

August 2022

This month's newsletter brings lots of Safety updates, with the new version of Jaggaer on its way, the reclassification of welding fumes and radiation as Group 1 human carcinogens, and a call from SafeWork Australia for submissions on managing the risk of respirable crystalline silica. We've also got advice on how to lodge incident reports online and reminders about hazardous manual tasks and safety issues when working from home. Have you seen the new silver devices on the tables near the Library Lawn? They have an important job to do in keeping the Ibis away from our lunches - they're part of the Estate Management Bird Deterrent Trial. See the article below for how you can help.

R U OK? Day is around the corner and this year there will be events on campus and online, so you can participate from wherever you are! Check out the article below and don't forget to book your free coffee - and stop in for a free massage - if you're planning on coming to campus on R U OK? Day (Thursday 8 September).

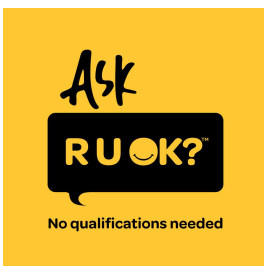


Consultation on managing the risk of respirable crystalline silica

SafeWork Australia has recently put out a call for public submissions on its Consultation Regulation Impact Statement (CRIS) on managing the risk of respirable crystalline silica (silica dust) at work.

Silica dust is generated through processes such as cutting, sawing, grinding, polishing, sanding, and crushing of silica-containing materials and exposure to silica dust can lead to silicosis and other silica-related diseases.

If you would like to create a submission, this can be made from the SafeWork Australia [consultation page](#). More information on crystalline silica and silicosis, plus work activities that may present a risk (eg. pottery making) is available [here](#).



R U OK? Day - Thursday 8 September 2022

R U OK? Day is celebrated each year in September as part of a national movement to encourage people to stay connected and support each other through difficult times. This year, there will be events on campus as well as online.

On Campus Events

- Mathews Pavilions activation - 10am-2pm
- 2-for-1 free coffees from [Caffe Briosio](#), [UNSW Fitness & Aquatic Centre Café](#), [The Lounge](#)
- Free massages 10am-2pm from:
 - Mathews Pavilions
 - UNSW Bookshop
 - Fitness & Aquatic Centre Café

- Elwyn Lyn Conference Centre in Paddington

Online Events

- [Town Hall for all staff hosted by the Division of Operations](#)
- [Virtual Gratitude Tree](#)
- [Virtual Backgrounds](#)
- [Suicide Prevention Training](#)

The Town Hall for all staff will be held from 2pm-3pm. Registration is essential. [Please click here to register.](#)

For more information on R U OK? Day 2022, please visit the [Wellbeing website](#).



Adverse health effects of welding

Do you or your workers undertake welding jobs?

There are many adverse health effects from exposure to welding fumes, vapours, and gases. Welding fumes and UV radiation have been reclassified as group 1 human carcinogens. Gases and fumes are released from welding rods (so use their SDSs to select less hazardous rods) while UV radiation is a product of the welding arc.

Watch the latest [welding safety video](#) from SafeWork NSW to learn practical information and raise awareness of how to reduce exposure to the hazards of welding.

For more information visit the SafeWork NSW [welding fumes and UV radiation](#) page.



Having an R U OK Conversation with a Peer

Conversations about mental health can sometimes feel difficult, even when you know it's the right thing to do. Many people are afraid of saying the wrong thing or making the situation worse, which is rarely the case. This session enhances participants' confidence in approaching a mental health conversation with their peers and how to speak up for themselves if they need support in the workplace.

This webinar from Benestar will be held at 1pm on Thursday 15 September and is open to all staff.

[Please click here to register.](#)



Take the Challenge!

This September, UNSW goes head to head with 18 other universities across Australia and New Zealand. Will you join us and take the Challenge?

The Australasian University Health Challenge is a health-focused initiative where staff and students increase their daily physical activity and

improve their health and wellbeing during a fun inter-university competition.

The AUHC is open to both staff and students of UNSW. It is free to join and you can participate as an individual or join a team.

The event runs from Monday 5 September until Sunday 16 October 2022.

For more information, [please click here](#).



Lodging reports online

When lodging a report in our electronic system, we need to be aware that an incident (which results in an injury) is not a hazard. An incident is an unplanned **event** relating to a person or property that results in, or has potential for, injury/ill health or other loss (including death, environmental impact, or a near miss) that arises out of the conduct of the University, whether or not it is reportable to the relevant workplace regulator.

Over the last few months, the central team has seen several incidents reported as hazards in the online system. A hazard is defined as a **situation or thing** that has the potential to harm a person or property, damage equipment, or cause environment impact.

For further information, please email safety@unsw.edu.au



Hazardous Manual Tasks

Following a recent back injury sustained by a worker, UNSW Safety is reminding staff and students to implement risk management processes to manage the risks associated with hazardous manual tasks. Online Ergonomic & Manual Task training needs to be current, all required controls must be implemented, and resources made available before an activity is commenced.

Further guidance can be found [here](#), you can contact your Supervisor and [Safety contact](#), and read the [Safety Alert](#). For further information, please email safety@unsw.edu.au



Project Ibis - EM tackles tricky situation!

A hazard was recently reported after a witness saw an ibis stealing food from a student sitting at a table near the Library Lawn.

Action item: Update Bird Management!

Challenge: Ibis are native birds, therefore protected, therefore trapping and removal are out of the question.

Options

1. Wave your arms around like a windmill while making "shoo" noises! How do you display that on a sign?!
2. Trial the bird deterrent device named 'Reflect-A-Bird'. Designed to catch the wind and sun, when spinning it creates a disorienting

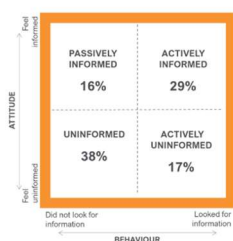
effect for the bird. Two units have been installed on some tables near the outdoor eating space on the east side of the lawn.

How can you help? Bin leftover food and wrappers after dining outdoors. Provide feedback! Are the deterrents working? See also EM's [Bird Deterrent Trial](#).

The ibis have created other issues:

- the mess left after they've scavenged through bins
- their poop spoiling paved areas and sculptures beneath trees

This has led to increased external cleaning plus tree maintenance activities to selectively remove tree limbs over sculptures.



Workers Understanding of Workers Compensation

SafeWork Australia commissioned independent research to gain insight into how workers access and understand information about workers' compensation in Australia. Titled "Australian workers' understanding of workers' compensation systems and their communication preferences", the [Final report](#) highlights the importance of improving workers' access to information.

Some key findings:

- Workers have low levels of understanding of workers' compensation and do not get the information that they need when they need it.
- Workers require timely access to relevant information through the appropriate channels to improve their experience with, and outcomes from, the workers' compensation system.

(Self & Specialised Insurer Correspondence - 1 July 2022)



Jaggaer Update to Version 22.1

The update of Jaggaer CIM to version 22.1 is planned for Q3 2022.

The update includes the introduction of new functionality:

- Bioreagent Search and Request
- Waste management
- Stockroom Inventory Analytics
- New GUI feature for homepage configuration

Full details of the Jaggaer CIM Ver.22.1, please see the [Release Note](#). For further information please contact safety@unsw.edu.au



SIRA Quarterly Meetings

UNSW has a long history of being self-insured for Workers' Compensation. To meet our commitment of remaining a top-tier self-insurer, we are required to meet various priorities as outlined by the Regulator. In NSW this includes regular monthly meetings with a State Insurance Regulatory Authority (SIRA) supervisor. In 2022 these meetings have a different focus area for each quarter.

These are:

- Q1 - our response to notification of injury
- Q2 - Self-Audit quality and expectations
- Q3 - Quality assurance process, and
- Q4 - Insurer conduct/behaviours through dispute process

Details of these activities can be found [here](#).

(Self & Specialised Insurer Correspondence - 22 July 2022)



Notification of Injury

UNSW operates a Self-Insurance program *did you know* for our Workers' Compensation schemes. Notification of Injury starts when the employer is first notified of an injury or potential for an injury. To meet legislative compliance, the timeframe commences from the date of this first notification, and not when the self-insurer's Workers' Compensation department is advised and/or when the worker asserts their right to make a formal claim (unless this is the first notification of injury).

When a staff member notifies a manager or supervisor of a workplace injury, an Incident Notification must be submitted via our notification [portal](#) (log in using Office365 or via MyUNSW). Alternatively, a confidential report can be submitted using the Hazard and Incident Report Form located [here](#), and emailed to safety@unsw.edu.au, or to the Workers' Compensation team via the central inbox: wcomp@unsw.edu.au

Recognise & Respond - Suicide Prevention

UNSW Health is pleased to partner with Black Dog Institute to offer subsidised Suicide Prevention training to UNSW students and staff.

Recognise and Respond: Suicide Prevention for Everyday Life aims to assist in reducing and preventing suicide in Australia by equipping people with the skills to intervene with someone who is contemplating suicide.

The self-directed e-learning module is comprised of four main learning components:

- recognising the signs of suicide
- having a conversation with and supporting the person
- providing help to the person
- self-care

For more information and to register, visit the information page [HERE](#).





Medibank Health Insurance Reviews

Medibank consultants will be available for one-on-one appointments for staff in August.

Any staff members who are interested in discussing their health insurance needs or reviewing the policy they already have are invited to make an appointment. Whether you are with Medibank or another insurer, or have no health insurance at all, this could be a good time to review your situation.

All staff are entitled to a 9% discount on the Medibank Corporate Inc product suite.

[Click here](#) if you wish to make an appointment for a one-on-one consultation.



Working from Home (WFH)

Twice as many employed Australians WFH at least once a week in April 2022 (46%) compared with March 2020 (24%) ([ABS](#)). Supervisors need to work with staff to ensure a balanced approach to WFH.

UNSW Safety encourages WFH staff to refer to the [Office Safety Toolkit](#) page, where we discuss aspects such as posture, screen, keyboard, mouse and laptop setup. We discuss Safety at home and encourage staff to consider potential slips, trips and falls, electrical and fire safety, and wellbeing. There are many aspects to consider when WFH and staff play an equal part. We are familiar with the old adage, "**prevention is better than cure**", so check out the page we have developed to reduce injury risk. All staff WFH are required to complete a [HS114 Workstation Checklist](#) and have a fully adjustable chair; liaise with your supervisor and reach out to the [Safety team](#) for additional information. Don't forget, your ergonomic work setup extends to the home, so familiarise yourself with the [WFH page](#) located on our website.