

Work health and safety policy

POL-G-062

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Contents

1. Title	3
2. Introduction	3
3. Principles or guidelines	3
4. References	4
5. Implementation	5

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1. Title

Work health and safety policy

2. Introduction

The National Museum of Australia places a high priority on work health and safety. The Museum acknowledges its duty of care towards the health and safety of its workers. As required under section 47 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (WHS Act), this policy has been developed by the Museum as the Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) in consultation with its workers.

This policy:

- enables effective cooperation between the Museum and workers in developing and promoting measures to ensure workers' mental and physical health, safety and welfare at work
- provides adequate mechanisms for consulting with workers about work health and safety matters
- provides adequate mechanisms for reviewing the effectiveness of the policy
- provides adequate mechanisms for the variation of the policy in consultation with workers
- provides for a dispute resolution mechanism to deal with disputes arising in the course of consultations held under the WHS Act between the PCBU and workers
- requires the establishment of the Work Health and Safety Committee (WHSC) and provides for the manner in which the WHSC are to be constituted and operate
- is consistent with the principles of preventing health and safety incidents from occurring and resolving these issues as close to the workplace as possible in the most efficient and resource effective manner.

3. Principles

The Museum, as the PCBU, will meet its obligations under the WHS Act to provide a healthy and safe work environment by:

- developing and implementing a Work Health and Safety Management System (WHSMS) which clearly states the roles and responsibilities of officers, managers and workers
- providing the resources required, ensuring the necessary work health and safety programs and activities are established and maintained, including first aid provisions
- encouraging a cooperative, consultative relationship between officers, managers and workers in regard to work, health and safety issues through the facilitation of an effective network of trained Health and Safety Representatives and through the WHSC
- implementing strategies which provide a safe and healthy environment for workers such as prevention, including access to information programs to promote overall health and wellbeing for workers, early intervention and return to work programs
- ensuring that officers, managers and workers undertake the necessary training to enable them to perform their duties safely and to meet their responsibilities under the WHS Act
- providing comprehensive and professional work health and safety advice to assist officers, managers and workers
- developing reporting processes for officers as part of due diligence responsibilities
- establishing measurable objectives and targets to ensure continued improvement aimed at elimination of work-related injury and illness
- undertaking regular review and monitoring of WHSMS to identify areas for improvement.

3.1 Executive staff:

The Director is the champion of WHS and the Museum's WHSMS. The Director, the Museum's

Council and the Executive team are considered officers under the WHS Act and hold a responsibility to comply with its obligations. This will be achieved by:

- exercising due diligence
- keeping up to date with current WHS legislation, regulations and codes of practice
- endorsing the Museum's initiatives to eliminate or mitigate work health and safety risks
- ensuring allocation of resources and equipment that helps maintain and operate in a work environment that minimises risks to health and safety as far as is reasonably practicable.

3.2 Officers/managers/supervisors must ensure:

- effective implementation of this policy
- their responsibilities under the WHS Act and Regulations are met
- agreed procedures for regular discussion between managers and workers are followed
- required documentation is provided
- all workplace hazards are identified, and risks assessed and controlled
- regular workplace inspections are conducted
- information, training and supervision are provided for all employees in the correct use of plant, equipment, PPE, chemicals and other substances used.

3.3 Workers:

- have a duty to take care of their health and safety and that of others
- must comply with safety procedures and directions
- must follow reasonable instructions
- must not wilfully interfere with or misuse items or facilities provided in the interest of health and safety
- must inform their manager or supervisor of hazards, accidents and near accidents occurring at the workplace.

3.4 Visitors and contractors must:

- not put themselves or any of our employees at risk
- abide by applicable WHS policies and procedures
- not enter restricted areas without permission.

3.5 WHS monitoring and review

Key performance indicators (KPIs) will be identified and targets set to monitor and improve overall WHS performance.

Reports will be prepared detailing the performance against KPIs and regularly presented to the WHSC and the Executive Management Group.

3.6 Reviewing the effectiveness of the WHS policy

This WHS policy will be regularly reviewed as required by legislation and organisational changes or, as a minimum, every two (2) years.

4. References

Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (Cth)

Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011 (Cth)

5. Implementation

5.1 Coverage

This policy applies to all officers, workers, visitors and contractors of the Museum.

5.2 Other related policies and procedures

POL-G-075 WHS Measurement and evaluation policy

PRO-032 WHS Incident/hazard reporting and investigation procedures

PRO-033 WHS Consultation and communication procedures

PRO-034 WHS Issue resolution procedures

PRO-035 WHS Training and competency procedures

PRO-036 WHS First aid procedures

PRO-039 WHS Measurement and evaluation procedures

PRO-040 WHS Auditing procedures

5.3 Exclusions

There are no exclusions to this policy.

5.4 Superseded policies

This policy supersedes the NMA Health and Safety Management Arrangements 2011.

5.5 Monitoring

This policy is monitored by the WHS Manager and will be reviewed in May 2024.