



Frontline Safety & Training Services

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Hon Adele Farina MLC
Chair
Public Administration Committee
WA Parliament
Harvest Terrace
PERTH WA 6000

Public Administration Committee - Legislative Council Enquiry into Worksafe

I seek leave to submit this submission in relation to Enquiry into Worksafe. Whilst the press release indicates a closing date of 28th July 2017 I have only recently been made aware of this Enquiry.

On contacting the Committee Clerk Ms Margret Liveris today I was informed this the enquiry would run effectively for 12 to 18 months.

In my submission I wish to address a couple of different areas however firstly I will provide a brief outline of Frontline Safety and Training Services

Frontline has been operating since 2001 as a Safety Consultancy and Registered Training Organisation (RTO) Specialising in Occupational Safety & Health.

Our Consultancy arm provides safety related services for a number of Companies in the south west. These services range from the provision of site based Safety Officers to minor Safe Work Procedures. We also support the Men's Shed Association with the provision of Safe Work procedures at no charge.

Our RTO provides training to cross industry areas with an emphasis on Safety to the construction Sector. We also provide all Tilt up Construction and Electrical Testing Training Services to The Master Builders Association in the Metro Area

Funding and resources of Worksafe

We have been associating with Worksafe for many years now and have seen a progressive decline in resources and support from the department.

Posters and resources

It is concerning that WorkSafe cannot supply basic posters and the like for workplaces. As a consequence of this workplaces have a limited ability to promote safety topics or targeting nominated by Worksafe. In essence the lack of ability to provide posters and other material has significantly diminished the impact of WorkSafe ability to "get the Word out"

Small Business program

Worksafe's small business inspection program was a significant tool for the workplace to have a third party inspect their workplace and provide sound advise without the fear of the inspector instigating notices or significant action. This program ideal for small Mum and Dad business'

helped them to focus in the right direction in regard to WHS and being free encouraged a wide participation, additionally was widely promoted by many groups and organisations such as the Chamber of Commerce. This assisted in positive view of Worksafe from small to medium employer groups.

The impact of the removal of the program was two fold.

1. Workplaces were significantly reduced in their ability to obtain clear advise in relation to WHS from independent parties
2. Worksafe were contacted increasing the load on their call centre

Adequacy of Worksafe's Audits of Training providers delivering occupational health and safety Training

We conduct the Safety Representatives Course under the approval umbrella of Worksafe and have found that Auditing has at this time been adequate for the Safety Representatives course

We do not work in the area of High risk licencing training however we receive a deal of antidotal evidence to the standard of Assessors and the control of assessment practices This evidence implies there is very little auditing of the high risk licence process with licences particularly forklift provided with little or no valid assessment conducted.

In addition the following is worth considering

The legislative framework within which Worksafe WA currently operates prevents it from disclosing information about specific RTOs and assessors to TAC or ASQWA. This means that the training regulator is unable to take regulatory action that targets breaches of the Standards for Registered Training Organisations 2015.

Thankyou for considering my submission. If you would like further information please contact me

Signed
Ralph Keegan
29 Aug 2017