



Vice Chief of The Defence Force Occupational Health and Safety Policy Statement

Occupational Health and Safety Policy Statement

As VCDF, I am responsible for providing a safe and healthy workplace for all personnel within VCDF Group. I am committed to promoting the degree of leadership required to achieve a best practice approach to Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) and foster a risk management culture that sets the benchmark.

In VCDF Group, through providing a safe and healthy working environment for all employees (including contractors and visitors to the workplace) we are protecting our most valuable asset – our people. Duty of care doesn't just rest with managers. It is the responsibility of all personnel, regardless of rank or position, to ensure safety to themselves, their colleagues and the general public at or near the workplace.

As a Group, we are committed to Defence's Strategic OHS Plan 2004-2006 and will endeavour to support and implement the eight priority areas. We are committed to the overall strategic view that recognises the importance of OHS to the effective delivery of capability. By fostering a culture of OHS awareness, and accepting that it is an integral part of day to day business, we aim to adopt a more values-based attitude rather than one based merely on legislative compliance.

Training is a key element to developing and maintaining awareness and helping employees instil OHS practices into their day to day work. In addition, we have to meet our duty of care responsibility and ensure personnel are appropriately supervised and are provided with adequate preparatory training and equipment.

In support of the Defence OHS Policy Statement, the VCDF Group has adopted the following strategies:

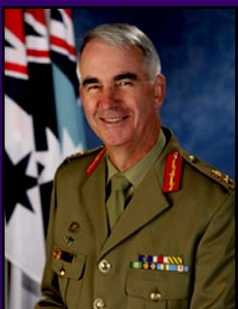
- ensuring OHS risk management is addressed in business plans at Group and Divisional level;
- allocation of appropriate resources to support OHS risk management; and
- appointment of health and safety representatives at all our locations to support the Group OHS Coordinator.

As Group Head, I am responsible and accountable for all accidents, injuries and illnesses that occur within the workplace. This includes provision of reports to the Defence OHS Committee on the health and safety performance of employees within the Group. Therefore, staff should be aware of their obligations to comply with the *Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) Commonwealth Employment Act 1991*.

I am strongly committed to reducing the level of OHS occurrences, including absenteeism in the workplace, and the associated costs involved, and expect that we will identify the cause of any incidents, take remedial action and adopt a lessons-learned approach.

I require that everyone embraces the principles and practices outlined in this statement and work together to ensure a safe and healthy work environment.

Further information on OHS can be obtained from the DPE website <http://intranet.defence.gov.au/dpe/>.



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