

Mining Industry Advisory Committee

COMMUNIQUE

A summary of the 10 April 2019
Mining Industry Advisory Committee (MIAC) meeting

1. Presentation of FIFO mental health and wellbeing research

Dr Laura Fruhen from Curtin University provided MIAC members with an overview of findings and recommendations from the FIFO Worker Mental Health and Wellbeing research project conducted by the Centre for Transformative Work Design on behalf of the Government of Western Australia. The research project is one of the most comprehensive studies of its type undertaken in Australia, and involved input from more than 3,000 FIFO workers and their families.

2. Update on FIFO Code of Practice

The Chair advised members that the FIFO Code of Practice had been officially announced by the Minister in a media release on 2 April 2019. The Code has now been gazetted and published.

Supporting material for the new Code is being developed by DMIRS with the aim promoting mentally healthy workplaces by educating workers and management on psychosocial hazards and risk factors. This will include web pages, information sheets, videos and a social audit tool.

3. Implications of the proposed silica exposure standards

The Chair advised members of the Safe Work Australia proposal to reduce exposure standards for respirable crystalline silica from the existing 0.10 milligrams per cubic metre to 0.02 milligrams per cubic metre. This exposure standard is for an average 8-hour shift, and therefore, a further reduction, to 0.014 milligrams, would apply for work conducted over extended hours resulting in longer exposures. Members questioned whether it was possible to measure such a small trace at a work site and discussed the problematic time delay if atmospheric samples had to be sent to a laboratory for accurate assessment.

4. Work Health and Safety (WHS) legislation reforms

Mr Anil Atri, Senior Inspector of Mines from DMIRS and a member of the Legislative Advisory Committee, provided members with an overview of the WHS Regulation consultation package, with particular reference to the mining component. The WHS Model Regulations published on 15 January 2019 form the basis of the General Regulations. The Mines and Petroleum components have been added to create the complete regulatory framework. Certain existing sections of the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Regulations 1996 will be retained, such as those relating to demolition, driver fatigue and

tobacco smoke. Dangerous goods legislation will not be part of the consultation package as it is undergoing a separate review. When the Minister has approved the consultation package, it will be made available online with a consultation period of three months.

5. Mental Health Strategies Working Group (MHSWG)

Following discussions at previous MIAC meetings, the Chair asked members to discuss and agree on updated membership of the MHSWG. The Group's Chair will be Ms Christina Folley, Regional Inspector with DMIRS. Ms Amy Douglas-Martens and Mr Rodney Powell will be the two government members. Industry members will be Ms Elysha Millard and Mr Rob Watson. UnionsWA has nominated Mr Glenn McLaren as one of its representatives, the with second members pending.

6. Nano Diesel Particulate Matter working group (nDPM WG)

The Chair advised that the research report *A Study of Nano Diesel Particulate Matter (nDPM) Behaviour and Physico-chemical Changes in Underground Hard Rock Mines of Western Australia* had been formally reviewed by DMIRS mines inspectors, with comments provided to MRIWA. No feedback has been received to date.

A second research report titled *Exposure to nDPM and Health Impacts in Underground Hard Rock Mines in Western Australia* was also reviewed by DMIRS with comments provided to the Curtin University research team. The agreed communication action plan endorsed public release of this information through peer-reviewed scientific journals.

DMIRS has commissioned a PhD student to complete a literature review of current research on diesel exposure and health effects in occupational/mining settings.

Significant incident reports

The Chair noted two Significant Incident Reports (SIRs) and three Mining Safety Bulletins (MSBs), which had been issued by DMIRS since the previous meeting. These included:

- SIR Number 273: [Near miss when a failed rod ejected from a hydraulic pulling kit](#)
- SIR Number 274: [Structural failure of fixed conveyor stacker](#)
- MSB No. 161: [Adequate assessment of fitness for work](#)
- MSB No. 162: [Inspection and maintenance of special purpose lifting plant and hoists](#)
- MSB No. 163: [Reducing exposure to respirable crystalline silica \(quartz\)](#)

The content of Mines Safety Bulletin No. 161 regarding fitness for work was debated and DMIRS agreed to review the content.

7. Mines Safety statistics

The Chair presented statistical graphs prepared by DMIRS. The CME representative advised that CME is conducting its own safety data analysis, involving a suite of serious incidents, with the aim of identifying key issues. A similar analysis had been completed 12 years previously.

8. Towards 2020 Commitments

The Chair spoke to a presentation that detailed the work that Mines Safety Directorate is doing to progress the *Towards 2020* commitments.

9. Next meeting: 12 June 2019

For further information on the Mining Industry Advisory Committee, please refer to the MIAC page on the DMIRS website: www.dmp.wa.gov.au/Safety/What-is-the-Mining-Industry-8578.aspx.

Andrew Chaplyn – Chair