

# Guide for safer construction

On average, one worker a week dies on a construction site in Australia and many more are seriously injured.

A new guide for safer construction will combat high death and injury rates of workers on building sites.

Launched by Employment and Workplace Relations Minister Joe Hockey, the guide was initiated by Engineers Australia and is being funded and coordinated by CRC for Construction Innovation and backed by key construction companies.

"The construction industry has an obligation to ensure, so far as we reasonably can, the safety of workers, the public, suppliers and other participants in the construction process," Engineers Australia Taskforce on Construction Safety chairman Bill Wild said.

"Creating a strong safety culture requires the involvement and commitment of all project stakeholders and is essential to the improvement of safety in the construction industry," he said.

"The Guide to Best Practice for Safer Construction has been developed following significant industry input and collaboration, and a detailed review of practical Australian and

international best practice initiatives.

"It suggests a framework aimed at improving safety performance on construction projects and covers all stages of a project: planning, design, construction and post-construction.

"The guide is designed to integrate occupational health and safety into strategic and operational decision-making by owners, clients, designers and constructors in order to reduce workplace injuries within the construction industry."

The guide outlines six "best practice" principles to manage occupational health and safety within project processes.

These principles aim to establish a foundation for the collaboration of stakeholders who can all impact on OHS performance.

"The three primary stakeholder groups of the construction industry – clients, designers and constructors – have formally worked together to find a solution, which is critical as the Guide to Best Practice for Safer Construction aims to integrate occupational health and safety into strategic and operational decision making at all stages of the project." ■