



AUSTRALIAN CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

# MEDIA RELEASE

**Monday 7 September 2009**

## **SAFE WORK AUSTRALIA**

Statement by Mr Peter Anderson, Chief Executive

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI), Australia's largest and most representative business organisation, says that today's passage of laws establishing a tripartite statutory body overseeing workplace health and safety, Safe Work Australia, should be used to give fresh impetus to improving safety practices and cultures in Australian workplaces.

"The message that working safely requires everyone to take their responsibilities seriously now has a better chance of becoming a co-ordinated national message, with parallels to the mutual responsibility message that features in road safety awareness and safe driving campaigns."

"Now that Safe Work Australia can operate as an independent statutory body there is clear air for governments, unions and industry to provide national leadership on occupational health and safety policies and programmes."

"The important but difficult work of national harmonisation of OHS laws is also a central task for Safe Work Australia, but not one that must be allowed to alone define its success or set its mandate."

"It will be important that Safe Work Australia also provide leadership on practical prevention-based national safety programmes, especially in high-risk industries."

ACCI has represented Australian employers on national tripartite OHS bodies since 1984, and continues to do so on Safe Work Australia.

"We look forward to working with employers, the Australian government, state and territory governments, the ACTU and individual unions on these collective OHS opportunities and challenges."

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*ACCI represents over 350,000 businesses in every State and Territory and all industries. Our network employs around 4 million employees, ranging from the top 100 companies to tens of thousands of small and medium businesses.*

[www.acci.asn.au](http://www.acci.asn.au)

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