

From: CMann

Sent: Sunday, 16 September 2012 9:14 p.m.

To: Secretariat Taskforce

Subject: A submission for you

Dear Sir.

Please submit this email as a submission for your taskforce.

Health and Safety in the workplace has basically deteriorated since the introduction of the ECA in 1991.

On larger project sites for instance there is usually no worker representation, therefore those who have a safety concern over what they are asked to do have nowhere to go with their concerns except the employer.

This I saw at first hand on the Candy's Bend Project at Arthurs Pass 2000

The result was that those no one complained about safety on what was an extremely hazardous site as their job would have been terminated. It wasn't until a death occurred that OSH got involved and safety on the project was taken seriously.

At an OSH meeting after the incident. someone asked the obvious question. "Who do we go and see if we object to having to do something we consider dangerous" The answer by the OSH representative was, "Ring me in Christchurch" This was of little use or sense in the immediacy of a busy project.

Therein lies a huge hole in the OSH system.

The safety representative was a company employee due to retire.

After the incident the company put a worker on the site as a safety representative but he was basically ignored and never involved or consulted in any decision making on the site

I worked for the Ministry of Works on the Clyde Dam for ten years. The Ministry of Works safety representative and the union elected check inspector made weekly tours of the site and if something hazardous in work practice or site management was seen it was fixed forthwith. Also it wasn't uncommon for the Union representatives to throw the proverbial book at anybody who they condisedered was acting stupidly or in a hazardous manner.

There were no deaths or serious injury on that site while the check inspector system was in place

Cheers

Chris Mann

C.P. & C.J. Mann