

# ARFF Workplace HSC

## Meeting Agenda

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**Date:** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2024

**Time:** 0930-1330 (AEST)

**Location:** MS Teams (Online) / Melbourne (Meeting Room: Walsh Room)

**Attendees:**

Members:

- Head of Aerodromes (TBC) - CHAIR
- DAO Central (Paul Tringali)
- A/DAO East (Jean Hancock)
- DAO North (Andrew Firman)
- DAO South (Matt Crowley)
- DAO West (Mat Morrissey)
- Rodney Evans (Chief Fire Officer, ARFF Standards)
- Sam Woodman (Operational Risk Assurance Specialist, ARFF Standards)
- Daniel Thompson
- Jo Gardiner
- Rory McCabe
- Justin Carroll
- Jay Aspros
- Tracey Spilsbury
- Patrick Shanahan
- Zack Von Loenhout

Non Members:

- WHS Team Lead (Jessica Nichols)
- Senior WHS Specialist (ARFF) (Matthew Daniels)
- UFU-A Branch Secretary (Wes Garrett)
- Admin Support (Danielle Cooper)

Guest:

- Worker Proxy (Jason Adams)
- Worker Proxy (Ebony Nemme)
- Damon Lazarus
- Suganiya Thistleton
- Craig Barnes

1. **Nominate – Acting Chair**
2. **Welcome to Country or Acknowledgement of Country**
  - *Acting Chair*
3. **International Firefighters Cancer Awareness Teams Call – 30mins**
  
4. **Presumptive Cancer Legislation, Cancer Screening and Consistency of Medical Testing**
  - Actions from previous meeting**
    - RE and AT to discuss and progress a 'Systemic Thinking' piece.
    - JN and KA to work with Station HSC Reps to re commence Toolbox Meetings and Bulletins to ensure awareness of testing, symptoms and reporting are widely known and understood
  - Discussion**

Update on appropriate additional medical testing for presumptive cancer legislation and achieving appropriate frequency and consistency of testing across Australia

    - Sonic Health?
    - Additional heart health testing?
    - Update on Health and Wellbeing program/Health and Wellbeing hub links to cancer screening/PFAS therapy tools. Appropriate platform or better served under dedicated HSC tab within ARFFS WHS page?
    - Comcare Insurance Premium update. (Cost of not implementing adequate safety controls to protect staff from job related exposures)
  
5. **DPM Update**
  - Actions from previous meeting**
    - QON for Damon – why not keep this work in VIC? Provide extra information to the HSC at the next meeting. Could the trial be cut to 3 months instead of 6? Damon to consider.
    - WHS rep will be involved in determining suitability during pilot program. High level cross business engagement.
  - Discussion**
    - Source Capture national pilot rollout for drive through/non drive through stations Perth confirmed. Non drive through.
    - DPM list of stations with equipment in engine bays – hazard elimination progress? (Spreadsheet attached)
    - Varied advice for DPM suppression at stations around Australia. – Some locations can not use water to clean engine bays, industrial clean/repaint for engine bays with prolonged exposure
  
6. **Annual drinking water testing at all ARFF stations to ensure PFAS levels are at acceptable human consumption levels**

7. **ASA Psychological Risk Improvement Program**

**Actions from previous meeting**

- DC to include this topic in the September meeting agenda for a 15-minute update and discussion.
- ST to add a HSC worker rep to this program when the time is right.

**Discussion**

- Cancelled Mental Health First Aid courses?
- EAP review. Sonder recognised as potential provider? Update from ASA Rehab team
- Organize Before Blue representative to deliver presentation at December face to face meeting

8. **Facilities and Amenities**

**Actions from previous meeting**

- JN to invite the dorm upgrade team to the next meeting
- Facilities to provide a copy of the scope/statement of requirement for the HAZMAT air and noise program. Electronic and hard copy.

**Discussion**

- Working group involving Facilities property, Airservices WHS specialists and HSC worker representatives to help establish minimum standards for new station builds? (decon, dorms, kitchen, gym)
- ConOps working group does not have HSC representation. Worker representatives nominate Dan Thompson to continue consultation with ConOps in development stage
- Inclusive, private, gender-neutral dormitories with toilet/shower/locker facilities (See attached WHS advice)
- Melbourne Dorm upgrade not meeting minimum room data sheet requirements.
- Acoustic treatment for all ARFF temporary dormitories (see attached floorplans)
- Non 24hr stations having their orders for dorms cancelled while staff are still sleeping in makeshift facilities

9. **Longitudinal PFAS Exposure (Blood) Study**

**Discussion – Craig Barnes presentation**

10. **HSR Representation of ARFF Working Groups**

**Actions from previous meeting**

- DAOs along with JN to put together some information for stations making it clear that the HSC would ideally like 1 HSR representative and 1 Deputy HSR Representative per 'work group' and offer support, provide clarity around what the role expectations are.
- DAO's and JN / KA to support the stations with their HSR Elections using Survey Monkey for voting.
- JN to present information at the next meeting around 12 monthly refresher training requirements, need, importance.

11. **National Training Strategy**

**Discussion**

- Regional hubs – self-sufficient facilities/PPE provisions (West Sydney etc.)
- Improvements to local training facilities

12. **Uniforms/PPE update**

**Actions from previous meeting**

- Encourage everyone to raise CIRRIS whenever necessary. Comms to go out through this committee / safety bulletins. Info is currently in the toolbox – Jess Nichols / Rod Evans to issue this.
- RE to investigate how we deal with cultural issues around people being uncomfortable with self-reporting. 'I won't be considered for promotions etc if I make waves.
- JN to present on the new CIRRIS reporting system at next meeting.

**Discussion**

- MM Update – to send

13. **Comcare Instructor-led Training**

- 4th Dec Work Health and Safety Committees course. Requesting all HSC members to attend

14. **Vehicle/DRV fleet replacement (PPV upgrade)**