



## Work Health and Safety News

There's a lot going on in October!

We have an update on Project Salus, with the first review of configured workflows nearly ready to commence. SafeWork NSW has released its draft Psychological Health Code of Practice and you have until the end of this month to provide your feedback. We've also got information on the changes to the workplace exposure standard for silica dust and the Hazardous Manual Tasks Procedure is open for consultation until 16 October.

In NSW, October is both Mental Health Month and Safe Work Month. At UNSW we mark October as Health and Wellbeing Month for staff, with free events running all through the month. Student events will also run all month as part of student Mental Health Month - check out the articles and registration links below to get involved. October is also Biketober, and you can win prizes by registering and riding your bike for as little as 10 minutes. So much to do!

---

The Project Team is getting ready to commence the first review of configured workflows.

Reporting & Managing an Incident and Reporting & Managing a Hazard will be the first workflows available for review via an "online Promo". Feedback and comments will be collected and used to further improve our system configuration.

This approach will assist in ensuring the new system, WHS Monitor, best meets UNSW requirements within the constraints of a commercial-off-the-shelf (COTS) arrangement. If you would like to be involved in this process, please email the [Project Team](#).

If you have any questions or would like more information about Project Salus, visit the [Project Salus website](#).

You can also contact the project directly on



NSW does not currently have a Psychological Health Code of Practice. Psychological claims are increasing and workers take longer to get back to work after a psychological injury than after a physical injury. Psychological injuries can include depression, stress, anxiety or post-traumatic stress disorder.

A new [Code of Practice](#) has been drafted to provide detailed information on how to manage risks to psychological health in the workplace. The draft [Code of Practice](#) is a practical guide for employers, workers and others on how to ensure psychologically healthy and safe workplaces. It is for all NSW workplaces and industries.

SafeWork NSW invites your views on the draft [Code of Practice](#).

Please refer to the [HS432 - Consultation Plan](#) and submit feedback to [Carmel Jaconelli](#). Submissions close 16 October 2020.

---



SafeWork NSW has a new Health care and social assistance website containing key information for workplaces including hospitals and medical services and social assistance services such as child care and counselling.

This industry has one of the highest rates of work-related injuries and illnesses reported each year. It is the fastest growing industry in NSW due to an ageing and growing population and increasing demand for child care, home and community-based care.

To visit the Health care and social assistance website, please [click here](#).

---

In a recent incident, a lab was disposing of material through the lab's documented waste process. An old bottle of nitric acid that appeared to be empty was uncapped and placed into the local waste stream.

It was noticed that the bottle was fuming as it had a small amount of liquid (<5ml) remaining in it. The bottle was removed from the waste bin and the cap was replaced. Then the bottle was returned to the lab.

An investigation found that documented procedures were in place and staff and students were trained in the correct handling and management of waste, but that human error had resulted in the skipping of steps in the waste processing procedure.

Nitric acid is a hazardous substance and contact with the liquid could have resulted in a .7513auye, the lab.