

**GOVERNMENT
HEALTH AND SAFETY LEAD**

DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

MENTALLY HEALTHY WORK PROGRAMME:

I'm delighted to be able to let you know that the Mentally Healthy Work development programme has launched. You can find the [module 1 video here](#) with Dougal Sutherland, CEO of Umbrella Wellbeing, presenting an introduction to psychological health and safety and how to start a strategic direction.

Intended for a mix of Senior Leaders, Heads of H&S and HR and Governance audiences and designed to develop a foundational knowledge and understanding of mentally healthy work and support the required caring, curious and courageous conversations. We invite everyone to engage with and enjoy the material and can advise on how it might be best used within your organisational context. All feedback and reflections are appreciated to inform the full programme, to be released for access over the next couple of months.

The Mentally Health Work Community of Practice looks forward to welcoming back Maddie Carson on 4th September presenting Fonterra's approach to psychosocial risk management, with Drew Divehall to follow on October 2nd, sharing Department of Conservation's experience in developing a wellbeing strategy and reporting.

GHSL REFERENCE GROUP – MEDIUM AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE NEEDED

Understanding the issues faced by the sector is essential for the GHSL and, in addition to the various meetings and forums we engage with you in, we also have the GHSL Reference Group as a platform for feedback on our initiatives, work programs and the overall direction of the GHSL. The [GHSL Reference Group](#) meets every three months and is made up of ten safety leaders from across the sector, representing three large, three medium, three small agencies and one non-departmental agency from emergency response or defence. A list of the current members is included below.

Following the departure of one of the Reference Group members, we are asking for a medium agency safety leader to join this group. Please contact Braden at Braden.Lister@mpi.govt.nz if you would be interested in taking this on.

Size	Agency	HSW Leader	Size	Agency	HSW Leader
Small	Housing and Urban Development	Emily Scarlett	Large	Kāinga Ora	Tarniya Comrie
	Ministry of Defence	Mel Childs		Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment	Dave Griffiths
	Serious Fraud Office	Vanessa Wright		Ministry for Primary Industries	Jeanette McKeogh
Medium	New Zealand Customs	Rachael Mason	Non-Departmental	New Zealand Police	Mel Aitken
	New Zealand Trade and Enterprise	Jason Hare			
	Currently Vacant	Currently Vacant			

2024/25 SUMMER INTERN PROGRAMME

Our 2024/25 Summer Internship recruitment is open, with applications closing on 1 September. We have 13 placements on offer from Health NZ, Ministry of Regulation, Museum of Technology and Transport, New Zealand Defence Force, Inland Revenue, Department of Corrections, NZ Customs Service, Ministry for Primary Industries, GHSL and Wellington Zoo. This year we have interns located all across the country, in Auckland, Counties Manukau, Invercargill, Tauranga and Wellington. With travel budget constraints in mind, we will be running two cohorts for the first time, one in Auckland and one in Wellington.

We are also working on the intern programme of events for the summer, knowing that as well as us helping them to develop, our successful interns will also bring fresh perspectives to the public sector view of health, safety, and wellbeing. If you would like to host an intern event, whether it is at your agency or a 30 minute online show and tell of the great health, safety and wellbeing work underway in your agency, please contact Debbie at Deborah.Bridge@mpi.govt.nz to have a chat

2025 OFFICER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

We have locked in the dates for the 2025 Officer Development programme, being run in partnership with the Institute of Directors. In the first instance, if you or any of your senior leadership teams are interested, please email ghsl@mpi.govt.nz and we will arrange for relevant information and a link to the registration process. Course 13 will be run by Mike Cosman on 13th March and 15th May and Course 14 will be run by Craig Marriott on 14th August and 18th September. Please note once bookings are confirmed and paid for, they cannot be refunded. If you are unable to attend one session, you will be offered an opportunity to catch up. If you are unable to attend either session, it will be possible for an alternate person to attend in your place.

MPOX VIRUS

We've recently received questions from the sector about updating information on viruses and diseases, especially following the World Health Organisation's designation of Mpox (formerly known as Monkey Pox) Virus as an illness of global concern. During the COVID-19 response, the GHSL learned the importance of having a single, reliable source of information. We found that, at times, we were creating guidance which was duplicating what other agencies or bodies were doing and so committed to the principle of having a single source of truth, unless directed to do otherwise. For specific guidance and the current risk assessment on Mpox, please refer to Health New Zealand's | Te Whatu Ora's resources: [About Mpox \(monkeypox\) – About Mpox \(monkeypox\) – Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora](#)

The other piece of advice we would provide is a reminder of the importance of regularly reviewing your Business Continuity Plans to keep them current and up to date.

VIOLENCE AND AGGRESSION:

As previously discussed, a working group from across a number of agencies has developed a set of definitions for violent and aggressive (V&A) behaviours. These are intended to help us all speak the same language when talking about risks, describing incidents and looking at controls. This will enhance our ability to share good practice and collectively look to improve how we keep our people safe

One key aspect of these definitions is the distinction between intentional and unintentional behaviours. This is not intended to match the legal definitions or change how instances of V&A are managed within internal and legal processes but is intended as a consideration when thinking about the different agency contexts, for example healthcare, where unintentional V&A is a more common occurrence.

These definitions are a guide and meant to complement your existing policies and procedures. They provide a common framework to facilitate better communication when we collaborate across agencies. Your feedback is essential in refining these definitions to ensure they meet the needs of all agencies involved. Please share your thoughts with me and we'll continue to refine these definitions. Once this piece of work has been completed, we will need to consider what, if anything, the GHSL should work on next in the V&A space and I would appreciate your thoughts on this.

HEALTH AND SAFETY REFORM – SEEKING CONSULTATION AND FEEDBACK ON THE H&S REGULATORY SYSTEM.

Just a reminder that the Health and Safety reform consultation is open until 31 October. MBIE has developed a separate process for government agencies to directly provide feedback while the public consultation is underway. You can either email Shannon.Kelly@mbie.govt.nz with your agency's feedback with the subject line Agency feedback on health and safety at work reform – [agency name] or, if your agency would like to provide unattributed feedback, send it to me and I will anonymise it and send it on to MBIE. More information about the consultation can be found [on the MBIE website](#).

DATA, ASSURANCE AND INSIGHTS:

The Data, Assurance and Insights working group was tasked with identifying the top five to ten measures that could be of value and consistently used across all agencies to monitor health, safety and wellbeing performance. After a lot of discussion, the group found that no single set of measures met this requirement because measures and their use were so context specific in each agency.

Instead, the group identified the importance of the narrative around safety issues and the questions being asked by those in governance roles. We are now exploring how to use these insights to develop a guide or framework that could help agencies to further develop safety narratives and explorations, enhancing the quantitative measures already in use. If you're interested in contributing to this work, please reach out to Braden.

2024 HASANZ CONFERENCE

HASANZ
HEALTH & SAFETY ASSOCIATION NZ

There's still time to get tickets for this exciting and dynamic event.

18th - 20th September 2024, Tākina Convention and Exhibition Centre, Wellington

Access the full programme [here](#). Exclusive Rate to GHSL members and affiliated people:

\$1215 + GST for the full three-day conference. Please register using this link:

<https://confer.eventsair.com/hasanz2024/10-discount>