

Safe Work Month 2021



Media kit

Everyone has the right to come home safe and healthy at the end of each working day. All Queensland workplaces have a legislative requirement to protect workers and ensure they feel safe, supported, and able to return home to loved ones each day.

Last year 18 Queenslanders lost their life to a work related incident*. Almost half of these were in the agriculture, forestry and fishing industry and the others in health care and social assistance, manufacturing, construction, and administrative and support services. In 2020–21 there was 35,000* accepted serious injury claims.

Safe Work Month is an opportunity to raise community and industry awareness about the importance of working safely.

Queensland Safety Ambassador [Shane Webcke](#)



Shane Webcke, footy legend, TV presenter and QLD farmer has been Queensland Safety Ambassador since 2015. After his father was killed in a workplace incident, Shane has created a strong connection and commitment to work safety. Shane visits business to share his story and the importance of staying safe at work and creating a strong safety culture.

“My motivation for accepting the role is the hope that if I could change the attitude of one person perhaps preventing loss from happening to another family – well, then it would have been worthwhile”.

Mental health with Hayley Lewis



In the last year, over ,2000* workers' compensation claims were accepted for mental health issues in Queensland. This Safe Work Month and as a part Mental Health Week, Workplace Health and Safety Queensland invites Hayley Lewis, ex Commonwealth, Olympic and World Champion swimmer and small business owner/operator to talk about the importance of mentally healthy workplaces.

“Back when I started my business, I wish I knew then what I do now. I think it’s important to take the time to get to know the staff – understand what makes each of them tick, what drives them, what they want out of their role. Knowing this not only means you can help them achieve their goals, but you can make sure they have good job satisfaction and are being the most productive they can be.”

* Indicates 2020–21 preliminary data

Top four industries for work-related fatalities



Construction



Agriculture



Transport



Manufacturing

Top three causes of work-related injury in Qld:



1 Sprains and strains



2 Slips trips and falls



3 Moving objects

What's on

- 1 Oct** [Safe Work Month launch](#) with Justine Schofield, Hayley Lewis and Shane Webcke
- 6 Oct** [The evolving role of safety leaders](#) with Dom O'Brien
- 8 Oct** [Safe Work and Return to Work Awards Ceremony](#)
- 12 Oct** [Design for workplace diversity](#) with Dr Sara Pazell
- 19 Oct** [Injury Prevention and Return to Work Conference](#)
- 20 Oct** [Changes in work during COVID-19\(and beyond\)](#) with Prof. Sharon Parker
- 26 Oct** [The human cost of not speaking up. Psychological safety – not just nice but necessary!](#) with Naomi Armitage

Queensland Safety Advocates

Meet these everyday Queenslanders who have experienced firsthand what can happen when workplace health and safety is overlooked – Speaking from the heart about personal injury and loved ones lost, these are our Queensland Safety Advocates.

[Download social media tiles](#) to show your support for Safe Work Month.



Debbie and Dan Kennedy



Debbie and Dan Kennedy's son Dale was working in a ceiling space when he died from an electric shock. Dale was only 20 and a young father.

"If you have been asked to do something unsafe just say no, it's not worth it."

Garry Nichols



Garry Nichols was involved in a rural tractor roll-over incident which resulted in traumatic injuries, including the loss of his leg.

"A small lapse in concentration and you could end up seriously injured—or worse."

Gavan McGuane



Gavan McGuane was blinded when he tripped and fell at work. He shares his story to prevent anyone else experiencing what he did.

"Don't put yourself at risk just to get something completed five seconds faster than it would have otherwise been."

Jed Millen



Jed Millen's career as a rigger ended when a bridge deck collapsed and he fell five metres to the ground, permanently injuring his back.

"We need to challenge unsafe behaviours in others by leading by example. You have an obligation to your employer, but also to yourself and your family."

Jodie and Mario Cocco



Jodie and Mario Cocco's son Domenic suffered life-threatening injuries when he crashed a quad bike. He was not wearing a helmet.

"Just to stop one family from going through what we did is something we hope to achieve."

Michael Garrels



Michael Garrels' son Jason was just 20 years old when he died at a construction site. Head only been working there for nine days.

"The old and wiser should be looking after the young and inexperienced, and for the younger guys who are doing a job, if you don't know—ask"

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland is Queensland's work health and safety regulator, part of the Office of Industrial Relations. Our purpose is to improve work health and safety and reduce the risk of work-related fatalities, injuries and diseases.

We work with industry and assist businesses to create a safe and healthy culture in Queensland places of work.

CONTACT DETAILS:

To request an interview or more information about anything in our Safe Work Month Media Kit please contact OIRmedia@oir.qld.gov.au or call 0478 332 200.