



# Work Health and Safety News

February 2021

Summer has flown by and here we are with only a week or so to go until Autumn! There has been a lot of Safety activity, with milestones being checked off in Project Salus and many more to follow.

This month, we have several reminders about how to safely dispose of lab waste or clean up chemical spills. We also have articles about a new Accommodation Guide from SafeWork NSW and a Personal Injury Commission to be established by the State Government from 1 March.

Have you tried Uprise yet? This fantastic personal mood trainer is available free for all staff. [Click here](#) for a link on how to get it. We have a free webinar coming up from SuperFriend - 'Preparing for the new normal' - a useful one to attend as we all begin to transition to a blend of campus and remote working. And for those interested in reviewing their health insurance, there are dates available for personal consultations with Medibank.

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## Project Salus Update

Back to work since early in January, the project team has progressed on configuration of WHS Monitor, data (j)-(y)- ad- 2 ( )13projectSims for user profil

also commenced system testing.

Stakeholder engagement activities including showcase of Release 1 functionalities are being planned with the focus on ensuring we have adequate representation from faculties, schools and divisions.

Training needs are being identified and will be completed when the final configured solution is available.

For updates and more information about Project Salus, visit the [Project Salus website](#). You can also contact the project directly on [salus@unsw.edu.au](mailto:salus@unsw.edu.au) or alternatively, feel free to reach out to your local [WHS contact](#).

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## Uprise

Have you tried Uprise yet? Uprise is a personal trainer for your mood that can help you reduce stress and decrease your risk of burnout. It is available free to all UNSW staff!

Uprise has both a web portal and an app, and includes a library of mental health training modules which you can work through according to your interests. Modules include Stress Man

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## Reminder - Dispose of Waste Correctly in Labs

Recently, staff of our UNSW cleaning contractor found a needle and syringe inside a domestic waste bin in a lab. The contractor placed a caution sign in front of the bin and advised the lab manager that they would not service the bin until the sharps had been removed.

All users of labs are reminded to dispose of laboratory waste appropriately. For information on how to dispose of sharps and other lab waste, please review UNSW's [Laboratory Hazardous Waste Disposal Guideline](#). For a quick overview, consult the [Hazardous Waste Disposal Guide](#) pictogram. If you have any further questions, please get in touch with your local [WHS contact](#).

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'Preparing for the new normal' is a webinar presented by SuperFriend and UniSuper and is free for all members.

Date: Wednesday, 10 March

Time: 12pm-1pm

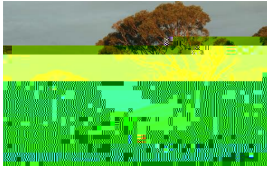
Click here to [register](#).

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## Personal Injury Commission

The NSW Government has introduced a Bill to establish a one-stop shop Personal Injury Commission (PIC) to simplify the dispute resolution system for injured road users and workers who make a compensation claim.

Effective 1 March 2021, the Bill Act transfers the functions of the Workers Compensation Commission (WCC), the State Insurance Regulatory Authority's (SIRA) Dispute Resolution Service (DRS), the Motor Accidents Claims Assessment and Resolution Service (CARS), and sion



## New Diesel and Dust Thresholds

The NSW Resources Regulator has reminded employers that new workplace exposure standards for diesel particulate matter and respirable coal dust commenced on 1 February.

The State Government introduced an exposure limit (for mines and petroleum workplaces) of 0.1 milligrams per cubic metre of air for diesel particulate matter (measured as sub-micron elemental carbon) early last year, with a 12-month transition period, along with a requirement for underground mine operators to ensure ventilation systems provide sufficient air quality to satisfy the standard (see related article).

Several months later, the Government announced plans to slash the workplace exposure standard for respirable coal dust from 2.5mg per cubic metre of air to 1.5mg per cubic metre.

See the regulator's [airborne contaminants webpage](#) for more information.

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## Medibank One -on-One Consultations

Medibank consultants will be available for one-on-one appointments for staff interested in reviewing their health insurance on the following dates in February:

- 23 Feb – 9.30am – 3.45pm – Phone or Medibank on-campus outlet
- 24 Feb – 9.30am – 12.30pm – Phone or Medibank on-campus outlet
- 24 Feb – 1pm – 4pm – Penny Lane
- 25 Feb – 9.30am – 3.45pm – Phone or Medibank on-campus outlet

Medibank is currently offering a \$400 Adidas e-gift card for couples and families or a \$200 Adidas e-gift card for singles and single parents to new members who join by 28 Feb.

Any staff who are interested in discussing their health insurance needs or reviewing the policy they already have are invited to make an appointment. UNSW employees are entitled to a 9% discount on the Medibank Corporate Inc product suite.

[Click here](#) to make an appointment for a one-on-one consultation.

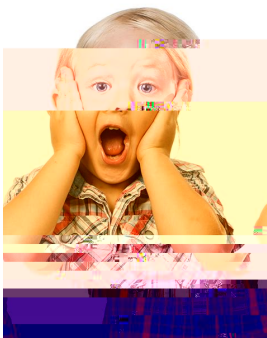
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## Lesson Learned

A staff member was observed filling liquid nitrogen from a bulk tank into a portable liquid vessel with a young child in attendance. The area was barricaded off with bollards creating an exclusion zone. The staff member and child were wearing hearing protection and safety glasses but both the child and staff member were wearing t-shirts and therefore had exposed arms.

An internal investigation was carried out which revealed that:

A current Work Instruction is in place in relation to the task - Liquid Nitrogen Fill. The Work Instruction documented 'appropriate protective clothing' but there was no detail of the specific protective clothing required in line with the associated



SDS for Liquid Nitrogen - for the body, wear coveralls (fully covered clothing)

The staff member was not aware of the [Children on Campus Policy](#)

Liquid nitrogen is a hazardous substance and contact with the skin may