



## FROM THE REGISTRAR

*It has been some time now since the last newsletter but there has been much activity behind the scenes. Our last newsletter discussed the activity of the Accreditation Board in developing and promoting capability as part of the Australian WHS Strategy 2012-22. Capability is more than competence; it requires underpinning theoretical knowledge together with industry specific knowledge and practical experience. The OHS Body of Knowledge for Generalist OHS Professionals describes this theoretical knowledge and is gaining recognition in Australia and internationally. With the support of Safe Work Australia we have developed four new chapters for the OHS Body of Knowledge. Also, the Accreditation Board has been working with the universities and four further programs are now accredited with other universities working on developing their programs and their applications for accreditation. Read more about these developments in this newsletter.*

Go to [www.ohseducationaccreditation.org.au](http://www.ohseducationaccreditation.org.au) to read our earlier newsletters.

The OHS Body  
of Knowledge  
together with  
accreditation of  
OHS education is  
raising the bar for  
OHS capability.

## New developments for the OHS Body of Knowledge

While the Safety Institute of Australia holds the copyright for the *OHS Body of Knowledge for Generalist OHS Professionals* this license is conditional that the SIA promotes the OHSBoK, supports its dissemination and maintains its currency. In its role as 'custodian' maintaining the currency and further development of the OHSBoK is the responsibility of the Accreditation Board.

With the support of Safe Work Australia, the Accreditation Board has been working with others to develop four new chapters for the OHS Body of Knowledge. A Topic Specific Technical Panel was convened for each chapter. These technical panels developed the scope of the chapter and, in some cases, authored the chapters. Each chapter has a section on implications for practice; in some cases this section has been written by an OHS professional, in others a workshop has been used to identify the implications for practice. These new chapters of the OHS Body of Knowledge were launched on the 29th October as part of Safe Work Month.

The chapter on *A user centred, safe design approach to control* has been developed in association with the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia (HFESA). The chapter emphasises the importance a framework of participatory ergonomics and considers the roles that generalist OHS professionals can take in the workplace design and control process. The chapter provides an example of a user-centred safe design tool.

Written by some of our leading OHS lawyers, the chapter *Principles of OHS law* is not OHS Law 101 but an insightful distillation of the principles of law and the fundamentals of how to apply the principles of case law to OHS in the workplace. An understanding of these principles will allow OHS professionals to develop an approach to compliance that is sensitive to the specific circumstances and leads to optimal OHS outcomes.

*Organisational culture* is a challenging topic and is a ground breaking chapter for the OHS BoK. Dr David Borys has undertaken a literature review, interviewed Australian and international academics and OHS professionals, and conducted two focus groups as part of developing the chapter content.

The *OHS risk and decision making* chapter is being written in association with the Minerals Industry Safety and Health Centre (MISHC) at the University of Queensland. Informed by a workshop attended by leading OHS academics working in risk and decision making and OHS professionals, this chapter brings together current thinking on risk and decision making and challenges some common held beliefs and practices.

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)



## Board member profile

### Angela Seidel

GCertSurvResMethods, GradDipAppCorpGov, MEnvMgt, MHRM, MBA, MAppMgt(Public Health), MOHS, PGDipHlthSc(OSH), Cert Hlth Ec, GDipEd(Sec), BEc.CPMSIA, ACSA, ACIS

Angela is an independent OHS professional on the Accreditation Board. Her interest in OHS started during her volunteer ambulance work where she saw the impact of preventable events. Having a passion for learning saw Angela complete a post graduate qualification in health science majoring in OHS then a MOHS by research to understand further how individual decisions and attitudes can influence the incident event. Whilst health and safety systems are important Angela's experience across several countries in logistics, manufacturing, mining and emergency services has demonstrated the need to understand how safe choices can be made by individuals.

Angela agreed to join Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board because of her desire to see OHS as a profession with a strong qualification base. She considers that it is important to remember that the advice that health and safety personnel provide may just be the advice that one day saves your life or the life of a family member.

The Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board could not make these contributions to Australian OHS capability without the Supporting Partners



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## Accreditation of OHS Professional Education

The core activities of the Accreditation Board are directed to ensuring the development of effective entry level OHS professionals. Through accreditation, the Board recognises those programs meeting the accreditation criteria. In the last 12 months three universities have achieved accreditation for four programs.

## News and upcoming events



- See [www.ohseducationaccreditation.org.au](http://www.ohseducationaccreditation.org.au) Amongst other useful and news items you will find:
  - The Third Annual Report of our activities
  - Strategic plan 2014-15
  - Developing Capability package (under the Industry tab)
- To receive updates on new posts on the web site and other news follow us on twitter  @OHS\_education
- Also check out the new web site for the OHS Body of Knowledge [www.ohsbok.org.au](http://www.ohsbok.org.au)

## Accreditation update

University of Queensland	Bachelor of Occupational Health and Safety Science (Hons)
Curtin University	Bachelor of Science (HSE)
Queensland University of Technology	Graduate Diploma of Occupational Health and Safety
University of Queensland	Master of Occupational Health and Safety Science

Go to [www.ohseducationaccreditation.org.au](http://www.ohseducationaccreditation.org.au) for a full list of accredited OHS programs offered by Australian universities.