

WHAT SHOULD THE OPTIMAL STRUCTURE AND CONTENT OF A MODEL OHS ACT BE?

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

Submission by AMP Limited

(q152)

AMP takes its occupational health and safety obligations very seriously. Through a combination of appropriate diligence and the fact that our working environment is not inherently dangerous, we have experienced a relatively low level of injuries and incidents.

AMP can, therefore, 'live with' a range of outcomes amongst those canvassed in the May 2008 Issues Paper.

There is one aspect of the review, however, about which AMP has a very clear and definite position. That is the need to centralise health and safety regulation under federal control.

As an employer in all Australian states, having to differentiate our approach on matters as important as our employees' health and safety is more than just an irritation – it diverts resources away from prevention programmes.

As an example, the requirements for the content of first aid kits vary from state to state. Resources need to be applied to maintaining compliance with these various requirements. Whilst this is a relatively small issue, numerous issues like this combine so that valuable resources are applied to understanding and complying with multiple, slightly different regulatory approaches to the same sets of issues.

If we had one national system, those resources could be applied to proactive programmes designed to improve the health and safety of our employees.