


**GOVERNMENT  
HEALTH AND SAFETY LEAD****DIRECTOR'S UPDATE****MENTALLY HEALTHY WORK PROGRAMME**

The GHSL is delighted to be recognised as finalists at the 2024 New Zealand Workplace Health & Safety Awards, in the Leadership category, for our Mentally Healthy Work programme.

Being a finalist for this programme recognises the importance and impact of mentally healthy work and is a fitting acknowledgment for Millie Thompson, who created and delivered the programme, with support from across the sector. I would also like to congratulate New Zealand Police (Governance) and NZ Transport Agency (Engagement), who are also finalists. At an individual level, congratulations also go to Josh Darby (Fire and Emergency NZ) for his nomination as Mental Health Champion and Mike Massaar (Department of Conservation) for his Lifetime Achievement Award. For more information, you can check out the media release or the [Safeguard website](#). The Awards presentation is on 18 June.

At present the re-design of four development modules is underway, building on last year's pilot. This will continue to offer flexible delivery for Heads of H&S and Executives and for use within Governance forums, with the first of these modules scheduled for a July delivery. Agencies with an interest in applying these modules internally on release, or with examples that could be of benefit for others (across psychological H&S strategy, risk management, operationalisation and control ownership, and governing monitoring and assuring) please contact [liam.bourne@mpi.govt.nz](mailto:liam.bourne@mpi.govt.nz).

**KEEPING OUR PEOPLE SAFE 2023/24**

With all the change processes going on, it has taken a while but we have now received approval to publish this collection of health, safety and wellbeing initiatives undertaken across the public sector. It is at the printers, so hopefully you and your CE's will receive a copy in the next week or so. Once again, my thanks goes to all the agencies who have contributed to this publication, which I hope will now become a regular fixture.

## 2024 H&S REP CONFERENCE

Our 2024 H&S Rep Conference and Awards event is once again proving popular with the sector, booking out in advance and needing a waitlist for seats. It is shaping up to be an amazing event with some fantastic speakers and resources for the H&S Reps in attendance and a great celebration planned for the finalists for the H&S Rep of the Year Awards. If you didn't get a seat this year, make sure you book in early for 2025.

## VICTORIA UNIVERSITY CAREERS EXPO

This month, Debbie represented our team at the Victoria University 2024 Science and Health Careers Expo to showcase the 2024/25 Summer Internship program. She engaged with students, discussing the valuable work experience available and the career prospects in health, safety and wellbeing. Our stand attracted a significant number of visitors, with around 90 students stopping by during the 3-hour event. The interest in our programme was evident, as 43 students have already pre-registered. We plan to seek tentative expressions of interest from you, our partner agencies, around the end of June.

## ACKNOWLEDGING IRD H&S REPS ACHIEVEMENTS

In November, the inaugural cohort for the new Public Service Early in Careers (EiC) Certificate successfully completed the program. Among the 25 participants, 22 attained their NZQA Level 3 accreditation, with four being Health and Safety Reps from Police, WorkSafe and Inland Revenue. The Inland Revenue's Health and Safety team publicly celebrated and congratulated their representatives, Maarten Bazuin and Suzie Allum, for their accomplishments by featuring them in an IRD article for World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2024 ([full article available here](#)). After finishing his GHSL EiC training, Maarten said he has a better understanding and awareness of health and safety and how to manage them. He said, 'Employees and employers should exchange information and ideas about risks to health and safety, and measures that can be taken to eliminate or reduce those risks'. Our congratulations to Maarten, Suzie, and the rest of the first cohort for passing their NZQA Level 3, with a special mention to the other successful H&S Reps, Alannah McLean and Craig Yorston.

## DE-ESCALATION TRAINING UPDATE FOR PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS

When WorkSafeReps ceasing trading in January 2023, our 3-hour online de-escalation workshop for front-line public-sector workers was discontinued. This workshop had been specifically designed for workers who interact with the public either over the phone or in controlled work environments. I'm delighted to say that the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions (NZCTU) recently reached out to us to collaborate on updating and re-introducing the workshop. This will deliver a cost-effective, travel-free and impactful course for workers. The course will continue to be priced at \$150 +GST per person, focusing on providing workers with the skills to identify common signs and verbal cues, de-escalate situations and safely disengage. More information on registration and program dates will be available soon.