

Free health management workshops for NSW mining industry

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Industry & Investment NSW will conduct a series of free workshops on health management, musculoskeletal disorders and fatigue management for the mining industry throughout the state between April and November this year.

The workshops aim to encourage industry to develop management plans to deal with these key industry issues.

"Long term health impacts affecting mine personnel are often not as visible as injuries," John Flint, I&I's Director Mine Safety Performance said.

"However the personal cost for individuals associated with chronic illness or degenerative conditions and the cost to industry in terms of compensation claims and lost productivity is substantial."

The workshops are based on the recently released Mine Safety Advisory Council guides and include:

- Health Management Plan
- Managing Musculoskeletal Disorders
- Fatigue Management Plan.

The guides represent an industry agreed approach to the systematic management of occupational health hazards such as hazardous manual handling causing musculoskeletal disorders, fatigue, noise and diesel particulate.

The Mine Safety Advisory Council, which is the peak OHS body for the State's billion dollar mining and extractives industry representing government, employers and employees, has endorsed the workshop program.

The focus on the management of these issues arose from the recommendations of the Wran Mine Safety Review.

Participants will have the opportunity to use practical tools to develop and implement a systematic approach risk management associated with workplace hazards which impact workers health. The workshop activities will provide:

- Information on new industry standards for managing health hazards in the mine environment
- An opportunity to review your mine's systems against the industry agreed standards
- Information on approaches to managing some industry wide priority health issues and in particular musculoskeletal disorders.

The workshops are aimed at all industry participants including contractors and will be delivered to around 1500 people by the end of the year.

For dates and locations of workshops see '**Workshops timetable**' link at:
<http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/minerals/safety/resources/training-and-workshops>

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