

CFMEU SAFETY ALERT

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Visa Workers – Your Safety

In the past twelve months three 457 visa workers have died on Perth construction sites. Two young Irish backpackers were crushed by concrete panels which were being installed on the job. The builder (Jaxon) should have ensured that the two workers were not allowed in that work area while panels were being lifted.

A young German backpacker tragically fell 13 levels to her death on a multi-story apartment project because the builder (Hanssen Pty Ltd) did not ensure that a safe system of work at heights was enforced.

Understanding the safety and health needs of your workplace is essential to ensure you are not exposed to risk from ever present hazards in the construction industry.

In Western Australia, the law requires that a high standard of safety must be provided at your workplace, and that you are not injured or harmed because of your work. Making workplaces safer relies upon the employer and employees working together. Employers have a responsibility to provide, as far as practicable, a safe workplace. This is called a “duty of care”. You, as an employee, also have a duty of care to work safely and not affect the safety and health of others.

The law in Western Australia also requires the employer to consider the individual needs of workers in providing a safe workplace. For example, they need to consider how to convey information about safety to those with a limited knowledge of English, or those with other specific needs.

As an employee, there are different ways you can participate in ensuring safety and health at your workplace. You can do this by:

- talking directly with your employer, supervisor and co-workers about any concerns you may have.
- notifying the supervisor or employer of any hazards or injuries, or potential hazards or injuries.
- participating in training on any procedures with which you are unfamiliar or require to perform your task.
- asking questions about any matters you do not understand.
- where required, requesting information and training be provided in an appropriate format to suit your needs, for example using an interpreter or translator.
- where there are safety and health representatives or a safety and health committee, raising issues with them immediately.

If you follow these points your employer must co-operate with you under their “duty of care”

If you do not have a safety and health representative or committee on your site and the employer is unhelpful or threatening call the CFMEU, don't become the next fatality.

REPORT UNSAFE WORK PRACTICES - CALL (08) 9228 6900 OR EMAIL SAFETY@CFMEUWA.COM

Stand up. Speak out. Come home.