



Welcome

The end of the school year is quickly approaching and we are all wondering where another year has gone. Despite the rapid passing of time there have been some great achievements during 2002.

In August, the Director-General, Mr Jim Varghese officially launched the Organisational Health Strategic Plan 2002/2003. The plan provides direction for Education Queensland in achieving improved staff health and well being and therefore, better "organisational health". Key goals include promoting a healthy, happy and positive

workforce, establishing accountabilities in relation to organisational health issues and the development of a manual handling project to reduce injuries.

Congratulations on your achievements for this year, I hope Term 4 is rewarding and I wish you a happy and safe close to the end of the school year for 2002.

John Ryan
Director
Human Resource Operations



Catch of the day!

Injuries related to manual handling account for the most frequent claims for Education Queensland. As mentioned in the last issue of SafetyNet the release of the new Advisory Standard for People Handling has also prompted an update in resources and information for our schools.

Your school should soon receive a package of information to update Module 7—'Manual Tasks' of the Occupational Health and Safety Tool Kit (A4 orange folder). The package includes an action plan to assist your school in managing the risks associated with manual tasks and reduce injury.

This project will be a major focus for our new Health and Safety Consultants during Term 4. Their names are listed on the back page of this issue. The aim of this initiative is to raise awareness of manual tasks and assist schools to establish systems to prevent injury.

Schools have been requested to fax in their action plan to their local H&S consultant. This is to target areas of need at a school level and to assist in establishing state wide priorities. The package will be posted to your principal in the next two weeks.

This project is a forerunner to the release next year of an Information Package for the Handling of Students. We have had great success with the dissemination of the Art Kiln CD package—so we are following the same development idea.

We are very grateful to the many schools that have contributed time, resources and feedback. It is anticipated that the information package will include modules of basic information, links to other services, training information and a process to establish in-service for staff.

A number of special schools are helping us out this term with the trial of training session material. This is to refine the product prior to the development of video and CD material.

Any contributions or suggestions you have can be forwarded to your local health and safety consultant for input into the project. All our team's contact details are provided on the last page of the newsletter. Contributions can also be sent to janet.edgar@qed.qld.gov.au.





School Safety Scribbles

Maryborough schools participated in Health and Safety Week (September 9 –15) by hosting a poster competition. Entrants were from primary and high schools throughout the district. Winners from Granville State School, Albert State School, Tinana State School, Hervey Bay and Maryborough State High Schools featured in the Maryborough Chronicle on September 13.

Rob Seljak, the General Manager of the Division of Workplace Health and Safety travelled to Maryborough for the awards presentation.

Michelle Brandon & Phil Cooper attended the Health and Safety Summit during Safety Week to determine priorities for Education during 2002/3. Initiatives proposed include a Workplace Health & Safety Code of Practice for Education and development of strategies to reduce injuries by 20% by June 2007. This is in line with the National Occupational Health & Safety Commission's Strategy 2002 –2012.

The first ever download of SMS Workplace Health and Safety data was a great success. While a number of schools required follow-up to confirm information, the whole process was nice and straight forward, thanks to all the work put in by School Administrative Staff, WHSOs and Rehab Coordinators.

Our next phase will involve checking information including Workplace Health and Safety Officers' certificate numbers and expiry dates. This will assist in the planning of training and resources.

The download has also allowed an early look at trends in terms of hazards and the causes of illness and injury in our schools.

Changes for the 2003.1 release have already been discussed, and are largely based on recommendations from school users of the system.

We are always interested in feedback. Please email Wendy Walsh directly, at wendy.walsh@qed.qld.gov.au with any ideas you have for improving the system. We will then take your suggestions to the SMS Services Project Team.



Don't let these slip through the Net

NEWS FROM THE ELECTRICAL SAFETY OFFICE (ESO)

The new Electrical Safety Act 2002 sets out laws covering electrical safety. It has been developed to remove the overlap between the Electricity Act 1994 and the Workplace Health & Safety Act 1995.

The **Electrical Safety Act 2002** (The Act) applies to all workplaces (schools), homes and public places.

Previously, the Workplace Health & Safety Act and Regulations addressed issues related to electrical safety. Activities related to electrical safety will now be covered by the new Electrical Safety Act 2002.

Codes of Practice for electrical work are also available to help explain the legislation.

At this stage, this review of the legislation will not create any substantial change to the way schools should be managing electrical safety.

For further information contact the Electrical Safety Office (ESO), Department of Industrial Relations at ; www.eso.qld.gov.au or phone 1300 650 662

SLIP- SLOP- SLAP!

As Queenslanders we are pretty proud of our weather—however there is the downside of the hot and humid climate and the high risk of developing skin cancer.

Reinforcing good practices for each other and students is a great step toward protecting ourselves. Hats, sunscreen, keeping out of the sun during the heat of the day where possible and keeping up fluids are all strategies that we should practice at schools and on the weekends!

The Division of Workplace Health and Safety is currently hosting seminars on reducing heat stress and managing the risk associated with exposure to the sun. For information on their website—search for “sun safety”.

Recent changes to taxation legislation now means that some sun protection gear is tax deductible. The Australian Tax Office (ATO) provides advice on tax deductible items. Check out their website at: www.ato.gov.au and search for “sun protection” or call 13 28 61

The Queensland Cancer Fund (OCF) have products, services and information about sun safety. The OCF has also supported the launch of a story book for 4 to 8 year olds by Miriam Airey called “No Hat Brigade”.

Queensland Cancer Fund www.qldcancerfund.com or 3258 2200

With summer well and truly here—water activities are becoming even more inviting. Beach safety for camps and school curriculum activities should not be forgotten. Surf Life Saving Queensland (SLSQ) has heaps of experience and information on beach hazards and surf safety. Surf Ed Curriculum and other helpful tips are available from (SLSQ) and on their website at : www.lifesaving.org. HS-10 Curriculum Activity Modules also include surf & swimming topics.





What's on the Safety Net?

Progress on the new INTERNet site is continuing. The developers are still working on the layout and design.

When the technical bits of the website are finalised we will be ready to roll out— we *hope* that this will be this term.

In response to your feedback, the new site will have features that make it easier to use and quicker to find information.

When on-line the new website will be at - <http://education.qld.gov.au/health>

Remember in the meantime—you still access the INTRANet site at: www.qed.qld.gov.au/workdept/hr/chw/index.html

The new layout includes -

- ◆ Information is grouped by **topic** rather than by format. For example, all resources related to hazardous substances are located in the one place. This means you don't have to remember if something is a fact sheet, checklist or legislation
- ◆ The tool kit modules have been divided up (quicker to open) and they form the structure of the site
- ◆ Easy to find discussion list, newsletters and contacts
- ◆ More Frequently Asked Questions (& answers!!)
- ◆ A new search function



Casting the Net

NEWS FROM QUEENSLAND HEALTH

Dr Peter Collignon, Director of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases at Canberra Hospital believes the use of antimicrobial agents (used to kill or reduce micro-organisms) on everything from pillows and mattress protectors to lunch bags and garbage bags is not only ineffective but may be bad for public health.

These disinfectants and antibacterial agents are basically a waste of money and they are giving people a false sense of security. He was concerned that antibacterials might add to the problem of antibiotic resistance in disease bacteria.

HS-18 Infection Control provides information on cleaning and disinfection.

Cleaning is the removal of soil and reduction in the number of germs

Disinfection is the inactivation of bacteria, viruses and fungi. So—you need to remove as many bacteria etc (soil) as you can prior to attempting disinfection.

HS –18 is available on the internet (within the DOEM) or in hard copy. Look for the hard copy at your school—it is an A4

MENINGOCOCCAL SEROGROUP C VACCINATION

A vaccine against serogroup C meningococcal disease became available in February 2002. Serogroup C accounted for 31% of cases last year but Serogroup B is still the most common. There is no vaccine currently available for Serogroup B. Any queries in relation to meningococcal disease or the vaccine should be directed to your local Public Health Unit. A fact sheet is available at: <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/phs/Documents/cdu/12661.pdf>

Q FEVER PROGRAM

Q Fever is an illness most commonly caused by direct contact with farm animals. Breathing in of contaminated particles can result in flu like symptoms or more serious complications. Q Fever has arisen as an issue for some schools that have curriculum activities involving close contact with farm animals. EQ is currently engaged in discussions with Qld Health & the Division of WH&S to develop strategies that will protect staff and students who may be at risk.

SMOKE FREE AREAS

Legislation relating to non-smoking areas (e.g. eating places) was amended in May 2002. The changes can be found in the *Tobacco Products (Prevention of Supply to Children) Act 1998*—Part B 'Smoking in Enclosed Places'. For information on the legislation contact Qld Health or visit their web site.



WHSOnet

About 80 staff completed WHSO training during Term 3 and they came from afar! People from Goondiwindi, Charleville, and Hervey Bay participated in training courses.

More training courses are planned for Term 4. The last WHSO course for the year is at Rockhampton from 12 - 15, & 18-20 November—7 days in total.

We are also running a WHSO re-certification course on 12 & 13 November.

For any enquiries about the courses and nominations please contact Alan Singleton.

Contact Alan at alan.singleton@qed.qld.gov.au or phone — 4616 9128 or 0428 455 798



Who's Who

We are very happy to welcome on board a few new faces this term and announce that all the following positions are now permanent! These new positions are aligned with Corporate Service Units (CSU).

Leanne Sked and Bronwyn Goopy will manage Metropolitan North CSU which includes Stafford, Geebung, Corinda, Ipswich, West Moreton, Murrumba, Mooloolaba and Nambour.

Leanne and Bronwyn have come to us from the Division of Workplace Health and Safety and have strong backgrounds in the application of the legislation, chemical management and risk assessment. Leanne and Bronwyn are both based at the Metropolitan North CSU office at Kedron.

Leanne Sked—Met North CSU.
Leanne works full time.

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leanne.sked@qed.qld.gov.au



Bronwyn Goopy—Met North CSU.
Bronwyn works part-time.

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Bob O'Doherty – manages the Far Northern, Northern and Outback CSUs which encompass Cairns & Cape, Torres Strait, Townsville, Tablelands- Johnstone, Mackay, Mt Isa & Longreach. As Bob would say— all of the magnificent north! Bob is based at the Northern CSU in Townsville.

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bob.odoherty@qed.qld.gov.au



Neil Rogers – manages the Metro South CSU which includes Mt Gravatt, Bayside, Gold Coast South & North, Coopers Plains and Logan Beaudesert. Neil is based at the Met South CSU office at Mt Gravatt.

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Alan Singleton – manages the Southern CSU covering Chinchilla, Toowoomba, Darling Downs, Warwick and South Burnett (and Roma temporarily). Alan is based in the Southern CSU office in Toowoomba.

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alan.singleton@qed.qld.gov.au



Liz Lindsay – manages Central CSU incorporating Bundberg, Fraser-Cooloola, Gladstone, Emerald, Rockhampton and Isis Burnett. Liz works part-time and is based at Central CSU at Maryborough.

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elizabeth.lindsay@qed.qld.gov.au



And some *old* (??) faces—based in Central Office ..

Michelle Brandon-Low –
State-wide Coordinator,
michelle.brandonlow@qed.qld.gov.au
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f 3237 1664 (for all central office team)



Wendy Walsh – Project Coordinator for integrated data systems for Incident Reporting (e.g. new SMS module) and WorkCover projects.
wendy.walsh@qed.qld.gov.au
p 3238 3179



Phil Cooper – manages state-wide Plant & Equipment Strategies & OHS Resource Development.
philip.cooper@qed.qld.gov.au
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Janet Edgar – state-wide Ergonomics Projects and Communication Strategies.
janet.edgar@qed.qld.gov.au
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Noel Marsden/Geoff Fry – State-wide Health & Safety coordination for cleaners.
p 3247 5806

