

Legislative Council



MEDIA RELEASE

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Public Administration Committee Report on Inquiry into WorkSafe

The Standing Committee on Public Administration tabled its report on its Inquiry into WorkSafe in the Legislative Council today.

Chair of the Committee, Hon Adele Farina MLC, said:

This inquiry was launched by the Committee because all Members agreed that every worker in this State deserves to return home from work unharmed. Yet, over the course of recent years, an average of 18 people have died per year as a result of traumatic workplace injuries.

The report published today calls for the Government to commit more to the protection of the health and safety of workers, by increased resources, by increased regulator activity on the ground, by better co-operation with other regulatory agencies and by way of more prosecutions and tougher penalties for breaches of OHS laws.

The Committee found that Worksafe indulged in a culture of non-disclosure, where even the most basic of information regarding investigations undertaken was denied to other regulators, unions, complainants and the Coroner. More disturbingly, it was denied to bereaved families searching for answers, adding to their suffering. That culture must be changed to one of increased transparency and compassion.

An historic and continuing lack of sufficient funding for WorkSafe was a recurring factor during the inquiry. This has, amongst other things, impacted on inspector numbers, resulting in low visibility at the workplace and increased investigation times. If we are serious about workplace health and safety, and ensuring that every worker returns home safely at the end of a work day, WorkSafe needs to be adequately resourced.

The report, containing 111 findings and 94 recommendations, can be found [here](#)

For media inquiries, contact Hon Adele Farina, Chair on 0438 763 783.

Other inquiries to Margaret Liveris, Committee Clerk on (08) 9222 7229.

Further information regarding the committee is available at www.parliament.wa.gov.au/pub

Hon Adele Farina
Chair