

# | SUPPORTING PARTNER PROGRAM |



## THE VISION

OHS professional education is based on strong scientific and technical concepts, evidenced-informed, delivered by suitably competent persons and so recognised by the profession, government, industry and the community.



**Australian OHS Education  
Accreditation Board**



## **Supporting Partner Program**

The **purpose** of the Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board is to contribute to workplace health and safety by facilitating the education of graduates equipped with the knowledge and skills to enter the workplace as effective entry-level OHS professionals.

This purpose is driven by the **vision** that OHS professional education is based on strong scientific and technical concepts, evidenced-informed, delivered by suitably competent persons and so recognised by the profession, government, industry and the community.

**Supporting partners** share this vision and provide financial support to enable the Accreditation Board to achieve its objectives.

Originally established for the sole purpose of accrediting OHS professional education programs the Accreditation Board has taken on a much broader role in OHS professional education and OHS capability than envisaged at its commencement. Apart from a small subsidy from the Safety Institute of Australia the Accreditation Board is self funding through accreditation fees, some limited consulting related to OHS education, and Supporting Partners. Thus Supporting Partners have been, and will continue to be, essential for the Accreditation Board to be influential in this broader arena.

Through the **Supporting Partner Program** the Accreditation Board may form partnerships and alliances with organisations that share common goals. Such organisations may be non-profit, for-profit or government agencies based within or outside Australia. They may be associations, corporations, non government agencies (NGO), peer accreditation agencies or other.

The partnership provides the Accreditation Board with financial support. It may involve grants, sponsorship, advocacy or promotion of the aims and objectives of the Accreditation Board in other agreed ways.

Each partnership and the nature of support provided is approved by the members of the Accreditation Board and documented as a written agreement. The partner is recognised on the Accreditation Board web site and through other appropriate avenues.

The creation of a partnership does not imply that the Accreditation Board endorses the products or services provided by the partner nor does the agreement influence decision making by the Accreditation Board or prevent the Accreditation Board from exercising independent judgment on any matter.

Join other organisations that are supporting the Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board, quality OHS education and OHS capability in Australia.





## Be part of leading edge developments in OHS education and OHS capability

The Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board is active in three main areas:

- Recognising university-level programs that meet the accreditation criteria
- Advocating for a sustainable environment for OHS education including the promotion of OHS capability, and
- Custodian of the OHS Body of Knowledge.

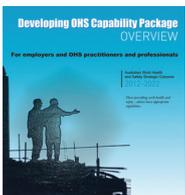
These activities are particularly important in the light of the Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012-2022 *Healthy, safe and productive working lives*, which includes the strategic outcome that those providing work health and safety education, training and advice have appropriate capabilities.



The Accreditation Board web site is becoming a first port of call for potential student and current students, providers and OHS educators, OHS professionals and industry. Supporting partners are listed on the web site.



The core activity of the Accreditation Board is the recognition of OHS professional education programs that meet the standards of the Accreditation Board. Assessments are carried out by a panel of OHS educators and OHS professionals supported by an education advisor and the registrar. Universities with accredited programs are able to display the Accredited Program logo on their web site and related publications. A register of OHS professional education programs is also available on the Accreditation Board website.



The *Developing OHS Capability Package* has been compiled by the Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board to assist employers to evaluate their OHS capability and where appropriate support development of capability in their organisation. The materials in this package have evolved from capability statements and learning outcomes developed through workshops with OHS educators and professionals, other activities undertaken by the Accreditation Board together with input by one of our Supporting Partners *Safesearch*. The value of this approach was recently recognised by the Australian Qualification Framework Council.



The *OHS Body of Knowledge for Generalist OHS Professionals* has attracted acclaim both in Australia and internationally. It describes the theoretical knowledge which should underpin OHS practice. It provides the basis for accreditation of university level OHS education programs, professional certification and continuing professional development for OHS professionals. The OHS Body of Knowledge is available free of charge for individual professional, non commercial use at [www.ohsbok.org.au](http://www.ohsbok.org.au).

The copyright of the OHS Body of Knowledge is held by the Safety Institute of Australia with the Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board having a custodian role responsible for currency and further development. Originally published in 2012 the Accreditation Board has developed a seven year review and update schedule.

The contribution of the OHS Body of Knowledge to OHS capability has been recognised by Safe Work Australia. SWA is supporting the development of four additional chapters addressing the topics of work health and safety jurisprudence, organisational culture, risk and decision making and user centred and safe design. The development of the new chapters will be managed by the Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board with technical input and writing of the chapters facilitated through Topic Specific Technical Panels and professional workshops.



## **How to be involved**

**Supporting Partners** make financial, or in some cases in kind, contributions to support the operation of the Accreditation Board. They may be involved in specific activities such as awards programs, development of the OHS Body of Knowledge, the webinar program or supporting OHS research.

The Accreditation Board considers that there should be a range of benefits for the Supporting Partner.

The Supporting Partner receives e-newsletters and media releases from the Accreditation Board. The Registrar is available to provide an annual in house update on OHS education and capability for Supporting Partners. In some cases strategic consulting services have been provided around OHS capability.

The good corporate citizenship demonstrated by Supporting Partners in contributing to the effectiveness and quality of OHS education in Australia is recognised in several ways:

- Acknowledgement on the Accreditation Board web site, presentations and publications
- Supporting partners may announce their support for the Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board on their web sites
- Display of the Supporting Partner certificate.

The implementation of the *Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012-2022 Healthy, safe and productive working lives* provides an exciting new opportunity for recognition of the contribution of Supporting Partners. Safe Work Australia is inviting organisations to make *Statements of Commitment* to the strategy which are then promoted on the Safe Work Australia web site. The Accreditation Board will provide the details for individual Supporting Partners to make a statement of commitment to the capability component of the Australian Strategy.

### **If you wish to enquire about being a Supporting Partner contact**

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