



Construction Contractors Association of Western Australia Inc

July 28, 2017

Margaret Liveris, Committee Clerk
Standing Committee on Public Administration Committee
Legislative Council, Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

“Re: Standing Committee on Public Administration inquiry into Worksafe”

Dear Margaret

Thank you for your invitation to the Construction Contractors Association of Western Australia to provide a submission to this inquiry.

The Association has considered the Terms of Reference and provides the following input:

In regard to Items a,b,c,e and g of the Terms of Reference the Association has no comments it wishes to make other than to say we are generally comfortable with these areas.

In regard to item d and f the Terms of Reference the Association, while acknowledging the judicial processes involved in many of these events, suggests that consideration be given as to whether the learning from the events can be brought forward much earlier than is currently the case. If this could be done in a way that doesn't interfere with the judicial processes it would allow much more timely advice to industry and hence possibly prevent future events of a similar nature and could allow more timely changes in practices.

In relation to Item h of the Terms of Reference the Association would like to raise an issue that is more and more impacting on our work places but doesn't seem well served by the existing processes. I refer to mental health issues and their impact on workplaces. Mental health doesn't currently fall under the Worksafe Legislation as we understand it. It is however an issue that can potentially lead to events that do fall into the Worksafe space. It is unclear where mental health actually sits though for employers although there is clearly a duty of care impact. While employers are working hard to try and address this and assist their employees deal with issues, there does not appear to be any organization similar to Worksafe supporting industry with this growing problem. We suggest that this could be an area of focus for the Committee's consideration.

The Association would be happy to discuss these issues with the Committee if requested.



Construction Contractors Association of Western Australia Inc

Yours sincerely

Rob Wallwork
President