

Work Health and Safety and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023

Submission No: 2

Submitted by: Consultative Committee for Work-related Fatalities and Serious Incidents

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Submitter Comments:



Consultative Committee

for Work-Related Fatalities and Serious Incidents

Work Health and Safety and other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023
Education, Employment and Training Committee
eetc@parliament.qld.gov.au

8 January 2024

To the Education, Employment and Training Committee ,

I am the Chair of the Consultative Committee for Work-Related Fatalities and Serious Incidents (also known as the Affected Persons Committee(Committee)) established under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*. More information about the committee is available here: [Consultative Committee for Work-related Fatalities and Serious Incidents members | WorkSafe.qld.gov.au](#).

The committee provides advice and recommendations to Minister Grace about the information and support needs of people impacted by work-related deaths, serious incidents, and illness. We are passionate about assisting other families going through the very difficult days, months, and years following the death of a family member or a family member sustaining a serious injury or illness.

I am writing this submission on behalf of the committee on the Work Health and Safety and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2023 (Bill). As the committee chair, I firmly believe that the proposed amendments outlined in the Bill are integral to advancing workplace safety, and our committee fully supports its objectives.

We strongly support the following amendments and inclusion of the Bill:

- Clause 69, which amends section 23B (establishment) in Schedule 2 to rename our committee from the Persons Affected by Work-related Fatalities and Serious Incidents Consultative Committee to the Consultative Committee for Work-related Fatalities and Serious Incidents, and less formally, as the 'Consultative Committee'. This change will enhance clarity and communication in our engagement with families and stakeholders.
- Amendment to section 231, extending the timeframe for requesting prosecutions and progress of investigations from 12 months to 18 months. Our committee advocates this amendment, recognising the positive impact it will have on families affected by work-related fatalities.
- The inclusion of new offence 272A, prohibiting insurance to cover Work Health and Safety fines. We fully endorse this addition; it is a deterrent to PCBU's and individuals who actively avoid their obligations to maintain a safe workplace.
- Amendment of section 31 to include negligence as a fault element in the Category 1 offence.

In summary, as a representative committee of affected families and seriously injured workers, our role in endorsing this amendment bill and the proposed changes aligns with our collective belief that this is a significant stride forward for work-related health and safety in Queensland.

If you have any queries in relation to this request, please do not hesitate to contact myself on [REDACTED] Secretariat [REDACTED] or OHSConsultativeCommittee@oir.qld.gov.au.

Yours faithfully,



Daniel Kennedy
Chair

Consultative Committee for Work-related Fatalities and Serious Incidents

[REDACTED]
OHSConsultativeCommittee@oir.qld.gov.au

This letter is sent on behalf of the Consultative Committee for Work-related Fatalities and Serious Incidents, by its secretariat in the Office of Industrial Relations. Any opinion expressed in this letter are those of the committee and do not represent the views of the Office of Industrial Relations or the State of Queensland . No liability for the contents of this letter is accepted.