



Commitment Statement (3)

Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012-22: Healthy, safe and productive working lives

**Strategic outcome: Those providing work health and safety education, training and advice have
the appropriate capabilities**

The Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board shares the vision promoted in the Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012-2022 of *Healthy, safe and productive working lives*. Through their activities the Accreditation Board will contribute at a national level to the strategic outcome that those providing work health and safety education, training and advice have appropriate capabilities. The Accreditation Board is committed to the target outcome that:

The OHS Body of Knowledge describes the theoretical knowledge to underpin OHS professional advice.

1 Problem/issue

Capability is “the applied theoretical knowledge that underpins practice in occupations and professions and also the industry specific knowledge and skills that transcend particular workplaces and the tacit knowledge of the workplace”¹. Thus OHS advice should be underpinned by theoretical knowledge together with industry specific knowledge and skills. The OHS Body of Knowledge for Generalist OHS Professionals first published in 2012 provides a basis for this theoretical knowledge base. However the OHS Body of Knowledge requires ongoing development and review not only to address identified gaps and ensure currency but to accommodate reinterpretation and evolution as people engage with it, apply it and extend it by conducting research.

2 Influence and action

2.1 Development and maintenance of the OHS Body of Knowledge

While the Safety Institute of Australia holds the copyright for the OHS Body of Knowledge the Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board is custodian of the OHS Body of Knowledge responsible for ongoing development and maintenance. The Accreditation Board has developed a 7 year review and development schedule for the OHS Body of Knowledge.

Through the Safety Institute of Australia the Accreditation Board has also entered into a funding agreement with Safe Work Australia to develop four additional chapters of the OHS Body of Knowledge:

¹ Wheelahan, L., & Moodie, G. (2011). *Rethinking Skills: A Safety Institute of Australia National Education and Training [Electronic Version]*, from http://www.bvet.nsw.gov.au/pdf/rethinking_skills.pdf



Principles of WHS law; Organisational culture; OHS Risk and decision making; and User centred and safe design. Other topics for new chapters are being considered.

2.2 *Dissemination of the OHS Body of Knowledge*

The OHS Body of Knowledge is freely available via the www.ohsbok.org.au web site to individuals for their personal non commercial professional use. The website is maintained by the Accreditation Board. Hard copy and electronic copies are available for sale together with licenses for commercial use. Any funds derived from sale of the OHS Body of Knowledge supports the further development.

The Accreditation Board supports the dissemination of the OHS Body of Knowledge by working with the Safety Institute of Australia and other bodies to conduct workshops and webinars on topics related to the OHS Body of Knowledge.

3 **Evaluation of effectiveness and impact of activities**

The Accreditation Board will evaluate the impact of the activities related to the OHS Body of Knowledge in the following ways:

- Achievement against review schedule
- Completion of milestones in funding agreement for development of additional chapters
- Launch of updated www.ohsbok.org.au web site
- Monitoring of the 'hits' and downloads on the web site
- Workshops and webinars on OHS Body of Knowledge topics conducted by the Accreditation Board or where the Accreditation Board assists in developing the program.

4 **Reporting**

A summary report will be included in the Accreditation Board Annual Report with a copy provided to Safe Work Australia.