairman of Site Safe, announced that four scholarships covering course fees would soon be offered to Maori and Pasifika students.



Peter Bateman