



Speech by

## Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Tuesday, 26 October 2010

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### MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

#### Safe Work Australia Week

**Hon. CR DICK** (Greenslopes—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.14 am): Every person in Queensland deserves to go home safely to their loved ones every day after work. Sadly, this does not occur for about 100 workers in Queensland each year. Furthermore, tens of thousands more workers are injured in the workplace each year, exacting a massive human toll for workers, their families and the community.

The Queensland government has made worker safety one of its highest priorities, and part of this means raising awareness among workers and the community about the need to address safety concerns at work. An important part of this approach is our involvement in Safe Work Australia Week, which started on Sunday and continues until Saturday, 30 October 2010.

Safe Work Week was launched on my behalf in Brisbane yesterday by the Parliamentary Secretary for Industrial Relations, the member for Yeerongpilly. He joined the government's Safety Ambassador, Rugby League legend Mal Meninga, at the launch, where employers and workers heard about the latest efforts and initiatives to cut death and injury in the workplace. Mal is a keen supporter of Safe Work Week and has added his voice to those of experts letting us know how we can work safer. Mal will be talking about his own family tragedy brought on by a workplace incident.

Yesterday's launch was just the start of a week of activities throughout the state where worker safety will be the focus. Here in Brisbane, I will be joining workers and Mal Meninga in King George Square on Thursday for a free breakfast that will highlight workplace health and safety. Tonight, I will attend the annual Queensland Work Safe Awards, which celebrate innovation in workplace health and safety. Other events are being held throughout the state this week, including regional seminars on how to avoid common workplace injuries, an Indigenous business leaders meeting and a major conference on Zero Harm at Work in Rockhampton.

Workplace safety is not just about employers and workers; it is an issue that impacts everyone. Going to work should mean coming home safe and sound to our loved ones, but the fact is that people die or are seriously injured while doing their jobs and it can happen to anyone at any time. Safety needs to become an integral part of the everyday culture of all workplaces and we must realise that safety is everyone's responsibility.