

Chair
Ms Diane Smith-Gander

**The Honourable Adele Farina MLC
Member for South West Region
Chair
Standing Committee on Public Administration
Legislative Council Western Australia
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000**

Dear Ms Farina

**Standing Committee on Public Administration – Inquiry into
Worksafe WA**

Thank you for your letter of 30 June 2017 inviting a submission from Safe Work Australia to the Standing Committee on Public Administration Inquiry into Worksafe Western Australia (WA).

Safe Work Australia is a tripartite body responsible for national policy development on work health and safety (WHS) and workers' compensation matters, including the development and maintenance of the model WHS laws. Membership comprises social partners representing workers and employers, the Commonwealth and each state and territory, so including WA. Government members jointly fund Safe Work Australia through an Intergovernmental Agreement. The Commonwealth, states and territories retain responsibility for regulating and enforcing WHS laws in their jurisdictions. On this basis, I do not consider it appropriate for Safe Work Australia to make a submission to your inquiry.

More broadly, and particularly as a West Australian, I am pleased to note the recent announcement by the WA Government to develop a modernised WHS Bill based on the model WHS laws. Safe Work Australia has undertaken an extensive multi-year evaluation program to assess the impact of the harmonised WHS laws on business, workers and governments. WA's member on Safe Work Australia, Mr Lex McCulloch has access to this evaluation material and a range of additional research and data analysis. Safe Work Australia will continue to provide advice and assistance to WA as it develops and implements its WHS legislation.

If you wish to discuss any of these matters please contact Ms Michelle Baxter, Chief Executive Officer, Safe Work Australia on 02 6121 7252 or at Michelle.Baxter@swa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely



Diane Smith-Gander
Chair
Safe Work Australia

20 July 2017