

Queensland Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations
The Honourable Cameron Dick

Tuesday, May 05, 2009

New health and safety provision to make Qld workplaces safer

Queensland employees will now have greater protection in the workplace following the introduction of Provisional Improvement Notices (PIN).

Industrial Relations Minister Cameron Dick said new laws enabling the use of PINs came into effect on Friday, empowering Queensland workers to improve the safety of their workplaces.

“The Queensland Government is committed to helping make Queensland workplaces among the safest in the country by regarding workplace health and safety as an absolute priority,” Mr Dick said.

“This Government has a proud record of working with unions and employers to put in place regulations that promote and facilitate occupational health and safety for all Queensland workers.

“Under new laws which came into effect on May 1, trained workplace health safety representatives now have the right to issue a PIN where they believe there has been a breach or likely breach of Queensland’s OHS laws.

“A PIN may be issued to an employer requiring them to fix a safety issue, which has not been able to be resolved through consultation.

“The trade union movement has long sought this right and the Queensland Government has delivered this right.

“This means workers can now make a difference before accidents occur.”

Mr Dick said having positive workplaces can improve the morale of workers, increasing their productivity, and therefore, the success of the business.

“The power to issue a PIN ensures that a representative can enter into meaningful negotiations with their employer and openly discuss health and safety matters in the workplace,” Mr Dick said.

“Since 1 July 2008, there were nearly 9000 improvement notices issued by health and safety inspectors and nearly 15,000 workplace inspections carried out in Queensland workplaces.

“These measures are part of the Government’s commitment to reduce workplace injuries by 40% and fatalities by 20% by 2012.

“There are currently around 100 work-related fatalities and nearly 30,000 serious injuries and diseases each year in Queensland workplaces.

“PINs are another tool Queensland workers can use to ensure their workplaces remain safe and provide genuine opportunities to better manage health and safety issues internally,” he said.

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