



MEDIA RELEASE

2026 REVIEW OF THE WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY SCHEME

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

17 December 2025

The Standing Committee on Law and Justice, in accordance with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, has begun its review into the Work Health and Safety scheme. This is the first time the Standing Committee on Law and Justice will be reviewing the operation of the Act. It follows the establishment of SafeWork NSW as a standalone regulator and the appointment of an independent commissioner in 2025.

For the first review of the scheme the committee has agreed to focus on:

- the role of Health and Safety Representatives; and
- workplace health and safety training, education and support for apprentices in the workplace.

The Chair of the committee, the Hon. Greg Donnelly said: “The changes to the legislation to make SafeWork NSW a standalone entity will strengthen its powers to ensure all New South Wales workplaces are healthy and safe workplaces. Health and Safety Representatives are fundamental to maintaining and improving health and safety at workplaces. Representatives are empowered in the legislation to monitor work health and safety and investigate any complaints. The committee is very interested to learn how effectively they can do this role and to identify any issues related to their powers and functions under the Act.”

The Chair went on to say: “The committee is concerned that there continues to be a disproportionate number of workplace accidents and injuries suffered by apprentices. These are usually young people, new to the workplace, with little understanding or experience of healthy and safe work practices. The committee would like to hear how they are currently trained, educated and supported to understand workplace health and safety practices, and where they can be improved.”

The review of the Work Health and Safety scheme gives the committee the opportunity to make findings and recommendations to the NSW Government for further improvements to the scheme. Mr Donnelly said: “The committee is keen to hear from all those who have rights and responsibilities for work health and safety, including regulators, government agencies, unions, training organisations, employer organisations, health and safety experts and also individuals such as workplace Health and Safety Representatives or apprentices.”

The closing date for submissions is 15 February 2026. Submissions may be lodged via the inquiry [website](#).

-ENDS-

For further information please contact Committee Chair, the Hon. Greg Donnelly MLC, on 9230 2280.