

Mental Health Strategies Working Group

COMMUNIQUE

A summary of the
Mental Health Strategies Working Group meeting on 23 May 2017

1. Changes to membership

Members noted the following changes to membership of the Mental Health Strategies Working Group (MHSWG):

- Ms Nicola Peel, Industry Member (BHP Billiton) has been replaced by Ms Lauren Gullo
- Mr Rod Powell, Government Member (WorkSafe WA) has left the working group.

2. Psychosocial harm audit tool

Members provided feedback on the audit [tool](#) and [guide](#), which will be considered by the Department of Mines and Petroleum during their review of the audit tool. Members also suggested including examples of good practice in the audit guide.

3. Mental health training program assessment guide

Members noted the *Choosing the right mental health training for your organisation* guide will be amended to include members' feedback about overly prescriptive terminology, clarify issues and increase consistency throughout the document. Members agreed that the document should cover all industries, and to include a resources-specific section.

4. MHC Central repository for information

The Chamber of Minerals and Energy drafted a submission to the MHC, containing the extra information requested. The submission includes a letter from the Mining Industry Advisory Committee Chair to the MHC and a summary of industry feedback. Members were supportive of the approach, subject to incorporating feedback on the proposed approach.

The MHSWG will submit the recommendations to the Mining Industry Advisory Committee (MIAC) for endorsement.

5. Codes of practice and guidelines

Members noted the Minister's request that the Department of Mines and Petroleum work with the Department of Commerce on a proposed *FIFO Code of Practice*, to cover all industries, to be endorsed by the Commission for Occupational Safety and Health (COSH) and MIAC.

Members discussed its approach for the proposed *FIFO Code of Practice*. Members instead proposed a *Code of Practice for Mental Health in the Workplace* covering all industries, including a section which is relevant to FIFO and related work practices. This would maintain the focus on mental health, and enable it to cover residential, FIFO and related work arrangements.

The recommendations were circulated to members for out of session approval and then submission to the Mining Industry Advisory Committee for endorsement.

6. Communications strategies – tools and positive case studies

Members requested the Department of Mines and Petroleum to revise the communications strategy to broaden the scope beyond mental health training.

Members noted the Chamber of Minerals and Energy will assist in identifying positive case studies through previous Safety and Health Innovation Awards and FIFO Inquiry submissions, and the upcoming *Sharing Lessons Learned Forum* in July 2017.

7. FIFO accommodation control measures

Members discussed the issue of some employers restricting workers engaging in recreation and leisure activities away from FIFO accommodation, due to employers' compliance with duty of care obligations, in particular, managing fatigue and workers compensation risks. UnionsWA will provide some examples at the next meeting.

The MHSWG will discuss strategies to address this issue at the next meeting.

8. Engagement with local communities – for resources companies and FIFO workers

Members noted the Chamber of Minerals and Energy will review their publication *A Matter of Choice: Capturing the FIFO Opportunity in Pilbara Communities*. The MHSWG will discuss other strategies to address this issue at the next meeting.

9. FIFO Mental Health Research Steering Committee – update

Members noted there was nothing to report since the last meeting.

10. Correspondence

There was no correspondence for the Mental Health Strategies Working Group for this period.

11. Other business

Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan (2015-2025)

Members requested a presentation from MHC on progress of the *Western Australian Mental Health, Alcohol and Other Drug Services Plan (2015-2025)* and other initiatives or programs relevant to the MIAC MHSWG.

12. Next MHSWG meeting: 27 July 2017

For further information on the Mental Health Strategies Working Group, please email RSDCommittees@dmp.wa.gov.au

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Chair (Chamber of Minerals and Energy WA)