HSR Conference Review 31 October 2017,
Main Theme – Issue Resolution, broadcast live to Bendigo and Morwell
Several Speakers in the Welcome session, including

Clare Amies from Worksafe who presented some data on from WorkSafe, in the last 5 years, the number of claims are down. Manual handling still remains the most prevalent. 3000 Mental health injuries since 2014, (I guess this means standard claims), Most common in the healthcare sector, 45% of psychological claims will not RTW if not back at 6 months, whereas 18% of physical claims will not RTW if not back at 6 months. Clare commented that Worksafe in 2018 was going to have a stronger injury prevention lead.

Luke Hilakari – Secretary Trades Hall Council, spoke about when HSR’s are involved there is a 50% decrease in injury rates. Luke also spoke on Issue Resolution Strategies (ISR) within the designated workgroups (DWG’s) performing and recording

Hazard ID, Near Misses, good minute documentation, positive relationships with Unions, use of PINS, urgent PINS get acted on.

Luke also presented Worksafe HSR of the Year, Police Women who successfully closed an antiquated police building using PINS, Hazard ID, good minutes, positive relationship with the police Union, review of Police property review, meeting Union Representatives, Pins in relation to fire hazards ect.

Other Mobile Case Managers, (not Claims Managers) assisted 200 injured workers got good support. Also 30% of HSR’s feel harassed in the workplace.

Issue Resolution

The presenters then went on to speak about multiple areas of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004, highlighting 14 parts of the Act but the focus was on;

Part 7 – Representation of the Employees. Division 8 Resolution of Health and Safety Issues

Section 73 Resolution of health and safety issues

Section 74 Direction to cease work

Section 60 Provisional improvement notes

HSR Heroes Handbook

Introduction

A survey of 200 HSR respondents and gave their top tips for solving issues. These are

1) Know your legal rights and powers – refers to Section 58 of the Act Powers of the HSR
2) Communication is essential – Active Listening, Solution based meeting plan, Case study – Based on the inclusive process. Australian Services Union,
3) There is no I in team work, Case study – Know your H&S systems, If you have a problem – you have a solution, Construction, Forestry, Mining, Energy Union.
4) Pins get things done, Issuing a PIN and steps to follow issuing a PIN, essential tips so that the PIN is not invalidated by WorkSafe, never issue the PIN to you Manager, issue to company name and department, Case Study Health and community Services Union – If you having to
issue a PIN then the OHS is not being taken seriously, policies are not understood, A HSR is only as good as the colleagues who stand beside them.

5) Cease work to protect life and limb. Tips are provided here to, How to direct that work cease, cease work script, Case study Australian manufacturing Workers Union, Do your research and leave a paper trail, Use email, be supportive, you will win some and lose some, don’t take it personally.

6) Persevere. When in doubt, persevere some more, Tips provided – Don’t give up. HSR don’t walk alone, you have your members, you have each other, your Unions and the VTHC OHS Unit. Case study Ambulance employees Association. Matt Pearce was instrumental in getting laws changed 1st July 2017, Drivers must not exceed 40km/hr when passing an emergency vehicle and must not increase speed until it’s safe to do so.