

QLD Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations
The Honourable Cameron Dick
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Minister challenges Queensland workplaces to an injury free 24 hours

Minister for Industrial Relations Cameron Dick has called on all Queensland workplaces to make the next 24 hours injury free, ahead of the World Day of Safety and Health at Work tomorrow.

Mr Dick said all Queensland businesses have a role to play in providing safe working environments.

“We want to make Queensland workplaces the safest in the country,” said Mr Dick.

“This initiative aims to raise awareness about the number of injuries and fatalities that occur in Queensland workplaces each year.

“The challenge is out there to all Queensland businesses to make their workplaces as safe as possible.

“It could be as simple as moving tripping hazards out of the way, promoting safe lifting practices and making your employees aware of potential hazards,” he said.

Mr Dick will officially launch the initiative at Toowoomba rural machinery manufacturer, Gyril Implements today, as part of this weekend’s Community Cabinet on the Darling Downs, where Premier Anna Bligh, the Cabinet and all the state’s top public servants are visiting for two days.

Mr Dick said the injury free day initiative is a proactive strategy by the Bligh Government, aimed at changing community attitudes and behaviours towards workplace health and safety.

“Each year in Queensland, there are around 100 work-related fatalities and nearly 30,000 serious injuries and diseases with workers requiring more than five days off work.

“Overall, total workplace incidents cost the Queensland economy more than \$5.2 billion dollars a year.

“In these tough economic times we want to ensure our businesses are as productive as possible, to secure Queensland jobs and keep the economy strong.

“We have set a target through Workplace Health and Safety Queensland to reduce injuries by 40% and fatalities by 20% by 2012,” he said.

Mr Dick said that this initiative coincides with nominations opening for the 2009 Work Safe Awards.

“The awards are a unique opportunity for all Queensland businesses to recognise their commitment to excellence in workplace health and safety,” he said.

“We want to acknowledge businesses who have already implemented positive workplace health and safety practices to improve the morale of workers, increase

their productivity, and therefore, the success of their business,” he said.

Nominations for the 2009 Work Safe Awards open tomorrow, with the awards being presented in October.

To nominate a business for the 2009 Work Safe Awards go to www.worksafe.qld.gov.au or call 1300 369 915

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