



Rob Jager
Chair
Independent Taskforce on Workplace Health and Safety
PO Box 3705
WELLINGTON 6140

Dear Mr Jager,

Thank you for the opportunity to read and respond to your consultation document "Safer Workplaces".

The document was circulated to our senior management team and was discussed at a meeting of our National Health and Safety Committee earlier this week and a summary of our responses to the issues raised is attached.

IRL is absolutely committed to workplace health and safety and staff wellness and devotes considerable resources to systems and programmes to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of our people is paramount. Unfortunately, not all employers in New Zealand are able to emulate our commitment, either through lack of resources or availability of advice and support externally. We therefore believe that current government resources devoted to health and safety and injury prevention need to be pooled and brought under a single, high profile umbrella agency with overall national responsibility for promotion, education, training, advice, support material, regulation, monitoring and enforcement of all aspects of workplace health and safety in New Zealand. The resources largely already exist but need better integration and higher profile so that they can be better accessed by employers and employees of our largely small to medium enterprise landscape.

We believe that the work of your taskforce is of the highest importance and, coinciding with the Royal Commission recommendations following the Pike River mine tragedy, the time is ripe to bring about change to dramatically improve New Zealand's poor workplace health and safety performance.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss any aspect of our response.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Susanne Woodfield
Health, Safety, Environment & Logistics Manager
Industrial Research Limited