



# Enforceable Undertaking Proposal

## What is an Enforceable Undertaking

An enforceable undertaking (EU) operates as an alternative to a prosecution for an alleged contravention of the Work Health and Safety Act 2012.

An EU is a written, legally binding commitment to implement effective work health and safety initiatives. Only the regulator can accept an EU and will only be accepted if it meets three requirements:

- Benefit to the workplace
- Benefit to the industry
- Benefit to the community

## What is the OHS Body of Knowledge (BoK)

The Occupational Health and Safety Body of Knowledge (OHS BoK) is an open-source resource that provides a collation of current research and practice in OHS in a format that is easily accessible while clearly drawing on the evidence base.

The OHS BoK is possibly the single most important resource informing the practice of OHS; its application has a direct impact on the capability of OHS professionals and the quality of OHS advice that they provide in Australian workplaces.

## How can Enforceable Undertaking support the OHS BoK?

By engaging with the OHS BoK the employer, and the regulator, can be assured that the resource (and workplace action) is underpinned by evidence-based current thinking and practice.

The workplace-focused activities required under an EU that address the circumstances leading to a contravention can be developed as 'resources' to support the implementation of specific OHS BoK topics and so have an impact beyond the individual workplace or company.

As a component of an EU, the OHS BoK:

- Benefits the workplace, industry, and the community;
- Has both national and international impact;
- Adds a legacy aspect to any EU through its ongoing currency and enduring impact.

## How can the Australian Institute of Health and Safety support EU Submissions?

The Australian Institute of Health and Safety (AIHS) is the national association for health and safety professionals and the largest peak body representation. One of the institute's 3 strategic outcomes is – an effective WHS workforce.

This encompasses OHS professionals and practitioners through to management and health and safety representatives. There are three elements that underpin this strategy.

1. The Global Capability Framework
2. The OHS Body of Knowledge
3. The AIHS Learning and Development Program

### ***Global Capability Framework***

The International Network of Safety and Health Practitioner Organisations developed the Global Capability Framework. This framework identifies standards for knowledge, skills and capabilities for OHS practitioners and professionals.

### ***AIHS Learning and Development Program***

The AIHS Learning and Development program was built based on the global capability framework to deliver a range of professional development that meets the needs of OHS professionals at all levels. The OHS BoK is a valuable resource that brings OHS evidence-based and current OHS thinking and practices into our program. The range of professional development options are:

- Webinars
- On-line learning
- Face-to-face training
- In-house training

Integrating EU submissions into the OHS BoK, is an opportunity to not only have a direct impact on OHS capability but facilitate the Institute's strategy towards building an effective WHS workforce.

## **Enforceable Undertaking Submissions**

Submissions for EUs that include an OHS BoK chapter are supported through a technical panel of SME's, educational institutions, well-respected authors, and quality editors.

In general, the development of a new chapter, including learning resources, costs around \$80,000. The OHS BoK contributions can range from direct donations that will aid in:

- Chapter review processes
- Development of a new chapter
- Development of training around current or new chapters
- Development of learning resources around specific topics.

These are all opportunities to address an EU submission to the satisfaction of the regulator.

## **Further information**

For further information on the OHS BoK and the development of EUs please contact Dr. Marilyn Hubner, [manager@ohsbok.org.au](mailto:manager@ohsbok.org.au), 0457 777 748.