

Scope: This Policy applies to all employees, visitors, volunteers and contractors in Department of Education (Department) workplaces and activities, and instances when performing work offsite. The Department commits, so far as reasonably practicable, to:

Management Commitment



Support and value its people and recognise a legal and moral commitment to building a positive workplace culture, ensuring healthy and safe working and learning environments by:

- providing and integrating a robust and credible, Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Management System that aligns with legislative requirements and the Department's strategic direction and operations
- providing and maintaining inclusive workplaces that mitigate risks to physical and psychological health and safety
- outlining expectations and accountabilities, and empowering leaders and employees to play an active role in maintaining healthy and safe workplaces
- embedding and promoting a culture of shared responsiveness, willingness, and ownership, relating to reporting, and addressing health, safety and wellbeing risks
- providing and applying a robust injury management framework to foster and build a strong culture of early intervention, rehabilitation and return to work.

Consultation Commitment



Consult, collaborate, and communicate with employees including health and safety representatives on:

- identifying hazards, assessing risks, and making decisions about the measures to control risks to health and safety and proposed changes to the workplace that may affect the health, safety, and wellbeing of persons
- health, safety, and wellbeing issue resolution
- provision of health, safety and wellbeing information, training, instruction, and supervision
- the importance of giving employees a reasonable timeframe to express their views and concerns and that these are taken into account when making decisions that may affect their health, safety and wellbeing
- flexible work arrangements and family friendly work practices to support and maintain an inclusive, diverse, respectful adaptive, workforce.

Drive Continuous HSW Improvement Commitment



Support continual health, safety and wellbeing improvement by:

- improving the suitability and effectiveness of the OHS Management System through regular monitoring and review of policies and procedures
- establishing and monitoring progress towards measurable objectives and targets aimed at reducing work-related injury and ill health and improving safety performance
- using data to provide an evidence-based approach for setting the Department's strategic direction and identifying measurable objectives and targets
- allocating adequate resources to efficiently integrate and maintain the OHS Management System to comply with relevant legal and compliance obligations.

Building Capability Commitment



Support building capability by:

- embedding individual health, safety, and wellbeing accountabilities for all employees across the Department
- embedding legislative and Department health and safety requirements in all policies and procedures
- increasing awareness and improving utilisation of the safety supports and resources available
- providing access to transparent and robust health, safety and wellbeing information, training, instruction, and documentation
- strengthening leadership capability by improving understanding of applying and implementing health, safety and wellbeing supports and resources available.

Risk Management Commitment



Support the prevention of workplace injuries and ill health by:

- strengthening systems of work for identifying, assessing, controlling, monitoring, and reviewing hazards and associated risks arising from task / workplace activities
- proactively aiming to identify hazards and eliminate (if not possible, minimise) risks, in the workplace by implementing controls in a timely manner
- promoting and improving the reporting of incidents, near misses, injuries and hazards and investigating where appropriate, to prevent reoccurrence
- providing an OHS Management System that is flexible and adaptable to the risk profile of Department workplaces
- implementing risk controls to achieve improved mental health and wellbeing outcomes and reduce psychosocial hazards in the workplace.

The Department employees, visitors, volunteers and contractors are required to take reasonable care for their own health, safety and wellbeing and others that may be affected by their actions or omissions. These parties will cooperate with the Department in adhering to health and safety requirements including following the Department's policies, procedures and/or instructions and participating in consultation and training.

The Department's OHS Management System sets out how this policy is to be implemented.



Jenny Atta
Secretary
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