



Media Release

10th November 2016

HFESA nominates new member for the Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board

With the retirement of Dr Margaret Cook who is taking up the Presidency of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia, HFESA has nominated Dr Alison Bell as their representative on the Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board.

Dr Bell is a senior lecturer in the Work Health and Safety program at the University of Wollongong; a Certified Practicing Ergonomist with tertiary qualifications in OHS and education. Alison has had a varied career moving from clinical occupational therapy roles in injury management and workers' compensation to safety management, ergonomics and human factors. Her research interests include work-related musculoskeletal disorders.



In welcoming Dr Bell to the Accreditation Board, Patrick Murphy, chair of the Safety Institute of Australia, acknowledged the contribution of Dr Cook as an inaugural member of the Accreditation Board and her work both as a Board member and the leader of a number of accreditation assessment panels. Murphy went on to say that the SIA considers representation by the key OHS professional bodies such as HFESA as an important factor in the achievements of the Accreditation Board in optimising the education and professional outcomes for generalist OHS professionals.

The Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board is auspiced by the Safety Institute of Australia. It was established in August 2011 to develop criteria for OHS professional education and to evaluate and accredit education programs against these criteria.

The Accreditation Board has broad representation from OHS professionals, OHS academics, OHS professional bodies including the Safety Institute of Australia (SIA), Australian Institute of Occupational Hygiene (AIOH), Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia (HFESA), Australian New Zealand Society for Occupational Medicine (ANZSOM) and the Australian Faculty of Occupational and Environmental Medicine (AFOEM). It also has representation from the Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU), employers and regulators. The Board benefits from the membership of an education

Go to www.ohseducationaccreditation.org.au

For media enquiries:

Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board contacts:

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About the Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board

The Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board was established in August 2011 as an auspiced body of the Safety Institute of Australia, the peak body for OHS professionals.

The role of the Accreditation Board is to contribute to work 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. The Board does this through accreditation by recognition of university-level qualifications that meet established standards.

The vision of the Accreditation Board is that OHS professional education is based on strong scientific and technical concepts, evidenced-informed, delivered by suitably capable persons and so recognised by the profession, government, industry and the community.

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The Accreditation Board is also “custodian” of the OHS Body of Knowledge for Generalist OHS Professionals” (www.ohsbok.org.au) being responsible for ensuring its currency and further development. The OHS Body of Knowledge provides a framework for OHS professional education. It also has a key role in the ongoing development of OHS professionals it plays a key role in the translation of OHS research to practice and the dissemination of OHS research to practicing professionals.

The Accreditation Board is involved in an international network developing a global framework for OHS practice and global benchmarks for OHS education and certification of OHS professionals.

Key activities of the Accreditation Board include engagement with OHS educators and OHS researchers on matters related to OHS education, research and the profession and, through the Safety Institute of Australia, ensuring relevance of OHS education to modern, flexible and developing industry practice.

Information on the Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board can be found at the web site, by emailing the registrar at registrar@ohseducationaccreditation.org.au or telephoning on 0411 193 370.

About the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society of Australia



**Human Factors & Ergonomics
Society of Australia Inc.**

The Human Factors & Ergonomics Society of Australia Inc (HFESA) is the peak body for human factors and ergonomics in Australia. It aims to advance the science of human factors and ergonomics in Australia

by promoting research and education in ergonomics and the application of its principles.

HFESA is recognised and valued in Australia as the only inter-disciplinary organisation dedicated to ergonomics and human factors, representing all professionals, across all disciplines of ergonomics and human factors. Membership of the HFESA indicates status as an ethical Professional with a special interest in ergonomics and human factors.

As an active member of the International Ergonomics Association, HFESA is a respected part of the international ergonomics and human factors community.

Further information: <http://www.ergonomics.org.au/>