



13 October 2010

Road Safety program for Cobar mining apprentices

The peak Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) body for the State's billion dollar mining and extractives industry, the NSW Mine Safety Advisory Council (MSAC), is sponsoring a road safety workshop aimed at young drivers working in mines around Cobar.

The workshop will be carried out by the Roads and Traffic Authority (RTA) and will take place on 22 October 2010 at the Cobar Memorial Services and Bowling Club.

"MSAC has a brief to educate communities about good OHS practices at and beyond the workplace as part of its goal to improve health and safety culture in the industry. This workshop is a first step in that direction," MSAC Chairman, Norman Jennings, said.

"The workshop will include safe driving topics such as driving to local conditions and the perils of long distance driving to give young drivers a better understanding of road safety.

"Apprentices at Cobar mines regularly attend TAFE at Dubbo or Orange, something which necessarily involves long periods of driving. This inevitably brings the issue of fatigue into play."

The complex and related areas of fatigue and hours of work were identified as a high priority issue in the 2005 Wran Mine Safety Review.

Mr Jennings said MSAC has been working closely with industry to help manage fatigue, including a successful workshop in Cobar earlier this year.

"Fatigue is an issue at the workplace and on the road. Through this program, the MSAC is promoting workplace health and safety principles to safe driving on the roads," he said.

"MSAC comprises senior officials from the CFMEU, AWU, NSW Minerals Council, Cement Concrete and Aggregates Australia, Industry & Investment NSW and two independent OHS experts.

"A similar road safety program was successfully run by the Cadia mine in Orange last year and MSAC acknowledges the work of the Cadia apprentices in initiating the program."

Photo opportunity

The workshop will take place at the Cobar Memorial Services and Bowling Club, Marshall St, Cobar from 9am to 4:30pm. Photo opportunity 10:30 AM to 10:50 AM on Friday 22 October 2010. Contact John Flint, MSAC Secretariat Executive Officer, 0448 204 416

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