



The Net

From The Editor

The Ugly Parent Syndrome

In recent weeks we have seen in the press a number of instances where out of control parents cause dangerous situations while attending youth sports.

A 19 year-old female rugby referee was chased by angry parents into the dressing room following a junior (13 and under) rugby match in Brisbane. Two police squad cars were called to break up the angry crowd.

The rugby season in Brisbane had not even started when there were 12 major incidents involving brawls and abuse, all involving parents. The worst matter involved a fight which erupted between six spectators during an under-10 match.

Here are a few examples of incidents that have taken place overseas:

A 15-year-old tee-ball umpire was allegedly choked and punched by a 37-year-old assistant coach of a tee-ball team for five-and six-year-olds. The umpire was treated at the hospital for bruises around his neck and a burst blood vessel in his eye.

A "soccer mom" slaps and scratches the face of the

games 15-year-old volunteer referee following a soccer game involving 9-year-olds.

A former police officer was convicted of soliciting assault for giving a 10-year-old Little League pitcher \$2 to hit another youngster with a fastball.

A dentist sharpened the face guard of his son's football helmet so he could slash opposing players. Five players and a referee were hurt

Parents play an important role in determining their children's sport involvement. Parents have different expectations of their children in sport. Some may wish their children to do well because they feel that they missed out on the same opportunities when they were young. Others may wish to live vicariously through their children, and hope to fulfill their lost expectations.

The Australian Sports Commission has issued the following Parents Code of Behaviour:

- Remember that children participate in sport for their enjoyment, not yours.
- Encourage children to participate, do not force them.
- Focus on the child's efforts and performance rather than winning or losing.

- Encourage children always to play according to the rules and to settle disagreements without resorting to hostility or violence.
- Never ridicule or yell at a child for making a mistake or losing a competition.
- Remember that children learn best by example. Appreciate good performances and skilful plays by all participants.
- Support all efforts to remove verbal and physical abuse from sporting activities.
- Respect officials' decisions and teach children to do likewise.
- Show appreciation for volunteer coaches, officials and administrators. Without them, your child could not participate.
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every young person regardless of their gender, ability, cultural background or religion.

Ed.

Special Interest:

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BG at the C-Net SAUG stand. Ear ache?-Bored? - On the phone?-asleep???????????



Night jobs 'lower Parkinson's risk'



PEOPLE who work rotating night shifts appear to have a lower risk of Parkinson's disease, a study published in the *American Journal of Epidemiology* indicates. Conversely, an increased risk of developing this condition is linked to a longer average duration of sleep.

"Working rotating night shifts disrupts circadian rhythms and may have a wide range of physiologic, psychological and social effects on shift workers," Dr Honglei Chen, of the National Institutes of Health, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, and colleagues write.

"In previous studies, shift work has been linked to

higher risks of some chronic diseases, including cardiovascular disease and certain types of cancers," they said, but any effect on the risk of developing Parkinson's disease has not been investigated.

The researchers evaluated data from the US Nurses' Health Study, which enrolled 84,794 female nurses, to see if there was an association between working rotating night shifts and Parkinson's disease risk.

Nurses who reported at least 15 years of night shift work were older and more likely to be current smokers and users of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID), such as ibuprofen or naproxen, compared with those who never worked rotating night shifts.

Night shift workers also tended to drink more coffee but less alcohol

and to have a higher body mass index.

Women who worked night shifts slept slightly less than non-night shift workers.

A total of 181 cases of Parkinson's disease were reported between 1988 and 2000. The risk of Parkinson's disease was 50 per cent lower among women who had at least 15 years of night shift work compared with those who never worked rotating night shifts.

After accounting for differences in age and smoking status, the investigators found that a longer sleep duration was associated with a higher risk of Parkinson's disease. Compared with nurses who slept no more than six hours a day, those who slept nine or more hours a day had a 84 per cent increased risk.

Plausible biologic explanations for these

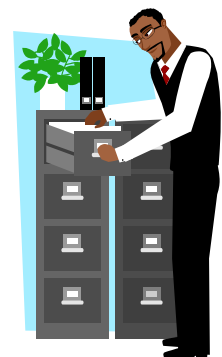
results are lacking, Dr Chen's team said.

They said that shift work has been associated with modest increases in blood levels of estradiol and uric acid, "both of which may be protective against Parkinson's disease".

Conversely, they suggest that the data could be interpreted as showing that a "low tolerance for night shift work is an early marker of Parkinson's disease". intimacy difficulties with their partners.

26 April 2006

From correspondents in
New York
The Australian
www.theaustralian.news.com.au



Unions hold fears over workplace deaths

ADELAIDE, April 28 AAP - South Australian union officials say they fear a recent spate of workplace deaths will become the norm under the federal government's controversial workplace laws.

Marking the international commemoration day for dead and injured workers, SA Unions state secretary Janet Giles said the new industrial relations (IR) laws made it harder for union officials to access

worksites and monitor safety standards.

"That means employers can pressure workers into unsafe practices and unions are prevented from standing up for them," Ms Giles said.

"We believe that the new laws effectively make the federal government an accessory to manslaughter."

Ms Giles said the new federal laws also had

quashed state-based manslaughter laws, adding further insult to injury.

"It means that unscrupulous employers will continue to get away with causing deaths and injuries with little fear of retribution," she said.

"People face tougher fines for drink driving - where they may potentially cause a death - than do employers whose workers are actually killed.

In South Australia 19 people were killed in workplace incidents in 2004 while over the past 12 months 16 have died, including three in the past week.

Today, a funeral service will be held for maintenance worker Graham Mehaffey who was killed last week when he became trapped in a lift shaft at an Adelaide function centre.

28 April 2006
CCH Australia Limited
www.cch.com.au



Deaths prompt safety call

VICTORIA has recorded one of its worst weeks for workplace deaths, with a painter becoming the fifth person to die in a week.

WorkSafe Victoria spokesman Michael Birt said the painter fell 4.5 metres to his death while working at a house at Wonga Park, in Melbourne's east, yesterday.

The 64-year-old fell from the balcony of the house, which was under construction and had incomplete ballustrading, Mr Birt said.

"It's arguably the worst

week in recent years for workplace deaths," he said.

"WorkSafe is calling on employers and employees to go back to the basic idea of hazards and work practices that they know are dangerous.

"People do things they know are dangerous but think it's okay."

Mr Birt said the five deaths had resulted as workers carried out routine jobs.

On Sunday, a man died when a tree he was cutting down fell on him at

Wodonga on the Victoria-NSW border.

On Saturday, a man died in hospital after suffering an electric shock while changing lightbulbs at a car yard at Coburg the previous Tuesday.

A man died in hospital last Thursday, after he was crushed by a machine at CUB at Abbotsford on April 13.

And last Wednesday, a truck driver was electrocuted when his tip-truck hit power lines at Nhill in country Victoria.

"One of the things we're saying to people is to get back to those basics," he said.

"It's the risk that you have got to identify first, not wait until someone's not moving first."

Mr Birt said an investigation had been launched into yesterday's death.

27th April 2006

<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,10117,18945371-1702,00.html?from=rss>

Young workers 'not endangered'

AUSTRALIA'S largest business lobby group has denied employers were guilty of a decade of disregard for the safety of young workers.

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) chief executive, Peter Hendy, has rejected claims employers were exposing young casual and part-time workers to an increasing risk of injury and death.

The Sydney Morning Herald today reported more than 310,000 Australians aged under 25 had suffered work-related injuries or disease in the past 10 years. Five hundred young workers had also died in that time, the report said.

Conversely, Mr Hendy said Australian workplaces had actually become safer over the past 10 years. "(Australian employers) value their staff and in almost all cases do everything reasonably possible to reduce or eliminate death or injury," he said.

Continued page 4.

Fine defaulters 'named and shamed'

COMPANIES that default on fines issued for serious breaches of occupational health and safety (OH&S) laws will be named and shamed, the NSW Office of State Revenue (OSR) warns.

While 89 per cent of fines issued for serious breaches of WorkCover laws were paid in the five years to June 2005, a small number remained unpaid, OSR says.

"Under the Fines Act 1996, OSR has a range of

enforcement sanctions than can apply to enforce unpaid fines," OSR said.

"These include licence and registration sanctions, property seizure orders, garnishee against wages and back accounts and community orders."

However, under the Commonwealth Corporations Act, if the company named on the fine is deregistered, has become insolvent or has rearranged its affairs and discontinued trading, a fine

is often unable to be enforced.

"OSR is now moving to strengthen the measures used to enforce fines for these serious matters," the office says.

OSR will now publish on its website and in newspapers the names of companies defaulting on OH&S fines.

It will also streamline the referral of fines from courts to OSR to reduce the

opportunity for companies to rearrange their affairs in order to avoid fine payment.

OSR will also disclose information to the Australian Securities and Investment Commission and credit agencies to alert other creditors of outstanding fines.

26th April 2006

<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,10117,18935656-1702,00.html?from=rss>



NZ: Review of ACC cover for work-related gradual process, disease or infection

The Department of Labour is to review the Injury Prevention, Rehabilitation, and Compensation (IPRC) Act 2001, to consider whether the existing cover provisions for people with work-related gradual process, disease or infection are adequate.

An independent Ministerial Advisory Panel has recommended substantial changes to the ACC scheme, to include cover for all people whose work injury or illness manifests over time. The panel considered that cover for gradual process injuries or disease is currently too limited, and the requirement for claimants to prove work causation was too onerous. Cabinet has approved a preliminary work programme, to determine whether further work is required in this area. As part of that programme, the Department has been tasked with two pieces of work:

A review of legislative cover, to determine the current extent of cover for work-related gradual process, disease, or infection under the legislation as it currently stands, and
A literature review of how work-related gradual process, disease, or infection is managed by other jurisdictions. Deputy Secretary for Workplace Andrew Annakin said the review work would be carried out in conjunction with ACC. Consultation will also occur with the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions and Business New Zealand, and others with expertise in the area. Work on the review would start immediately.

On completion, the Department will report back to Cabinet with its recommendations for further work.

A copy of the Ministerial Advisory Panel's report is available on:
<http://www.osh.dol.govt.nz/publications/research/gradual-disease0605/index.shtml>

Department of Labor, 9th March 2006, www.osh.dol.govt.nz



\$107,000 in fines after young workers injured

A Hunter Valley company and its director have been fined a total of \$107,000 in the NSW Industrial Relations Commission sitting in Court Session, following injury to two young workers on their first day of employment.

Hunter Galvanizing Pty Ltd, of Tomago, was fined \$100,000, and director Kerry Bartholomew, \$7,000, after pleading guilty to breaches of

Section 8(1) and Section 26(1) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000.

The two workers, aged 17 and 20, were seriously injured on 24 March, 2004, when a one tonne steel headframe they were loading fell 2.3 metres from its supporting cradles and struck them.

One of the workers suffered a fractured skull,

which required insertion of a metal plate, and a groin injury.

In handing down her judgement, Justice Backman said the two young and inexperienced workers had received cursory and inadequate instruction, and minimal supervision on their first day at work.

Justice Backman awarded costs and a moiety of the

fines to WorkCover.

WorkCover NSW Chief Executive Officer, Jon Blackwell, commented: "The near-fatal incident which led to this prosecution is a terrifying example of what can go wrong when employers fail in their obligations to properly, induct, supervise and train young workers."

*24th February 2006
WorkCover NSW
www.workcover.nsw.gov.au*

Young workers 'not endangered' cont....

From page 3...

Australia was a leading performer when it came to Occupational Health and Safety, and even though worker numbers had increased, workplace deaths had fallen 89 per cent – from 358 in 1998/99, to 189 in 2003/04 – ACCI said.

Compensated workplace injuries had also fallen by 14 per cent, from 159,960 in 1998/89 to 137,520 in 2003/04. But Mr Hendy said more could always be done to protect workers. "It is right to draw public attention to the need for safer workplaces. More can be done and should be done," he said. "OHS is a joint responsibility – not just of employers, but also employees, manufacturers and plant or system designers."

News.com.au, 24th April 2006, www.news.com.au



SafetyNet User Group (SNUG)

Why not attend the SafetyNet User Group meetings where you will be able to hear informative expert speaker presentations, share product implementation experiences, and take the opportunity to make new contacts.

The next meeting is planned for 31 May 2006 and will be held at the Hotel Charsfield in Melbourne. Included in the agenda will be presentations and training on new tools, explanations of new functionality that has been included in the Suite of products, and a workshop on the new AWP functionality that will be released in SafetySuite Release 4.0.

Members will receive their invitations shortly, non members should contact Rob Clarke on 03 9864 1010 should they wish to attend. (Space available)



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About C-Net

C-Net is an Australian owned company that specialises in SAP based OH&S Solutions. C-Net are the developers and distributors of "SafetyNet for SAP".

"SafetyNet for SAP" was developed for Australian & NZ companies who require an integrated, legislatively compliant and supported OH&S Solution to complement their integrated SAP infrastructure.

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