

# WHS COMMITTEES

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

## ESTABLISHING THE COMMITTEE

The company must establish a health and safety committee within 2 months after being requested to do so by a HSR or 5 or more workers at the workplace.\*

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

## FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE

- ✓ Instigate, develop and carry out measures designed to ensure the workers' health and safety at work;
- ✓ To assist in developing standards, rules and procedures relating to health and safety that are to be followed or complied with at the workplace; and
- ✓ Any other functions prescribed by the regulations or agreed to by the committee.



## THE COMPANY 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.\* The member of the committee is entitled to pay that would otherwise be received for performing such functions.

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.\*

(\* 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 company and workers. If no agreement can be reached, then the safety regulator can decide the matter.
- ✓ If there is a HSR at the workplace, that HSR is entitled to be a member of the committee if they consent.
- ✓ At least half of the members of the committee must be workers who are not nominated by the company.
- ✓ If agreement is not reached under this section within a reasonable time, any party may ask the regulator to appoint an inspector to decide the matter.

## MEETINGS

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

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

CALL (03) 6234 6744 | WWW.AWU.NET.AU/TAS | ADMIN@AWUTAS.ORG.AU

Speak to your AWU organiser before commencing this process. For more information, please see Section 75 of the Work Health and Safety Act.

