

Quarterly Newsletter



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The Commissioner's statement

Hello and welcome to the third WorkSafe ACT Quarterly Newsletter for 2026.

The year seems to be racing by, but the WorkSafe ACT team have been working tirelessly to deliver high-quality work across all fronts.

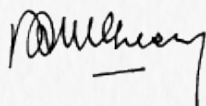
Our inspectors have been out in the community conducting both proactive and reactive inspections across sectors including civil, commercial and residential construction, retail and commercial businesses, hospitality, government and just about every other industry present in the ACT.

A recent focus has been workers' compensation insurance compliance checks. Workers' compensation insurance is a critical part of an employer's obligations to their employees and non-compliance can result in stiff penalties.

In more behind-the-scenes operations at WorkSafe ACT, our Strategy and Engagement team's hard work has paid off with the 2025-26 annual report being recently completed, while the finance and corporate teams have been working through all of the essential tasks that keep the lights on and things on track.

Lastly, I'd like to thank all PCBU's and workers for their continued cooperation with WorkSafe ACT during workplace visits and all subsequent interactions. It is through positive work engagements that we can best foster a culture of safety, fairness and accountability in every workplace. Together, we can continue building safe and healthy workplaces for all workers in the ACT.

Stay safe,
Peggy Cheong



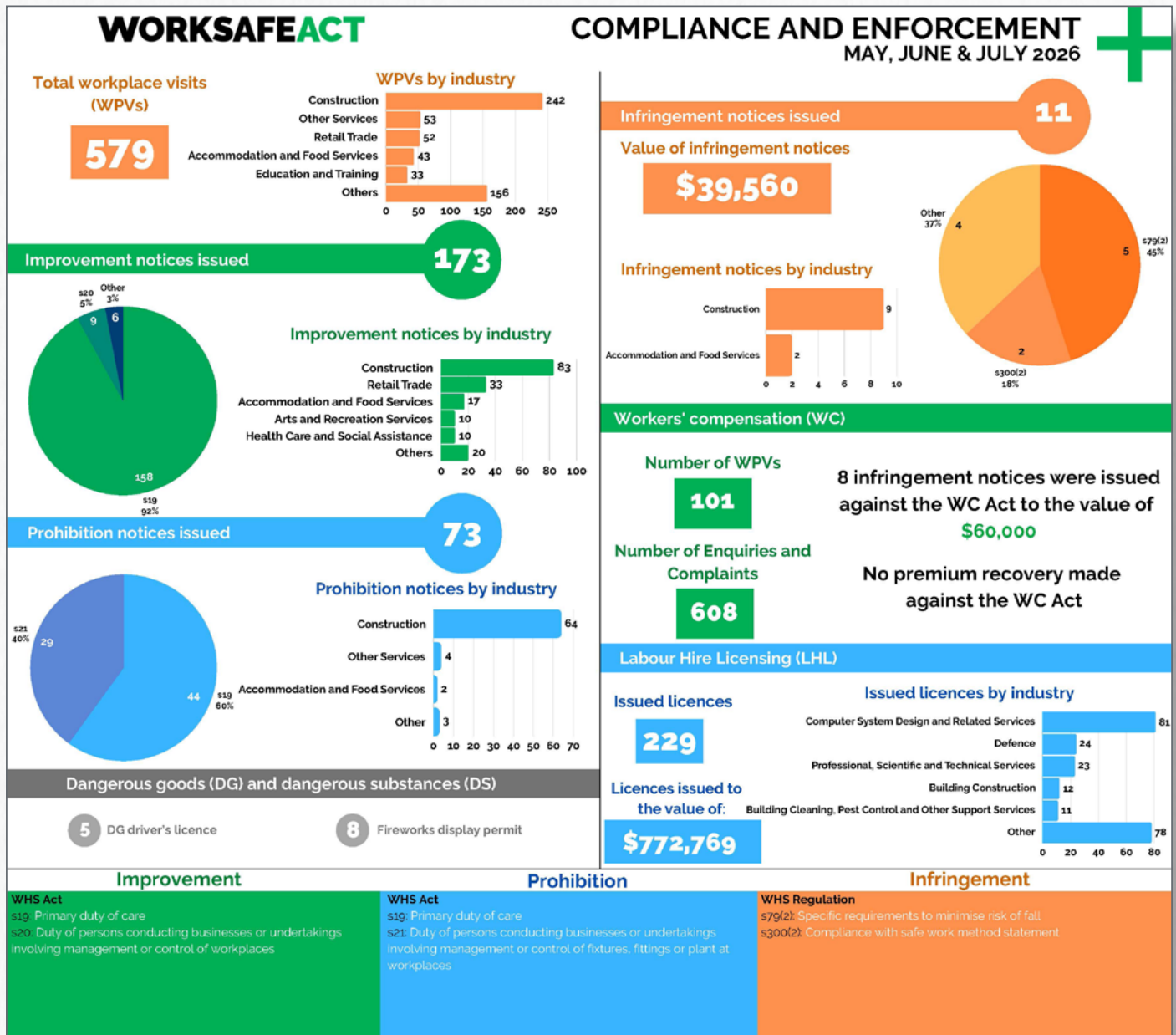
Acting ACT Work Health and Safety Commissioner



Data Snapshot

WorkSafe ACT collects data on all compliance activities as part of our commitment to transparency, but also to identify trends and recurring hazards within specific industries. The graphic below summarises data from all WorkSafe ACT's compliance and enforcement activities during the months of May, June and July.

You can find a more detailed data breakdown here: [Compliance and enforcement data](#).



Data snapshots on a variety of other work health and safety (WHS) topics can be [found here](#).

Recent prosecutions

In June, WorkSafe ACT completed another successful prosecution. Civil Project Management Group Pty Ltd (trading as Real Aussie Sheds) were convicted of a Category 3 offence under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 by the ACT Industrial Court Magistrate.

The conviction related to an incident in July 2022 at a worksite in Jervis Bay where a worker fell from a ladder while assisting with the unloading of roof sheeting from a crane during wet and windy conditions.

Magistrate Lawton imposed a fine of \$65,000 on Real Aussie Sheds for the offence. A further fine of \$5,000 was imposed for failing to ensure high risk construction work was carried out in accordance with a safe work method statement.

Work Health and Safety Commissioner Jacqueline Agius stated the incident showed a clear failure to prioritise worker safety.

"Disappointingly we have a situation where work has proceeded despite unsafe weather conditions, and a worker was injured as a result."

"The decision to continue work meant other priorities were placed ahead of the health and safety of workers. This resulted in workers being put at risk and an injury occurred to a worker."

"Duty holders must ensure the safety of workers is always their highest priority."

You can read the full media release here: [Company convicted after worker injured in fall from height at Jervis Bay worksite.](#)

Vulnerable workers engagement

Over the last quarter, the WorkSafe ACT Vulnerable Workers team have been out and about delivering presentations and attending events across a range of industries and worker groups.

Our inspectors gave presentations to a number of groups, including the Women's Return-to-Work Program, Master Builders Association apprentices, CIT cookery students, the Construction Pathways program and the SPARK Training and Employment Initiative. Inspectors also attended the CIT Student Association Open Days at both the Bruce and Woden campuses



The Safety Spotlight Podcast

This quarter, WorkSafe ACT released another episode of our Safety Spotlight podcast. WHS Commissioner Jacqueline Agius was joined by guest Dr Miriam van den Berg, a research fellow at Stretton Health Equity at the University of Adelaide. Hosted by the ABC's Lish Fejer, the episode focuses on the rise of platform-based gig work and its associated WHS challenges. Industries facing challenges from platform-based gig work include food delivery, rideshare, trades and even care and health services.

You can listen to the latest episode, and previous episodes of The Safety Spotlight via the links below.

[Ep. 10 - Modern Work Arrangements](#)

[The Safety Spotlight](#)



Safety Alerts

WorkSafe ACT's Safety Alerts provide timely, practical information to help businesses, workers and the community prevent workplace injuries and ensure compliance with WHS laws.

These alerts highlight emerging risks, regulatory updates, and best practice to support safer working environments for everyone in the ACT.

This quarter, WorkSafe ACT released 6 safety alerts on various topics. They include:

- + [New guidance on managing workplace exposure to airborne contaminants](#)
- + [Supporting workers who menstruate](#)
- + [Reduction in workplace exposure standards for aluminium welding fumes](#)
- + [Health and Safety Representative networking event](#)
- + [Preventing unauthorised access to construction sites](#)
- + [Safety processes must be followed, not just documented](#)

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

WorkSafe ACT Weekend Work

WorkSafe ACT has continued its weekend work campaign monitoring the residential construction sector.

Key areas of non-compliance included:

- + management of falls from one level to another
- + scaffolding
- + site security
- + workplace facilities
- + housekeeping/site hygiene, and
- + principal contractor signage.

Weekend inspections were conducted in the suburbs of Macnamara and Denman Prospect, two suburbs where significant residential construction is underway. Across the weekend, nine prohibition notices were issued, as well as 25 improvement notices.



National Safe Work Month 2026

National Safe Work Month is upon us once again, and WorkSafe ACT has geared up for another great month of activities to help spread the word about the importance of work health and safety.

This year, WorkSafe ACT's National Safe Work Month theme is **Putting Safety to work**.

This theme is a reminder that work health and safety should be fully integrated into and at the forefront of all aspects of work, to ensure risks are appropriately managed and all workers are kept safe.

Putting safety to work means creating workplaces with a positive culture around safety, adequate training and systems in place, and where all workers feel empowered to speak up about safety. Not only does this lead to safer workplaces and better health outcomes, it also contributes to better business and productivity outcomes.



Throughout the month, WorkSafe ACT are releasing WHS resources including safety alerts and data snapshots. We have also published the Pocket guide to small business safety, which you can find online [here](#). We also hosted the latest in the industry breakfast series, focusing on small businesses and sole traders in the construction industry. The breakfast was another success with discussion centred around the most prevalent risks faced by workers in construction small businesses and the challenges associated with managing and mitigating those risks

We will also be hosting our annual Bunnings fundraiser BBQ at the end of the month, with all proceeds going to the Black Dog institute, the only medical research institute in Australia dedicated to researching mental health for all ages. We have entered into this partnership as part of our commitment to ensuring workplaces have systems in place to protect workers from psychosocial hazards.

For a full rundown of WorkSafe ACT's National Safe Work Month activities, [click here](#).

Health and safety representative network

WorkSafe ACT's health and safety representative (HSR) network continues to grow.

This quarter, we released our HSR toolkit, an online resource developed to support HSRs, workers and PCBU's in understanding the roles, duties and responsibilities of HSRs in the workplace. You can access the [toolkit here](#).

WorkSafe ACT also hosted our first ever HSR networking event. This event brought together HSRs from all industries across the ACT to discuss the issues, challenges and successes they have achieved in their roles. The event was a huge success, and based on the feedback from attendees, more networking opportunities will be scheduled in the future.

A new edition of the HSR network newsletter was also released this quarter and is available [here](#).

If you are an HSR and would like to join our HSR Network or receive our updates, you can [subscribe here](#).



Keep in contact

Subscribe for the latest safety alerts and WHS news by using [this link](#).

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.