

AUSTRALIAN CONSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION UNVEILS MAJOR WORKPLACE SAFETY INITIATIVE

Australia's leading construction companies have unveiled plans to develop a major workplace safety initiative to deliver a consistent and improved approach to protecting workers across all worksites in every state and territory.

Executive Director of the Australian Constructors Association (ACA), Mr Lindsay Le Compte, said ACA member companies would initially work with organisations directly involved with member companies to support the Australian Government's national safety harmonisation push and recently released Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy.

The ACA Safety Initiative is intended to establish a sustainable safety culture in the building and construction industry, focused initially on ACA member companies and extending to include, subcontractors, suppliers and clients, Mr Le Compte said.

Construction industry executives from ACA member companies will attend a Safety Forum in Sydney today (23 November). The Safety Forum will develop a strategic plan that will: engage key industry stakeholders in addressing the incidence of workplace injuries; develop coordinated safety training; and implement transparent performance measures.

There needs to be a strategic approach to safety, built on coordinated action, Mr Le Compte said.

The ACA Safety Initiative is intended to embrace workers, subcontractors, the unions, industry associations, suppliers, consultants, and regulators in dialogue to address the operational and underlying human factors that may lead to injury and death at worksites, he said.

The Federal Government's initiatives give the construction industry an opportunity to establish consistent safety-related systems and training across every worksite in every state and territory. This would ensure employees, sub-contractors, clients, project managers, and site managers will know what is expected of them irrespective of where they are working.

The rate of fatalities and serious injuries has improved significantly, but the industry can, and should, do better. However, to do that a concerted effort is required by all stakeholders working cooperatively and focused on the key underlying issues, Mr Le Compte said.

ACA represents the leading contractors in the Australian construction industry. Its members directly employ over 100,000 people and member businesses have an annual turnover exceeding \$50 billion.

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

[The Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy](#)
[Safe Work Australia statistics 2010-11](#)
[ACA Safety Charter](#)