

## Safety Awareness

# Health & Safety Representative (HSR)

Health and safety representatives, HSRs are the people who directly face the hazards of a job, and often have valuable knowledge, expertise, and the motivation to improve health and safety. HSRs play an important role in representing the health and safety interests of workers in a work group.

As a HSR you are not expected to be an expert on health and safety issues. Nor are you expected to be the person responsible for health and safety in your workplace. You are facilitating the flow of information regarding health and safety between PCBUs and workers

The WHS Act applies the overriding principle that workers and other persons should, so far as is reasonably practical, be given the highest level of protection against harm to their health, safety and welfare from hazards and risks arising from work. This level of protection cannot be achieved without the input of workers and HSRs.

Consultation on health and safety is a two-way process and should be seen as an opportunity to add value when making decisions. This process involves:

- talking about issues
- listening to and raising concerns
- understanding your role
- seeking information and sharing views
- discussing issues in a timely manner
- considering what is being said before decisions are made
- attending scheduled meetings.

If we all lead by example, a culture of workplace health and safety will become a part of the way things are done in your workplace.

Make sure you adhere to safety policy and procedures when you perform your work. Be on the lookout for work colleagues and point out any work practices you think may be unsafe.

It is important that you make health and safety a part of your everyday work life. We all want to go home to our families.

See these [Comcare resources](#) for more information.

**Take down:** 30/06/2017

**Authorised by:** Work Environment Group

**Contact:** [whs@anu.edu.au](mailto:whs@anu.edu.au) for additional information

*Staff and Students are reminded to report incidents to their supervisor and/or through the HORUS/ISIS online incident notification systems.*