

Quarterly Newsletter



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The Commissioner's Statement

Welcome to the first edition of the WorkSafe ACT Quarterly Newsletter for 2026.

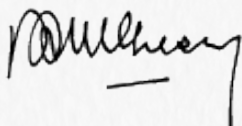
I am pleased to note the strong and productive start WorkSafe ACT has made this year across all areas of our work. Following a busy beginning to 2026, including major events such as the Multicultural Festival and the Canberra Show, the inspectorate is progressing well with the implementation of the 2026 Operations Plan and continues to work diligently through triaged complaints.

Our Communications team is working hard in planning and preparation for what promises to be a significant year for stakeholder engagement. Our podcast, The Safety Spotlight, will be returning in 2026, and the team is finalising our program of topics and guests. Keep an eye and ear out for the first episode arriving in your podcast feed soon.

As we move further into the year, I would like to reaffirm our ongoing commitment to supporting and enforcing compliance across all workplaces in the ACT. I also remind all PCBU's that safe and healthy workplaces are not optional aspirations. They are legal obligations and must remain a core priority for every business. By working together, we can ensure a safe, productive and positive year for all.

Stay Safe,

Peggy Cheong



A/g ACT Work Health and Safety Commissioner



Out and About

WorkSafe ACT Inspectors have had a busy start to the year, with January and February coinciding with the ACT's major event season. The first event of 2026 was the annual Summernats car festival at Exhibition Park. Inspectors focused on stage, lighting and electrical safety, as well as compliance among merchandise and food vendors.

It wasn't long before inspectors were again surrounded by high performance vehicles at the Festival of Speed at Thoroughbred Park. They worked closely with event and venue management to support a safe, successful and fully compliant event. A particular point of interest was the pedestrian scaffolding bridge over the racetrack, which enabled viewing from both sides.

Next on the calendar was the Multicultural Festival. With more than a dozen stages and performance areas, along with hundreds of food stalls, each required inspection for WHS compliance. WorkSafe ACT was pleased to contribute to ensuring this major event was delivered safely and successfully.

The final major event for January and February was the Canberra Show. Inspectors had significant work to do, given the number of rides, amusement devices, food outlets and merchandise vendors involved. WorkSafe ACT inspectors use the National Audit Tool for Amusement Devices to verify all relevant safety information, including confirming that:

- + Operators are properly trained
- + Devices have passed an engineering inspection
- + Maintenance logbooks are complete and current
- + Devices are design registered

Inspectors worked cooperatively with amusement device owners and operators throughout the event and thank them for their support.

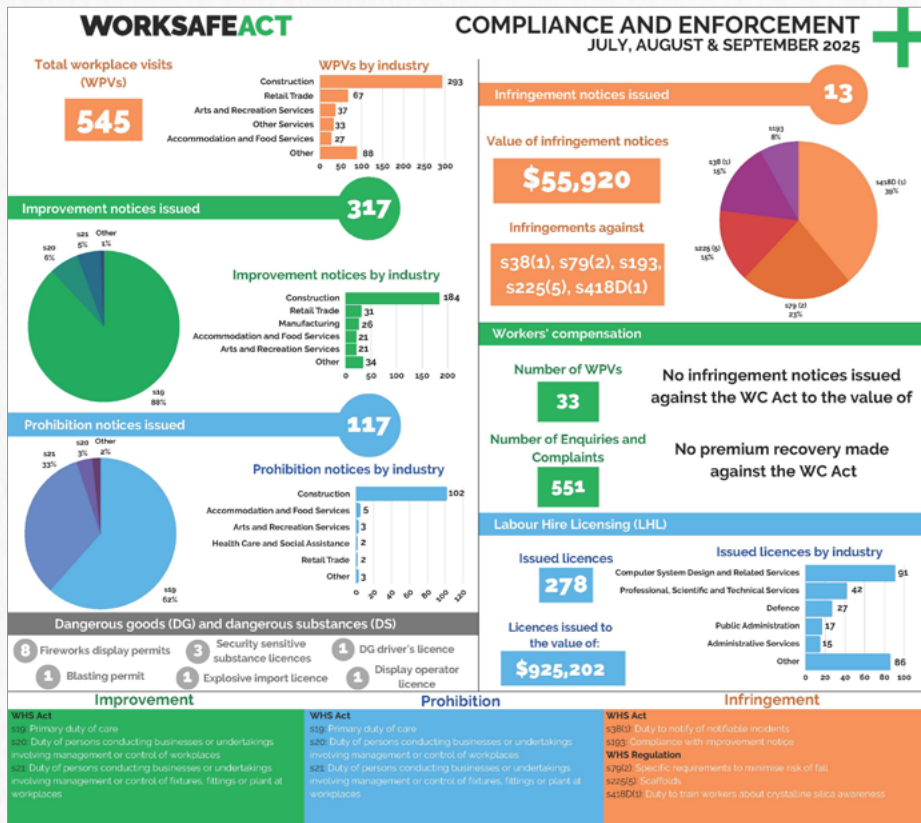
WorkSafe ACT inspectors will soon be out again for the Enlighten Festival and associated night market events.



Data Highlights

WorkSafe ACT collects data on all compliance activities to support transparency and help identify trends and recurring hazards across industries. Below is a summary of compliance and enforcement activity for December 2025 through February 2026.

You can find more data broken down by month here: [Compliance and enforcement data](#).



The Safety Spotlight Season 2

WorkSafe ACT's podcast series The Safety Spotlight will return for another season in 2026. Launched last year, the series released seven episodes in its first season, with each episode focusing on a specific WHS issue within a particular industry or area. The episodes are hosted by the ABC's Lish Fejer, who facilitates conversations between the Work Health and Safety Commissioner and a subject matter expert guest.

Planning for Season 2 is well underway, and the topics have now been confirmed. Keep an eye out for further details on release dates. Topics to be explored in the upcoming season include:

- + Return to work
- + Asbestos, silica and dangerous substances
- + Modern work arrangements
- + Consultation and worker representation
- + Virtual reality
- + Model laws

You can listen back to all previous episodes of [The Safety Spotlight](#) here.

Recent Prosecutions

In December last year, three matters were finalised in the ACT Industrial Magistrates Court, resulting in fines totalling more than \$800,000.

Structural Design and Construction Company Pty Ltd (TSDCC) was found guilty of a Category 2 offence and fined \$750,000. The offence related to the collapse of a 35 metre long and 10 metre deep section of shoring wall at a Woden construction site. Debris from the collapse travelled approximately 15 metres from the face of the wall. This case represents the first prosecution of an engineering company for unsafe design in the ACT.

Sana Benchtop Installations was found guilty of a Category 3 offence and fined \$50,000. Mr Martin Mailei, the Director and a worker of the company, was also convicted of a Category 3 offence and fined \$10,000. These offences related to the dry cutting of stone benchtops in eight units without water suppression or wet cutting techniques, exposing workers to respirable crystalline silica.

The full media release on these sentencings is available [here](#).

Small Business Webpage

WorkSafe ACT has recently published a new dedicated small business webpage. The page provides WHS information tailored to ACT businesses with 20 or fewer workers. This represents more than 97 per cent of the approximately 36,000 businesses operating in the ACT.

Topics covered on the webpage include:

- + WHS duties
- + Workplace safety plans
- + Risk management
- + Psychosocial hazards
- + Emergency management
- + Training
- + Workers' compensation
- + Notifiable incidents

The page also includes safety checklists and factsheets that offer straightforward and easy to understand guidance for small business owners.

You can access the new small business [webpage here](#).



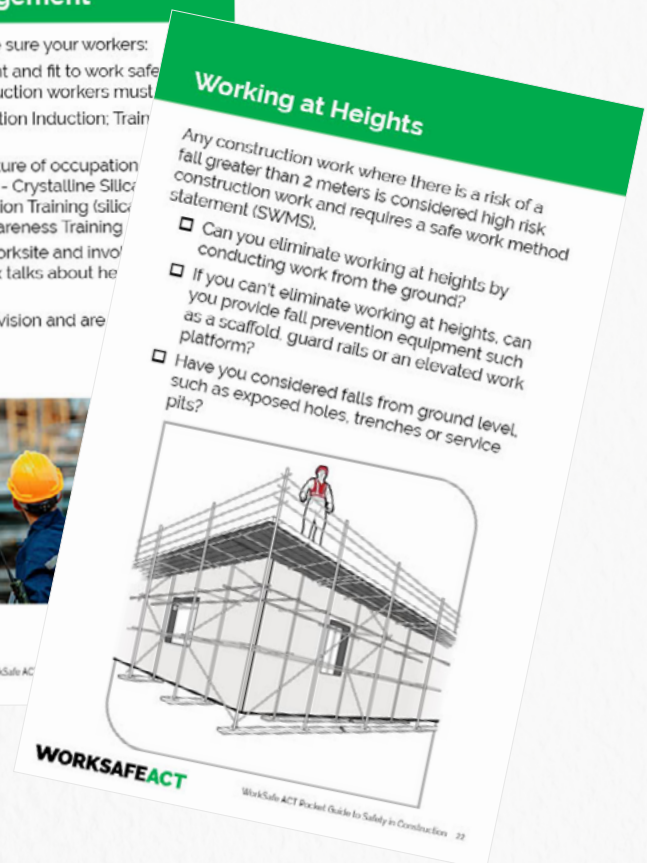
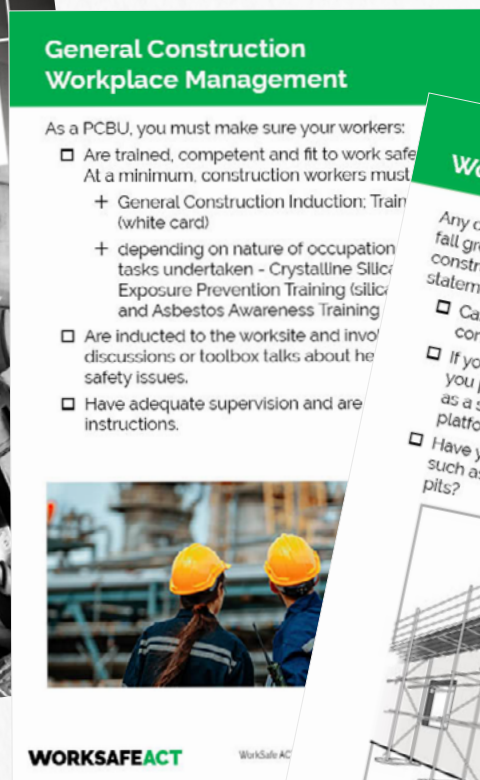
Pocket Guide

In October last year, as part of National Safe Work Month, WorkSafe ACT released the Pocket Guide to Safety in Construction. The guide was developed to support businesses in managing health and safety risks within the construction industry. While it is primarily intended for business owners and persons conducting a business or undertaking (PCBUs), it also serves as a practical and accessible resource for other duty holders, managers and workers.

The guide outlines information on managing several common hazards encountered on construction sites, including:

- + Falls from height
- + Electric shocks
- + Slips, trips and falls
- + Moving plant
- + Dangerous substances
- + Psychosocial hazards
- + Remote or isolated work

A digital copy of the guide is [available here](#). Physical copies can be requested through the [WorkSafe ACT media team](#).



Vulnerable Workers Engagement

The WorkSafe ACT Vulnerable Workers team has been active over the past few months, delivering presentations to workers across a range of industries. A key focus of the team's work is raising awareness of hazards that disproportionately affect vulnerable workers and supporting them to understand their rights and responsibilities.

In December, the Senior Education Officer delivered presentations to the Support Worker Association Australia (SWAA), SPARK Women in Construction and HVAC apprentices at CIT Fyshwick.

In January, WorkSafe ACT participated in the New Educator Induction Day Expo, engaging with new educators and teachers at the beginning of their careers, with particular attention to the psychosocial hazards they may face in the workplace. The team also presented at the CIT International Student Orientation, highlighting the translated WHS resources available through the WorkSafe ACT website.

In February, education officers delivered sessions to a number of groups, including electrical and carpentry apprentices, hospitality and personal services apprentices at CIT, attendees at the CIT student orientation day and women returning to work.

To support the team's expanded focus, the Vulnerable Workers team, formerly known as the Young Workers team, has also refreshed its imagery and branding. The updated visuals are designed to reflect the diversity of workers, employment arrangements and workplace factors that can influence vulnerability across the ACT workforce.



WORKSAFEACT



VULNERABLE WORKERS

Safety Alerts

WorkSafe ACT's Safety Alerts provide timely and practical information to help PCBU's, workers and the community prevent workplace injuries and meet WHS obligations. The alerts highlight emerging risks, regulatory updates and good practice to support safer workplaces across the ACT.

This quarter, WorkSafe ACT released two safety alerts. The first focused on WHS issues present in the strata and property management industry. These issues were identified by analysing workers compensation data. The second was in regard to WorkSafe ACT's online services.

- + [Strata and property management](#)
- + [Online services disruption](#)

You can find all of our [safety alerts and safety advice on our website](#).

Keep in contact

Subscribe for the latest safety alerts and WHS news by emailing media@worksafe.act.gov.au.

Connect with us on social media



We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people as Traditional Custodians of the ACT and recognise any other people or families with connections to the lands of the ACT and region.

We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region



Image credit: Leah Brideson, Winanga-li, 2022.