

Media Release

Mr Danny Pearson MP

Minister for Transport Infrastructure

Minister for the Suburban Rail Loop

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Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC



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KEEPING MORE VICTORIAN WORKERS SAFE

The Allan Labor Government is continuing to support innovative projects that reduce workplace harm and deliver improved outcomes for injured Victorian workers.

From Monday, 3 June, applications will open for the latest round of WorkSafe's grants program – focused on preventing or minimising risks from occupational disease and illness.

Grants of up to \$300,000 are available for projects that deliver improved risk management practices, increased education and awareness, or provide better support for those impacted or at risk of harm.

Occupational disease or illness, ranging from hearing loss to silicosis, have characteristics that create unique challenges compared to other health and safety risks, meaning the hazards can be underestimated and the impact on workers significantly under reported.

Whether it be through technology or equipment, knowledge and resources, or new ways of working, WorkSafe grants support solutions that make the biggest difference and have the greatest impact on the health, safety and wellbeing of Victorian workers.

This includes five projects which shared in \$1.45 million worth of funding from WorkSafe's 2023 grant round, to develop initiatives that promote and support Victoria's network of Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs):

- Ballarat Regional Trades and Labour Council – delivering training and providing advice and support to HSRs in regional Victoria
- Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union – addressing barriers and creating systemic change for HSRs in the manufacturing industry
- Australian Nursing and Midwifery Foundation - electing, educating and empowering HSRs in private residential aged care
- National Disability Services - providing targeted support, information, and networking opportunities for HSRs in disability services
- Early Learning Association Australia - improving pathways for HSRs in the early childhood sector.

Eligible organisations including community groups or local organisations, employers or employer representative groups and unions can apply for the latest round of WorkSafe grant funding until 2pm Tuesday, 6 August.

For more information and to apply visit worksafe.vic.gov.au/worksafe-grants.

Quotes attributable to Minister for WorkSafe and the TAC Danny Pearson

"Making sure we continue to evolve and adopt best practice in occupational health and safety is essential to achieving positive outcomes for Victorian workers."

"These grants provide an incredible opportunity for organisations to be a part of designing and delivering the future solutions for some of the biggest issues facing our workplaces and the Victorian community."

Quote attributable to WorkSafe Chief Executive Officer Joe Calafiore

"The complex nature of occupational disease and illness can mean interventions and support may not always be perfect, so continued innovation is critical to ensuring Victorian workers are given the best protection possible."

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