

HEALTHY WORK CONFERENCE '25

A circular collage of various people working in different industries, including retail, food processing, construction, and delivery, all overlaid with a red grid pattern.



FROM RISK TO RIGHTS

COLLECTIVE ACTION FOR SAFE & HEALTHY WORK

20-21 NOVEMBER | ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE

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WELCOME RECEPTION

Bodyline Bar, Adelaide Oval
War Memorial Drive, North Adelaide
5:30pm – 7:30pm
Canapés and beverages to be served throughout the event

20 NOVEMBER: CITY ROOMS, ADELAIDE CONVENTION CENTRE

9 – 11am

Conference opening:

- Welcome to Country: Uncle Moogy Major Sumner
- Conference open: Sally McManus (Secretary of the ACTU)

Plenary 1: Organising for Mentally Healthy Work

- Professor Maureen Dollard (UniSA)
- **Panel discussion: Under Pressure – The Hidden Cost of Retail**
Chaired by Helen Cooney (National Assistant Secretary of the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees' Association (SDA))
 - Bernie Smith (NSW Branch Secretary, SDA)
 - Chelsea Bishop (Organiser, Trainer and WHS Officer, SDA)
 - Angela, SDA member, Department Store Worker and HSR
- Liam O'Brien (Assistant Secretary of the ACTU) on Work Shouldn't Hurt data
- **Panel discussion: What the numbers tell us about mentally unsafe work**
Chaired by Liam O'Brien
 - Keith Govias (Workplace Safety & Risk Principal, EML Group)
 - Glenn Farrell (Executive Director, SafeWork SA)
 - Holly Mason (Mentally Healthy Workplaces Consultant, ReturnToWorkSA)
 - Deneille Sutton (National Stakeholder Manager, AustralianSuper)

11 – 11:20am

Morning tea

11:30 – 12:30pm

Workshop 1.1: Beyond bias – building safer, fairer workplaces

Room: Plenary

Explore strategies for creating safe workplaces for women in trades, addressing gender bias as a safety hazard, and understanding how workplace cultures and bystander practices impact psychosocial safety.

- Dr Jamilla Rosdahl (Unions NSW)
- Karen Smith (AMWU)
- SA Unions Gender Equality Project team

Workshop 1.2: Safety & skills workshop

Room: City Room 4

Workgroup negotiation: first steps to support HSRs, and how to use digital tools to foster collective action and support among workers.

- James Gilbert (QNMU)
- Dominic Melling (VTHC)

Workshop 1.3: Healthy Work, Healthy Lives: Advancing Occupational Health

Room: City Room 3

Updates on occupational diseases, including mesothelioma and asbestos exposure, and research on making clean indoor air a basic workplace entitlement.

- Dr Tim Driscoll (University of Sydney)
- Julia Collins (ASSEA)
- A/Prof Suman Majumdar (Burnet Institute)

12:30 – 1:20pm

Lunch

1:30 – 3:00pm

The Hon Chris Picton MP, Minister for Health and Wellbeing

Plenary 2: Workers' Compensation

Panel discussion: *Putting workers at the centre of workers' compensation*, chaired by Melissa Payne (Assistant National Secretary CPSU-PSU Group), with panellists:

- Phillip Wise (Director, Data Improvement and Analysis, Safe Work Australia)
- Michael Francis (CEO of ReturnToWorkSA and Chair of Heads of Workers Compensation Authorities)
- Michelle James (Director, Head of North Injuries and Queensland Injuries, Maurice Blackburn)

Plenary 3: Deadly Dust: Eliminating Dust Diseases

Jodie Deakes (CEO of the Asbestos and Silica Safety and Eradication Agency) –
From Strategy to Reality: National coordination driving real-world collective action for asbestos and silica safety

Plenary 4: Tales from the United States: Dust, Heat and worker safety and health

Dr Robert Harrison (MD, MPH, University of California, San Francisco)

3 - 3:20pm		Afternoon tea	
3:30 - 4:30pm	Workshop 2.1: Occupational violence and aggression - Key issues and union responses Room: Plenary Union-led discussion on key issues and responses to occupational violence and aggression, with insights from Australian Education Union officials. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paige Bousen (QTU) Amber Flohm (NSWTF) Bianca Hennessy (AEU ACT Branch) 	Workshop 2.2: Welding and health monitoring Room: City Room 3 What is good practice when it comes to monitoring workers' health? Delve into experiences from the AMWU welding campaign and Victorian and California for silica. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martin Raspin (AMWU) Prof Deborah Glass (Monash University) Dr Robert Harrison (University of California) Assoc Prof Ryan Hoy (Monash University) 	
4:35 - 5:30pm	Workshop 3.1: Preventing sexual harassment at work Room: Plenary Respect@Work changes and 'safe to speak up' - the potential of enterprise bargaining to embed concrete sexual harassment controls into universities. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Penny Parker (Maurice Blackburn) Alicia Pearce (Unions NSW) 	Workshop 3.2: Safety & Skills Room: City Room 4 Epidemiology for non-epidemiologists: Making sense of all that information and the story of using FOIs to request silica dust information to drive change. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Matthew Govorko (Cancer Council WA) Chris Donovan (AWU) 	Workshop 3.3: Global WHS - Organising to protect workers and consumers from asbestos diseases and asbestos tool for HSRs Room: City Room 3 Perspectives from international trade unions and NGOs on global work health and safety challenges and collective action. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adam Kaminski (Union Aid Abroad- APHEDA) Jotika Sharma (FTUC) Phillip Hazelton (APHEDA) Sandewa Dhiccy (LION) Prihanani Boenadi (KSPI) Yan Ke (BWI) Julia Collins (ASEA) Maddie Finch (SWA)

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MAURICE BLACKBURN CONFERENCE DINNER

Hall K, Adelaide Convention Centre
6:30pm
Three course dinner with drinks

8:30 - 10am	Plenary 5: Racism as a WHS hazard <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Giridharan Sivaraman (Race Discrimination Commissioner, Australian Human Rights Commission) Bec Weigel (Growth and Campaigning Officer, QNMU) and Rachel Bos (Manager, Capacity Building, ACTU) - Understanding racism and identifying its presence in the workplace Campaign moment 		
10 - 10:20am	Morning tea		
10:30 - 11:35am	Workshop 4.1: Psychological health - a practical workshop Room: City Room 3 This workshop introduces the Psychosocial Hazard Work Re-design Tool (PHReD-T), developed with SafeWork NSW, and gives participants practical experience using case studies to build confidence in improving work design for safer, healthier workplaces. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A/Prof Carlo Caponecchia (UNSW Sydney) 	Workshop 4.2: Law reform Room: City Room 4 Discussion on collective advocacy for workers' compensation rights, recent law reforms and how new law reforms are being used to achieve safer workplaces. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michelle James (Maurice Blackburn) Marko Petrovic (PSA/CPSU NSW) 	Workshop 4.3: Air Quality - why monitoring matters Room: Plenary Session on preventing occupational lung diseases and emerging trends in dust disease, with legal and scientific perspectives. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kerstin Greenberg (Lung Foundation Australia) Kate Cole OAM (Cole Health) Jonathan Walsh (Maurice Blackburn)
11:40 - 12:40pm	Plenary 6: Law reform and close <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hon Amanda Rishworth MP (Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations) Marie Boland (CEO of Safe Work Australia) Liam O'Brien (Assistant Secretary of the ACTU) - conference close 		

Indoor Air Quality Monitoring at the Adelaide Convention Centre

The Adelaide Convention Centre ensures optimal indoor air quality through its Building Management System (BMS), which continuously monitors CO² levels across all Suites, Rooms, Halls, and Common Areas. When elevated CO² levels are detected, the system automatically increases the intake of outside air to restore a healthy indoor environment.

CO² levels are maintained in accordance with Australian Standard AS1668.2 - Mechanical Ventilation for Buildings. However, the system allows for adjustments to lower thresholds if required, ensuring flexibility to meet specific event needs or preferences.

Respect at work

The Australian union movement is proud of our campaign to see the full implementation of the Respect @ Work Report recommendations. As a movement we are committed to providing a safe and respectful environment for all workers free from discrimination and all forms of harassment. As such, we expect all conference attendees to uphold these values in how they engage with each other at the conference.

We expect all participants to:

- Treat each other with respect and dignity.
- Refrain from engaging in any behaviour that may be construed as sexual harassment or that may cause another person to feel offended, humiliated or intimidated or create a hostile environment.
- Respect personal boundaries and consent.

If you experience or witness any behaviour that violates these principles, we remind you that the ACTU has a complaints and grievance procedure to deal with such matters.

By attending this conference, you are required to uphold these behavioural expectations and contribute to a positive and inclusive experience for all participants.

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**IF ANYTHING DISCUSSED IN THIS CONFERENCE AFFECTS YOU,
PLEASE REACH OUT TO THE FOLLOWING SUPPORT SERVICES:**

Lifeline: 13 11 14

1300 YARN: 13 92 76 talk with an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Crisis Supporter.

Beyond Blue: 1300 22 4636

1800 Respect: 1800 737 732 if you are impacted by sexual assault or family violence and abuse.

Your employer may have counseling services available to you and you should check with your relevant team member.