The National Research Centre for OHS Regulation monitors Australian and international developments in work health and safety research and regulation, and in related areas of regulation to contribute to informing the evidence-base for work health and safety policy and practice. This Work Health and Safety Briefing presents some recent research and reports from our monitoring of the peer-reviewed literature. There are contributions relating to harmonisation; the role of regulators and enforcement; decision-making, management and culture; worker participation and consultation; health and safety competency and education; financial incentives and health and safety performance; occupational fatalities; psychosocial hazards; hazardous substances; plant and machinery; organization of work health and safety; older workers; and emerging health and safety issues.

Research and Reports

Harmonisation of work health and safety

Michael Tooma’s six-book *Due Diligence* series covers key obligations under the harmonised work health and safety legislation including: the duty of officers; incident notification, management and investigation; dealing with regulators; the persons conducting a business or undertaking; workers rights and duties; and horizontal and vertical consultation. An overview of the chapters for each book in the series can be found at: [https://www.cch.com.au/AU/MarketingPromo/MarketingPromo.aspx?PageTitle=Due-Diligence&ID=441](https://www.cch.com.au/AU/MarketingPromo/MarketingPromo.aspx?PageTitle=Due-Diligence&ID=441). Also available as eBooks.

Windholz E, ‘The long and winding road to OHS harmonisation’ (2013) 104 Labour History 169-188.


In this series of three articles the author discusses various aspects of harmonisation. The first article deals with concerns about the accountability and transparency of the harmonisation process and the extent to which it is integrated with other relevant regulatory institutions, tools and processes. The article is online at: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2272452

The second article examines the history of harmonisation through the lens of Australian federalism, illustrating the growth in the Commonwealth's sphere of responsibility as matters originally defined as social issues have been redefined as economic ones, and demonstrating the tensions that arise when economic values come into conflict with the values underpinning Australian federalism and OHS legislation. The article is online at: http://search.informit.com.au/documentSummary;dn=367649711910420;res=IELHSS

The third article focuses on the Council of Australian Governments’ case for harmonisation which is based on improved efficiency for business and governments; improved effectiveness in reducing workplace death, injury and disease; and equality of safety standards and regulatory treatment for workers and employers. The article argues that harmonisation is complex and contested, and involves balancing values of economic efficiency; broader societal values of equity, justice and fairness; and the democratic values underpinning the federal system of government. The article is online at: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2228985

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The role of regulators and enforcement

Wheelwright K, ‘Baiada poultry: Employers, independent contractors and reasonable practicability in workplace safety’ (2012) 18 Employment Law Bulletin 35. This article critiques the 2012 decision of the High Court in the Baiada Poultry case, in which the High Court found that an employer was not responsible for the safety failure of independent contractors it hired to do aspects of the work in the employer's business. The article is online at: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2281599

(2013) 7(1) Regulation and Governance. This special edition marks 20 years since the book Responsive Regulation: Transcending the Deregulation Debate by Ian Ayres and John Braithwaite introduced new ways of thinking about regulation. The collection of 10 articles analyzes, critiques and extends the ways responsive regulation, and its well recognized regulatory pyramid, have been deployed in practice and hence the legacy of the theory. The series of articles deals with interpersonal aspects of regulator-regulatee interactions, the capacity of regulators and their agencies to transform themselves to be truly responsive, and the relevance of responsive regulation in the context of declining enforcement of OHS legislation in the UK. Ideas for extending responsive regulation are offered including adapting the theory to broader contexts (including transnational...
ones), the role of third party and non-state actors in regulation, and guiding differential treatment of regulatees. Responses by Ayres and Braithwaite are also provided. The articles are online at: http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/rego.2013.7.issue-1/issuetoc

Gunningham N, ‘Being a good inspector: Regulatory competence and Australia's mines inspectorate’ (2012) 10(2) Policy and Practice in Health and Safety 25-45. This article examines enforcement capability and competence through an empirical study of Australian mines inspectorates. It demonstrates that an inspectorate which lacks the relevant competencies will be incapable of enforcing regulation effectively, irrespective of the regulatory style it adopts, the measures it takes to avoid regulatory capture, how it targets its resources or how it manages stakeholder interactions.

McCallum R et al, ‘The role of the judiciary in occupational health and safety prosecutions: Institutional processes and the production of deterrence’ (2012) 54(5) Journal of Industrial Relations 688-706. Drawing on interviews with judicial officers in two Australian states, this article examines the role of judges in sentencing OHS offenders. It focuses on the deterrent impact of OHS prosecutions, including judges’ understanding of deterrence and the judicial role in deterring serious breaches of OHS legislation. The article argues that judges play an important role in preventing workplace deaths and injuries, especially in relation to the constitutive or communicative effects of prosecution. By sentencing offenders, the judiciary helps to construct employers as bearing primary responsibility for the prevention of workplace deaths and injuries.

Terrés F et al, ‘Corporate motivation to risk prevention: Applied exploratory analysis in construction sector in Catalonia’ (2013) 23(3) Human Factors and Ergonomics in Manufacturing and Service Industries 173-185. The article is an exploratory analysis of the extrinsic factors (prosecution, inspection, external pressure) and intrinsic factors (legal, responsibility, internal involvement) affecting an employer's safety motivation in the construction industry, and their correlation with firm size, management level and perceived risk. Findings indicate that it is possible to develop external motivators (advice from inspection bodies, union activities, publicity of prosecution records, etc) that are addressed to top managers and to firms more exposed to risk. The authors also find that it is possible to develop internal motivators by introducing experience ratings, social accounting, advertising in the mass media and promotion campaigns, particularly among bigger firms.

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) discussion papers. Three OECD papers deal with regulatory inspection, enforcement, policy and governance.

The first, Best Practice Principles for Improving Regulatory Enforcement and Inspections (2013) raises for public consultation key issues for effective and efficient regulatory enforcement and inspection. The paper is online at: http://www.oecd.org/gov/regulatory-policy/enforcement-inspections.htm

The second paper, Principles for the Governance of Regulators (2013) also for public consultation, identifies seven key principles that Frame how Effective Regulators are. The report is available at: http://www.oecd.org/gov/regulatory-policy/governance-regulators.htm
The third paper, *Recommendation of the Council on Regulatory Policy and Governance* (2012) sets out the measures that governments can take to support systemic regulatory reform to deliver legal standards that meet public policy objectives, and positive social and economic impacts. These measures include the design, assessment, evaluation, revision and enforcement of legal standards, supported by appropriate institutions. The paper also addresses consultation and citizen engagement, regulatory impact assessment, multi-level coherence, risk and regulation, institutional responsibility for policy coherence and oversight, and the role of regulatory agencies. The paper is online at: [http://www.oecd.org/gov/regulatory-policy/49990817.pdf](http://www.oecd.org/gov/regulatory-policy/49990817.pdf)

Independent Taskforce on Workplace Health and Safety, *Workplace Health and Safety, He Korowai Whakaruruhau*, New Zealand, 2013. This report presents the findings of the taskforce established in June 2012 to evaluate whether the workplace health and safety system in New Zealand was fit for purpose, and to recommend practical strategies for reducing the high rate of workplace fatalities and serious injuries by 2020. The taskforce found poor performance and weaknesses in the system, and suggested that systemic issues were behind New Zealand’s poor health and safety record. Significant weaknesses to be addressed included: confusing regulation, a weak regulator, poor worker engagement, inadequate leadership, capacity and capability shortcomings, inadequate incentives, poor data and measurement, and a risk tolerant culture. Accountability, motivation and knowledge were identified as means to influence the behavior of PCBUs, workers, and other participants in workplaces. The report is online at: [http://www.hstaskforce.govt.nz/documents/report-of-the-independent-taskforce-on-workplace-health-safety.pdf](http://www.hstaskforce.govt.nz/documents/report-of-the-independent-taskforce-on-workplace-health-safety.pdf)

**Decision making, management and culture**

Hayes J, *Operational Decision-Making in High-Hazard Organizations: Drawing a Line in the Sand*, Ashgate, England and USA, 2013. This book explores safety decision-making by documenting and examining stories told by front-line managers in three different high-hazard organisations: a chemical plant, a nuclear power station and an air-navigation service provider. The book presents research findings indicating that whilst operational managers are guided by rules, they also draw on their own long experience and can formulate a situation-specific ‘line in the sand’, applying the experience of the operating team to complex, real-world situations that rule writers may not have foreseen. The book refocuses attention on the people who make these important decisions and the organizational processes that support the best choices. In so doing, the book provides lessons for accident analysis which highlights the need for excellent decision-making by those in charge in the field, while business environments often emphasize documentation and measurement. For more information see: [http://www.ashgate.com/default.aspx?page=637&calctitle=1&pageSubject=3018&title_id=10655&edition_id=10978](http://www.ashgate.com/default.aspx?page=637&calctitle=1&pageSubject=3018&title_id=10655&edition_id=10978)

Kines P et al, ‘Improving safety in small enterprises through an integrated safety management intervention’ (2013) 44 *Journal of Safety Research* 87-95. This article presents a study testing a participatory behavior-based injury prevention approach, integrated with safety culture initiatives, in 16 small metal industry enterprises (10–19 employees). The firms were randomly assigned to receive the intervention or not. Safety coaching of owners/managers resulted in the identification of 48 safety tasks, 85% of which were solved at follow-up. Owner/manager led constructive dialogue meetings with workers resulted in the prioritization of 29 tasks, 79% of which were accomplished at follow-up. Significant increases in safety observation scores were demonstrated.

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Edwards J, ‘Returning to the roots of culture: A review and re-conceptualisation of safety culture’ (2013) 55 Safety Science 70-80. This article argues that traditional views of culture drawn from anthropology and cultural psychology can be applied to safety culture to provide greater understanding of safety culture and additional means by which to approach safety in the workplace. The authors propose a synthesised conceptualisation of safety culture by increasing understanding of the interactions between cultural and contextual variables in a given workplace and the effect they have on safety.

Sinclair D, ‘Corporate OSH management architecture in the Australian coal mining industry’ (2012) 10(2) Policy and Practice in Health and Safety 3-24. This article examines the corporate safety architecture of five Australian coal mining companies. A key finding was the high degree of convergence of corporate safety tools and strategies to the extent that, ultimately, all five companies had a common architecture. The article explores positive features of this safety architecture and reasons why this common architecture has contributed to a substantial improvement in OHS outcomes. The article also notes that in recent years, the rate of OHS improvement has slowed and may have plateaued in the mining industry, and there have been divergent responses across mine sites. Possible explanations for these phenomena are explored.

Hale A and Borys D, ‘Working to rule, or working safely? Part 1: A state of the art review’ (2013) 55 Safety Science 207-221. This article reviews the literature since 1986 on the management of safety rules and procedures which relate to the workplace level. It contrasts two different paradigms of how rules and their development and use are perceived and managed. The first is a top-down classical, rational approach in which rules are seen as static, comprehensive limits of freedom of choice, imposed on operators at the workplace and with violations seen as negative behaviour to be suppressed. The second approach is a bottom-up constructivist view of rules as dynamic, local, situated constructions of operators as experts, where competence is seen as the ability to adapt rules to the diversity of reality. The paper explores the research underlying and illustrating these two paradigms, which is drawn from psychology, sociology and ethnography, organisational studies and behavioural economics.

Hale A and Borys D, ‘Working to rule or working safely? Part 2: The management of safety rules and procedures’ (2013) 55 Safety Science 222-231. This article draws on the literature to propose a framework of rule management applying the lessons from the two approaches outlined in the first article (above). The monitoring and adaptation of rules are seen as central to the management process, as well as participation by the intended rule followers in the processes of rule-making, and in keeping those rules alive and up to date through regular and explicit dialogue with first-line supervision and, through them, with the technical, safety and legal experts. The framework is proposed for testing in the field as a benchmark for good practice.

Worker participation and consultation

Morse T et al, ‘Characteristics of effective health and safety committees: Survey results’ (2013) 56 (2) American Journal of Industrial Medicine 163-179. This article presents the findings of a survey of 380 health and safety committee members from 176 manufacturing workplaces, supplemented with administrative data and compared with workers' compensation rates. The survey investigated perceptions of overall safety, and committee effectiveness, activities and “best practices.” The study found that more rapid actioning of items, a focus on ergonomics and planning for safety training were associated with lower injury rates. Also, workplaces in which manager and worker committee members differed in their estimates of overall safety had higher injury rates. The article makes recommendations for follow up research.
Yassi A et al, ‘Effectiveness of joint health and safety committees: A realist review’ (2013) 56(4) American Journal of Industrial Medicine 424-438. A systematic review was undertaken to find empirical studies about the effectiveness of joint manager/worker health and safety committees. The review identified consistent empowerment mechanisms as determinants of successful committees despite few evidence-based details for best practice implementation. The authors recommend intervention research to resolve these issues.

Tucker E, ‘Giving Voice to the Precariously Employed? Mapping and Exploring Channels of Worker Voice in Occupational Health and Safety Regulation’ in Sargeant M and Ori M (eds) Vulnerable Workers and Precarious Working, Osgoode Hall Law School, York University, 2013. This article discusses the impact for worker representation and participation of the changing nature of the labour market, in which full-time workers with secure jobs are being replaced by precariously employed workers. The article discusses alternative models of worker voice in this labour market and examines the research on how well precariously employed workers are able to participate using existing channels. The article concludes with strategies and tactics for amplifying worker voice in OHS regulation. The article is online at: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2231767

Health and safety competency and education

Chang S et al, ‘Developing a competency model for safety professionals: Correlations between competency and safety functions’ (2013) 43(5–6) Journal of Safety Research 339-350. Questionnaires with safety professionals (153) and educators (146) were used to investigate factors which contribute to competency for good safety performance.

Bahn S, ‘Workplace hazard identification and management: The case of an underground mining operation’ (2013) 57(0) Safety Science 129-137. This article uses the findings from two workshops conducted with 77 employees of an underground mining operation in Western Australia to examine hazard identification and the knowledge and skills required to perform this successfully. The findings suggest that length of experience does not predetermine ability to identify hazards or strategies to control them, and indicates the need to provide further training for all managers and employees in hazard identification and management.

Forst L et al, ‘More than training: Community-based participatory research to reduce injuries among hispanic construction workers’ (2013) 56(8) American Journal of Industrial Medicine 827-837. The article describes a project designed to prevent occupational injuries by increasing awareness of hazards and self-efficacy among Hispanic construction workers in the US, and by expanding the agenda of Worker Centers (WCs). The researchers partnered with eight WCs in seven cities to train worker leaders to deliver a modified Occupational Safety and Health Authority (OSHA) 10-hr curriculum to their peers. Thirty-two worker leaders trained 446 workers over three years. There was a demonstrated improvement in knowledge, hazard identification, self-efficacy, and sustainable OHS activities. The authors conclude that the study provides evidence for the efficacy of a community-based participatory research project to train low wage, low literacy construction workers from a non-English speaking background.
Financial incentives and health and safety performance

Tompa E et al, ‘Update on a systematic literature review on the effectiveness of experience rating’ (2012) 10(2) Policy and Practice in Health and Safety 47-65. This article reports the findings of a systematic review aimed at updating the evidence on the impact of experience rating of workers’ compensation insurance premiums on work health and safety performance. The review provides insights about a broader range of premium-setting features and behavioural incentives.

Koning P, ‘Anticipated and unanticipated incentives of disability insurance experience rating: the case of the Netherlands’ (2013) 10(2) Policy and Practice in Health and Safety 67-80. This article presents an analysis of Dutch social benefit administration data which was used to compare employers that were hit by premium increases (treatment group) with those that were not (control group). The analysis found weak evidence of the anticipated effects of incentives and substantial findings on the unanticipated impact of experience rating. The article concludes that the decision of employers to increase preventive activities is mainly an issue of being aware of the experience-rating incentive. However, evidence suggests that the enhanced incentives have also led to an increased flow into unemployment insurance and other benefit schemes.

Occupational fatalities

Matthews L et al, ‘Traumatic death at work: Consequences for surviving families’ (2012) 42(4) International Journal of Health Services 647-666. Every year, more than 5,000 family members and close friends of Australian workers become survivors of traumatic work-related death (TWD). This study investigated the health, social, and financial consequences of TWD on surviving families. In-depth exploratory interviews were conducted with family members who had experienced TWD from one to 20 years before the interviews, with the average being three years. All families reported serious health, social, and financial consequences, including prolonged grief and unresolved loss, physical health problems, family disruption and behavioral effects on children, immediate financial difficulties, and disturbance of longer term commitments such as retirement planning. Recommendations for policy development and improved practice are proposed to minimize the trauma and suffering experienced by families, to mitigate consequences and to improve outcomes following a TWD.

Mendeloff J and Burns R, ‘States with low non-fatal injury rates have high fatality rates and vice-versa’ (2013) 56(5) American Journal of Industrial Medicine 509-519. This article notes that injury rates or fatality rates are sometimes used in studies of the impact of safety programs or policies, and discusses the effect of the type of metric used for findings about occupational risks. The article uses a measure of severe injuries (fatalities) and of less severe injuries (non-fatal injuries with days away from work, restricted work, or job transfer) to examine the issue. Based on US data, the authors find that fatal and non-fatal injury rates are negatively correlated. It concludes that while reported non-fatal rates are influenced by workers’ compensation benefits and other factors, fatality rates are a more valid measure of risk, and further work is needed to explain the variations found.
Psychosocial hazards

Alterman T et al, ‘Job insecurity, work-family imbalance, and hostile work environment: Prevalence data from the 2010 National Health Interview Survey’ (2010) 56(6) American Journal of Industrial Medicine 660-669. This article reports on a survey of 17,524 adults investigating three workplace psychosocial factors - job insecurity, work-family imbalance and hostile work environment (bullying/harassment). The article reports prevalence rates for each of these: 31.7% for job insecurity; 16.3% for work-family imbalance; and 7.8% for hostile work environment. The highest prevalence rate of job insecurity was found for construction and extraction occupations, and workers in legal occupations had the highest prevalence rate of work-family imbalance. Workers in protective service occupations had the highest prevalence rate of hostile work environment. The authors suggest that these results can be used for benchmarking and identifying targets for investigation and intervention activities.

Hutchinson J, ‘Rethinking workplace bullying as an employment relations problem’ (2012) 54(5) Journal of Industrial Relations 637-652. This article explores reasons for the limited success of government and organizational policies in preventing or resolving Workplace bullying in the Australian context. The article reviews the workplace bullying literature and uses data collected from interviews with policy actors in Australian public sector organizations. It finds that prevailing theories and policy definitions emphasize the individual aspects of bullying and overlook the significance of organizational, employment and cultural factors. The article argues that narrow explanations of workplace bullying limit the capacity of policies to prevent or resolve the problem, and suggests that a multidisciplinary approach to understanding workplace bullying as a work and employment relations issue is a fundamental step in its prevention.

Keuskamp D et al, ‘Precarious employment, psychosocial working conditions, and health: Cross-sectional associations in a population-based sample of working Australians’ (2013) 56(8) American Journal of Industrial Medicine 838-844. This article reports a study examining the relationships between precarious employment and health, and investigating psychosocial working conditions as potential mediators. A cross-sectional population-based survey was conducted in South Australia in 2009 with 1,016 employed people. No association was found between casual full-time or part-time employment and poor mental health, but a significant association was found between casual full-time employment and poor physical health (compared with permanent full-time workers). The association with physical health was unaffected by adjustment for psychosocial working conditions measured in this study, but the authors suggest that it may be related to other (unmeasured) working conditions.

Richardson S et al, ‘Are casual and contract terms of employment hazardous for mental health in Australia’ (2012) 54(5) Journal of Industrial Relations 557-578. This study investigated the impacts on mental health of casual, contract and part-time employment and of unemployment, compared with permanent full-time employment. The study found that unemployed men (but not women) had significantly and substantially lower mental health. The employed men who were on fixed-term contracts, especially graduates, had lower mental health than those who were employed on full-time permanent terms, and women had significantly higher mental health if they were employed full time on casual terms.
Solovieva S et al, ‘Psychosocial factors at work, long work hours, and obesity: A systematic review’ (2013) 39(3) Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment & Health 241-258. This article reports on a systematic review of the published evidence for the association between psychosocial factors at work and long work hours, and weight-related outcomes.

Villalobos G H et al, ‘Design of psychosocial factors questionnaires: A systematic measurement approach’ (2013) 56(1) American Journal of Industrial Medicine 100-110. This article explains the design of a set of questionnaires to evaluate work and non-work psychosocial risk factors for stress-related illnesses, based on a review of literature. Three questionnaires were constructed to evaluate exposure to work and non-work risk factors, reflecting a wide range of psychosocial factors.

### Hazardous substances

Boelhouwer E et al, ‘Comprehension of hazard communication: Effects of pictograms on safety data sheets and labels’ (2013) 46 Journal of Safety Research 145-155. This study of the efficacy of safety symbols (pictograms) in safety data sheets (SDS) and labels for chemicals suggests they are an effective method of hazard communication and comprehension in some conditions, but not across all conditions. The article concludes that the inclusion of pictograms in SDS and labels under the globally harmonised system for classifying chemicals may benefit the user.

Rigolle C et al, ‘How effective is the European legislation regarding cancer-related chemical agents?’ (2013) 67(7) Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health 539-541. This article summarises key findings of a 2012 report which evaluates the effectiveness and impact of European Union legislation REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) regarding cancer-related chemical agents and agricultural and non-agricultural pesticides. The evaluation was based on the principle of physical–chemical hygiene and the precautionary principle. According to the first principle, chemicals that are suspicious due to their intrinsic properties should be restricted as much as possible. According to the precautionary principle scientific uncertainty should not be an excuse for failing to implement preventive measures. When there are enough reasons to assume that an activity, a product or a substance can cause serious, irreversible damage to human health or the environment, cost-effective preventive measures must be taken. The authors suggest that REACH has led to a completely new approach to the control of the production, import and use of industrial chemicals in the EU and has been an important first step towards healthier living environments. However, shortcomings in the design of the legislation, the length of time before regulations will be fully implemented, and knowledge gaps remain. An executive summary is online at: [http://www.env-health.org/IMG/pdf/executive_summary_report_vlk_en.pdf](http://www.env-health.org/IMG/pdf/executive_summary_report_vlk_en.pdf)

Calvert G et al, ‘The prevalence of selected potentially hazardous workplace exposures in the US: Findings from the 2010 National Health Interview Survey’ (2013) 56(6) American Journal of Industrial Medicine 635-646. This study assessed the prevalence of work exposure to potential skin hazards, secondhand smoke (SHS), and outdoor work among various industry and occupation groups in the United States and the national prevalence of chronic workplace exposure to vapors, gas, dust, and fumes (VGDF) among these groups. Data for 2010 were available for 17,524 adults who worked in the 12 months that preceded interview. The highest prevalence rates of hazardous workplace exposures were typically in agriculture, mining, and construction. The highest prevalence rates for frequent handling or having skin contact with chemicals, and for non-smokers ex-
exposed to SHS at work were in mining and construction. Outdoor work was most common in agriculture (85%), construction (73%), and mining (65%). Frequent occupational exposure to VGDF was most common among mining (67%), agriculture (53%), and construction workers (51%).

Choi Y et al, ‘Trades of dangers: A study of asbestos industry transfer cases in Asia’ (2013) 56(3) American Journal of Industrial Medicine 335-346. This article reports on an examination of health and safety measure transfers and health outcomes for asbestos work in Asia. Interviews, field assessments and field surveys of health and safety conditions were conducted in Japan, Germany, Indonesia and South Korea over a 5 year period beginning in 2007. The study found that a 10 year time delay in comparable health and safety conditions had resulted in repeated adverse health consequences at each factory operation site. While Asia has become the largest consumer of asbestos in the world, no effective internationally accepted safety measures have been introduced in the region. The article calls for improved public awareness and international cooperation, such as sharing of substitute material technologies by the exporting countries, and for the creation of an Asian fund for asbestos victims.

Plant and machinery

Saric S et al, ‘Analysis of forklift accident trends within Victorian industry (Australia)’ (2013) 60 Safety Science 176-184. This paper analyses the frequency of forklift related fatalities and injuries in Victoria for the time period 2000–2012. The paper highlights the positive impacts that safety initiatives have had in reducing forklift related accidents in Victorian industry. Recommendations are made for further improvements which also have international relevance.

Swuste P, ‘A ‘normal accident’ with a tower crane? An accident analysis conducted by the Dutch Safety Board’ (2013) 57 Safety Science 276-282. The article reports that risks posed by cranes are specific and that prior to assessing the impact of management and organizational factors, accident analysis should first start with an analysis of the actual accident process. Drawing on the Dutch Safety Board’s accident analysis involving a non-mobile, trolley tower crane, the article concludes that once cranes are on the market there appears to be no further effective safety net for the detection of structural weaknesses. The article also discusses the role of parties involved in construction and inspection of tower cranes.
Organisation of work and health and safety

Lifeline, FIFO/DIDO Mental Health, Western Australia, 2013. This report presents the findings of an online survey of 924 fly-in-fly-out (FIFO) and drive-in-drive-out (DIDO) workers. The survey aimed to examine several occupational and mental health factors amongst workers, including coping mechanisms, mental health awareness, knowledge of support services, awareness of occupational demands and substance use. Although many participants expressed refusal or reluctance to access formal support services during times of stress, some showed awareness of the significance of maintaining mental wellbeing as a matter of general occupational health and safety. The report makes recommendations including the need to: develop supports that focus on increasing help-seeking behaviour within FIFO populations; develop supports that target the needs of specific groups; develop pre-employment supports (what to expect from FIFO and how to cope); develop ongoing post-employment supports that reduce stigma and address mental health literacy and coping skills; and address organisational culture such that seeking help is encouraged and supported. The report is online at: http://www.lifelinewa.org.au/download/FIFO%20DIDO%20Mental%20Health%20Research%20Report%202013.pdf

Williamson A and Friswell R, ‘The effect of external non-driving factors, payment type and waiting and queuing on fatigue in long distance trucking’ (2013) 58 Accident Analysis & Prevention 26-34. The aim of this study was to explore the effects of external influences on long distance trucking, in particular, incentive-based remuneration systems and the need to wait or queue to load or unload on driver experiences of fatigue. The findings suggest that mandating payment of drivers for non-driving work, including waiting, would reduce the amount of non-driving work required for drivers and reduce weekly hours of work. In turn this would reduce driver fatigue and safety risk as well as enhancing the efficiency of the long distance road transport industry.

Older workers

Australian Law Reform Commission, Access All Ages—Older Workers and Commonwealth Laws, Australian Government, Sydney, 2013. This Report makes 36 recommendations for policy and legislative reform to remove barriers to workforce participation of older workers. A key recommendation is for a National Mature Age Workforce Participation Plan. Other recommendations include: a coordinated policy response to enabling mature age workforce participation; consistency across Commonwealth laws and between Commonwealth and state and territory laws to support mature age workforce participation; a reduction in age discrimination; a greater awareness of mature age workers’ rights and entitlements; support for maintaining attachment to the workforce for mature age persons; and work environments, practices and processes that are appropriate for mature age workers. The report is online at: http://www.alrc.gov.au/publications/access-all-ages-report120
Emerging health and safety issues

(2013) 16(3-4) Journal of Risk Research. This special issue of the journal presents 17 articles about the EU research project INTeg-Risk which is identifying common approaches to deal with new technologies and emerging risks across Europe. The articles cover the main innovation strategies and methods developed, such as an agreed way of dealing with unknown risks; the inclusion of societal, cultural, and governance aspects in risk assessment and management; and extension of the concept of the life-cycle responsibility of the owner of emerging risks in terms of new methods for dealing with risks in complex industrial networks/systems. Other topics covered in the special issue are early warning indicators; case studies of atypical accidents; the use of citizens panels in deliberation over new technologies; automated aerial surveillance to identify threats to buried oil and gas transmission pipelines; approaches for safe storage of hydrogen, underground storage of wastes and coal, and above ground storage of combustible wastes and recycling materials; spontaneous ignition and combustion of coal and approaches to prevention, control and extinction; industrial accidents triggered by natural hazards; and online monitoring and risk-assessment in petrochemical and power industrial plants.

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, Green Jobs and Occupational Safety and Health: Foresight on New and Emerging Risks Associated with New Technologies by 2020, Luxembourg, 2013. This report describes a European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) project which aims to foresee new and emerging risks to occupational safety and health associated with new technologies in green jobs by 2020. The project is setting scenarios covering a range of new technologies in green jobs and the impact they could have on workers’ health and safety. They are intended to inform policymakers, trade unions and employers, so that they can take decisions to shape the future of safer and healthier workplaces in green jobs. The report is online at: https://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/reports/green-jobs-foresight-new-emerging-risks-technologies