

Mining Industry Advisory Committee

COMMUNIQUE

A summary of the 15 June 2022 meeting

1. *Resourceful Mind* program presentation

A representative of Lifeline WA delivered a presentation regarding the *Resourceful Mind* program and pilot research findings. The program was co-designed by Lifeline WA and the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia, and is customised for the resources sector. The program encourages and supports help-seeking by colleagues who are struggling by equipping members of the on-site mining community to better support their team members.

Minders (peer support workers) receive training that teaches them to look out for and connect with colleagues in distress and to know where to direct them. Confidentiality is emphasised. The minders do not take responsibility for personally solving colleagues' problems. Their role is to encourage and assist people to seek help. The program is not restricted to dealing only with mental health problems; support can be given for all types of problems. There are currently 270 minders enrolled in training. Ten companies are engaged in the program with active discussions with more potential participants.

A study evaluated the pilot program and assessed the impact on the health and safety of the 132 minders involved. Aspects such as compassion satisfaction, compassion fatigue, burnout and secondary traumatic distress were investigated. It was found that the program does no psychological harm to the minders, who perceived the program to be moderately to very effective.

2. Vehicle and mobile equipment rollovers

In response to previous discussions about claimed increases in vehicle rollovers in the mining sector, a snapshot of vehicle and mobile equipment rollovers for 2021 was provided to the meeting.

Of interest was that while the number of vehicle and mobile equipment rollover incidents has been quite consistent for the period 2017-2021, the resulting injuries have increased markedly. This will be further investigated.

The completeness of the data was questioned, given that it does not distinguish between public and private roads, and therefore does not capture travel between sites and pre-shift and post-shift commutes. The Department is now examining incidents more closely to determine whether they relate to the mining industry or not, and will obtain information from entities such as Main Roads WA to assist with this.

However, the Chair informed members that it is beyond the scope of MIAC to address the matter of vehicle rollovers on public roads. The data that the Department can provide will not address these concerns. It was agreed that the matter of inadequate data will be raised with the WHS Commission.

The Mines Safety Directorate will increase traffic management audits and create a checklist for the assessment of journey management plans.

3. Mine Safety Management System Code of Practice

The meeting was updated on the approval process for the Mine Safety Management System Code of Practice. Since the meeting the Code has been approved by the Minister for Industrial Relations and is scheduled for gazettal on 28 June 2022, at which time it will be placed on the Department's website.

4. Codes of Practice

An industry member queried which codes of practice have been or are going to be updated, given the introduction of the Work Health and Safety (WHS) legislation. An update will be provided to members.

5. WHS 2022 Commitments

Within the Department's Mines Safety Directorate a small WHS team has been formed to conduct an analysis of all remaining work regarding the transition to the new WHS legislation. This includes preparing material for events to educate the mining industry about Mine Safety Management Systems, and inspector training, policies, procedures, business processes and a review of website information.

The Mines Safety Directorate will shortly have in place an email address through which members of the public can ask questions and receive responses about the WHS legislation.