



DEFENCE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY POLICY STATEMENT



- > People are fundamental to Defence capability
- > Occupational health and safety is fundamental to protecting our people.

In fulfilling our responsibilities to the Government, it is paramount that we protect the health and safety of Defence personnel. This commitment to our people is underpinned by our Defence values. By maintaining high standards of occupational health and safety we preserve Defence capability, directly contributing to our capacity to defend Australia and its national interests.

As Defence leaders, we have an ethical and legal obligation to look after our people. The quality of our OHS performance is critical to attracting, recruiting and retaining skilled personnel, and maintaining our reputation with the Government and the Australian people.

Our duty of care under the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1991* and other related legislation encompasses all Defence personnel, Australian Defence Force Cadets, contractors and those who may be affected by our activities. We accept responsibility for Defence's OHS policies and practices and will continue to implement practicable measures to ensure Defence improves its OHS performance.

We will ensure this occurs through achieving the objectives detailed in the OHS Strategy, by defining our expected outcomes, and by establishing clear targets for performance improvement.

We will promote a culture where OHS is an inherent consideration of all of those who work in Defence. In such an environment, personnel will actively identify and assess workplace hazards, and implement and review strategies that eliminate or minimise risks to people. Importantly, we will learn from our experiences, and the experience of others, both in Australia and overseas.

Commanders and managers at all levels are to ensure that the health and safety of their people are uppermost in their minds, be they on operations, conducting training or on Defence facilities. Our system for managing OHS must be comprehensive, but simple enough to be readily understood by all personnel throughout Defence. Importantly, it must protect our people and support Defence's efforts to build and maintain capability. Safe practice must be fundamental and inherent in our systems, our operating procedures, and most importantly in the way we think.

ACM Angus Houston, AO,
AFC
Chief of the Defence Force

July 2007



Nick Warner, PSM
Secretary

July 2007

