

The Health Improvement and Awareness Committee

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This paper provides industry with an update of the activities of the Queensland Mining Health Improvement and Awareness Committee (HIAC) activities during the past year.

HIAC is a tripartite committee with representatives from the AWU, the CFMEU, the coal industry, the metalliferous industry, the quarrying and cement industry, the Queensland Resources Council and the department's Safety and Health Division. It was established in 2007 to assist industry anticipate, identify, evaluate and control health hazards in the mining environment. It aims to enable the inspectorate, unions and industry to work in unison to provide a greater emphasis on worker health and the prevention of illness and disease.

The committee developed a list of prioritised health hazards for the mining industry in Queensland. The list was prioritised using a simple likelihood/consequences risk matrix and was based on a qualitative assessment of the entire Queensland mining industry as a whole rather than considering individual sectors.

Following the identification of these as priority issues the committee has started to review and share control strategies to address these hazards. In addition, Safety and Health has started to run seminars in conjunction with HIAC meetings.

The Committee has had presentations from experts on fatigue management, research into fatigue, risk management of musculoskeletal disorders due to manual tasks in mining, UV radiation exposure, noise control and health management systems.