

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

October 2020



Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou katoa

## Zooming through

It's hard to believe that we're into October! With the return to Covid-19 alert level 1 our HASANZ office is nearly back to normal; previously the team had been rotating so that no more than two people were working together at any one time. I must admit I have missed the social interaction with my colleagues. Thanks to my team for meeting the challenges of Covid-19 so well and, also, to all of the people involved in HASANZ projects who have been so obliging in engaging with us through Zoom, which is not always easy.

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# NOT THE HASANZ CONFERENCE!

Online symposium  
on workplace  
health and safety

27 AUGUST 2020  
1 - 4.30pm

There was an excellent turnout to the HASANZ Online Symposium held on 27 August, with 150 people attending. HASANZ always endeavours to ensure that our events have practical value. It's gratifying to know that we hit the mark. Comments from the post-symposium survey include:

- *"It was good to listen to some very good practical advice and opinions, not just 'fluff'."*
- *"A very precise informative symposium."*
- *"Very useful. Picked up loads of helpful info from all topics."*
- *"Excellent speakers, very knowledgeable about their topics and very current."*

While nothing beats meeting face to face, we successfully met the challenges of delivering a good learning experience online, as the following feedback shows: *"Having the symposium in this format was a great example of innovation and helping health and safety professionals with the opportunity to hear such well-respected speakers."*

Interestingly, there is demand for more of these short, sharp virtual events as an easy way for health and safety professionals and business managers to access continuing health and safety education. HASANZ will look at how we might offer these in the future.

I'm happy to confirm that HASANZ Conference 2021 will be held from 1-3 September in Wellington at Te Papa. We are currently working on contingency plans 1, 2 and 3 to respond to different Covid-19 scenarios! What I can promise is another line-up of outstanding speakers. Please mark the dates in your diaries.

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### **HASANZ Scholarship response**

We have received more than 100 applications for HASANZ Scholarships for tertiary study in health and safety next year. Shortlisting is underway. Recipients will be announced by early December. A lot of voluntary work goes into reviewing each application. Thanks to our [evaluation panel members](#): Judy Currie, Felicity Lamm, Les Heads, Sarah McDonald, Neil Shaw and Miriska Gerber.

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### **HASANZ Register in-house member campaign**



The value of HASANZ Registration for employees is sometimes overlooked. HASANZ is developing a campaign to promote the benefits of in-house health and safety advisers listing on the HASANZ Register. We're "putting a face" to HASANZ Register in-house members with a series of profiles, producing a flyer and expanding our "Join the Register" website information.

Being HASANZ Registered means being part of a community that offers you professional support, right across the country. It also provides opportunities to

have your voice heard through input to workplace health and safety policy at a national level.

It's also important that all verified health and safety advisers are visible so that the demand for qualified health and safety advice in New Zealand grows. Increasingly, employers, HR advisers and recruiters are looking for HASANZ Registered people for health and safety roles.

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### **Introducing the GM Safety Forum**

Another initiative to build workforce capability and capacity focuses on both building experience and connecting advice to business demand. HASANZ Chair Mike O'Brien has been a driving force in setting up the GM Safety Forum. This is a voluntary network of senior executives in senior roles that incorporate health and safety in New Zealand. The Forum is a mechanism for health and safety leaders in business to have regular contact, share and build their knowledge and practice, and formally collaborate to improve health, safety and wellbeing capability at individual, company, sector and NZ Inc. levels.

HASANZ has created a "Special Interests Group" membership category to accommodate the GM Safety Forum and other like-minded bodies and will act as the Forum's secretariat. It's one of our "bridges to business". Whilst GM Safety Forum members can collaborate, share and network with like-minded senior executives, they can also help develop New Zealand's health and safety workforce pipeline by supporting HASANZ Scholarships, internships, graduate and secondment programmes, raise awareness of pertinent issues through thought leadership and provide insights into government led initiatives. In addition, they can support HASANZ webinars, conferences and events, helping to ensure that our activities have a strong connection to business needs.

The GM Safety Forum was launched on 24 September with an introductory zoom meeting. It was well attended by over 40 members and expects to meet quarterly in a workshop environment.

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### **Cannabis position paper**

HASANZ recently released a [position paper on cannabis](#). While HASANZ has no position on the upcoming referendum, there is an opportunity to develop industry guidance to help workplaces manage impairment more effectively. Many things can affect a worker's ability to carry out tasks safely, including fatigue, prescription medication and mental health issues, so an impairment policy based around the ability to work safely is better than one focused on drug and alcohol use. International experience shows that when organisations have a thorough impairment policy in place, and a supportive work culture, they are more likely to be successful in managing cannabis as a legal substance.

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### **MBIE consultation on bullying**



## **MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**

### **HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI**

[MBIE is inviting submissions on bullying and harassment](#) (including sexual harassment) at work in New Zealand. They particularly want to hear from any person or group who is familiar with, or has experience or knowledge of, systems that prevent or respond to bullying and harassment at work. The views provided in this consultation will be used to guide future policies and changes to

health and safety and employment relations systems to address bullying and harassment at work. HASANZ is preparing a joint submission and some of our member associations, including NZISM and the Institute of Organisational Psychology New Zealand, are also preparing individual submissions. If you wish to contribute to the HASANZ submission, please contact us at [info@hasanz.org.nz](mailto:info@hasanz.org.nz) .

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### **Upcoming webinars**

At 5pm on Wednesday, 21 October the NZ Occupational Hygiene Society (NZOHS), NZ Occupational Health Nurses Association (NZOHNA) and HASANZ are running a joint webinar on best practice management of dust and silica in the workplace. This free webinar is of particular relevance to people working in the manufacturing, mining and construction sectors. [Register now!](#)

NZOHS, NZOHNA and HASANZ are also running a free webinar in November on the impact of the thermal environment on people and how to assess and control the risks associated with heat stress. This will be especially relevant with summer just around the corner.

Keep your eyes peeled for information about another upcoming seminar with John Fitzgerald, who heads the “Mentally Healthy Work” programme at WorkSafe. Date to be advised soon.

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### **HASANZ Register case studies**

If you've provided health and safety advice to a business in the residential construction or manufacturing sector through the [ACC Work Injury Prevention Subsidy](#), we'd love to hear from you. HASANZ is developing a series of case

studies to demonstrate how the subsidy works and the value of being on the HASANZ Register. The case studies will be promoted widely by ACC and HASANZ to raise awareness of the impact of good health and safety practice. This is an excellent, free promotional opportunity for you. Please let us know if you are interested in taking part in the case studies, by emailing [register@hasanz.org.nz](mailto:register@hasanz.org.nz).

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Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Aldridge". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Philip Aldridge