



Speech by

# Hon. Cameron Dick


**MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES**

Hansard Thursday, 24 March 2011

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## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Zero Harm at Work

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Greenslopes—ALP) (Minister for Education and Industrial Relations) (10.23 am): Tragically, around 100 Queenslanders are killed in the workplace every year. On top of the devastating personal toll on workers and their families, workplace injury and death costs Queensland around \$5 billion annually. The Labor Party is the party of working mums and dads. That is why we are committed to ensuring Queensland mums and dads have safe workplaces.

I would like to update the House today on the recent activities of the important Zero Harm at Work leadership forum. Zero Harm at Work focuses on the aspirational target of zero workplace incidents. The program fosters and maintains a positive culture of safety within Queensland workplaces. It targets leaders of industry and trade unions and challenges them to use their experience, knowledge and leadership to build real-world solutions to health and safety issues. Program members present, discuss and share case studies of successful workplace health and safety initiatives at regular industry based forums.

I am pleased to say that the third construction industry forum will be held next week, on 29 March. A transport industry forum is scheduled for 14 April and a health industry forum will be held on 2 June. Education, retail and public sector forums will be held later in the year.

Since the Zero Harm at Work program was launched in September 2009, the number of participants has grown rapidly, with 136 of Queensland's leading employers and unions joining the program. I have attended a number of Zero Harm at Work leadership forums. I am always impressed and encouraged by the commitment and enthusiasm members display. I look forward to the future progress of the Zero Harm at Work program. While the goal of zero harm in the workplace may indeed be aspirational, that should not stop us.

Today our workplaces are safer than they have been at any other time in history, but they can still be safer. This Bligh Labor government relishes challenges—they present opportunities to make our great state even greater. I congratulate everybody involved in the Zero Harm at Work program.