

MEDIA ALERT

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Friday, 5 October 2018

TOUGHER SAFETY LAWS FOR WA WORKPLACES

WA worker safety is finally being put first, with new tougher penalties for workplace offences.

The stronger penalties came into effect yesterday, and are now consistent with the national Work Health and Safety Act.

WA had historically weaker penalties but now level four offences, which include fatalities, attract a maximum \$2.7 million penalty, up from \$500,000.

In an important step to prevent harm or injury on worksites, level one offences, which are breaches of regulations but don't include injuries, have increased from \$50,000 to \$450,000.

CPSU/CSA Assistant Secretary Rikki Hendon says these tougher penalties are a positive step forward for WA.

"Increasing fines to meet the national standard means the state government is taking workplace safety seriously. But that's only the first step.

"Enforcing these new penalties means WorkSafe needs proper funding.

"The agency is an enduring and important public service, but it has faced budget cuts and decreased staffing over many years.

"It is a shell of what it was and if the state government is serious about increasing safety in workplaces, they will address the resourcing of Worksafe as a matter of priority."

To read the Minister's statement click

here; <https://www.mediastatements.wa.gov.au/Pages/McGowan/2018/10/McGowan-Government-announces-tougher-penalties-for-workplaces.aspx>