

MENTAL HEALTH STRATEGIES WORKING GROUP

COMMUNIQUE

A summary of the
Mental Health Strategies Working Group Meeting on 12 October 2017

1. FIFO Code of Practice

Members discussed previous MHSWG meeting outcomes and recent industry-related events highlighting the need for a Code of Practice on Mental Health for FIFO Workers in the Resources and Construction Sectors (Code) to be developed within an accelerated timeframe.

Members noted the Code is to be non-prescriptive and that it should provide best practice guidance in promoting improved mental health and emotional wellbeing of resources and construction sector employees.

Members discussed correspondence from the Hon Bill Johnston MLA, Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Commerce and Industrial Relations; Electoral Affairs; Asian Engagement to MIAC Chair Mr Simon Ridge dated 11 October 2017 in relation to the Code.

The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety will develop the draft Code in consultation with MHSWG Members for finalisation by December 2017 to enable its release for public comment in early 2018.

2. Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia – *A Matter of Choice* publication

Members noted that following a recent membership consultation process the Chamber of Minerals and Energy will be updating its publication: *A Matter of Choice: Capturing the FIFO Opportunity in Pilbara Communities*.

Members discussed the potential for the MHSWG to consider information arising from the updated publication document during its discussions on the drafting of the FIFO Code of Practice.

3. Mental health training program assessment guide

Members noted the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety is currently drafting the training guide. The guide has been developed in a format that is consistent with various safety guidance publications that the Department provides to industry.

The MHSWG will consider a draft Mental Health training program assessment guide at its next meeting.

4. Communications Strategies – Positive Case Studies

Members noted the Chamber of Minerals and Energy hosted a Mental Health Forum on 20 July 2017 as part of its *Shared Safety Lessons Learned* (SSLL) series. Members considered a Summary and Key Outcomes document of particular mental-health related case studies that CME Forum participants agreed were relevant to be shared with the MHSWG.

5. FIFO Accommodation Measures

The MHSWG will discuss this matter at the next meeting.

6. Mental Health Emergency Evacuation Procedures

BSS Corporate Psychology Services and RFDS delivered presentations to the MHSWG on the services and programs provided by their organisations to assist industry throughout the resources and construction sectors in achieving best practice mental health evacuations and in applying suicide prevention policies.

7. FIFO Mental Health Research Steering Committee – Update

Members noted the recent announcement by the Minister for Mental Health the Hon Roger Cook MLA of the allocation of funding to the University of Western Australia's Centre for Transformative Work Design to undertake the mental health research project.

Members noted that a research survey tool and a final draft of the literature review for the project have now been developed.

The Reference Group will next meet in early November 2017.

8. Correspondence

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

9. Next meeting – 17 November 2017

The next meeting will be run as a DMIRS workshop to review and finalise a draft FIFO Code of Practice. Additional items to include:

- FIFO Accommodation Control Measures – Consideration of case study examples;
- Final Draft Mental Health Training Program Assessment Guide.

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

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