

# OHS COMMITTEES

ESTABLISHING A HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE UNDER THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY ACT.

## ESTABLISHING THE COMMITTEE

The employer must establish a health and safety committee within 3 months after being requested to do so by a HSR\*.

A Health and Safety Committee under the WHS Act overrides a health and safety committee established by an employer.

## FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

- ✓ Instigate, develop and carry out measures designed to ensure the workers' health and safety at work.
- ✓ Formulate, review and disseminate (in other languages if appropriate) to employees the standards, rules and procedures relation to health and safety that are to be carried out or complied.
- ✓ Any other functions agreed between the employer and the committee.



## MEETINGS

A committee must meet at least once every 3 months at a time that suits at least half of the committee.

*(\*) indicates possible financial penalties to the company if not performed.*

## COMMITTEE CONSTITUTION

- ✓ The constitution of a health and safety committee may be agreed between the employer and workers.
- ✓ At least half of the members of the committee must be employees and, so far as practicable, HSRs.

## THE EMPLOYER MUST:

Allow each member of the health and safety committee to spend the time that is reasonably necessary to attend meetings of the committee or to carry out functions as a member of the committee with pay that the employee would otherwise be entitled to.

Allow the health and safety committee to have access to information that the company has relating to:

- a) hazards (including associated risks) at the workplace, and
- b) the health and safety of the workers at the workplace.

**FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL DELEGATE OR ORGANISER OR THE BRANCH:**

CALL 1300 362 298 | WWW.AWU.NET.AU/VIC | /AWUVICTORIA

Speak to your AWU organiser before commencing this process. For more information, please see Section 72 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act.



THE AUSTRALIAN WORKERS' UNION