



## Media Release

15<sup>th</sup> August, 2017

### **Appointment of new Registrar to the Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board.**

Today, the Safety Institute of Australia announced the transition of the registrar role for the Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board with Meagan Browne replacing Pam Pryor who has undertaken the registrar role since the inception of the Board.

The registrar role is crucial to the effectiveness of the Accreditation Board. Not only is the registrar secretary to the Board, they manage the accreditation process and play a vital role in creating constructive relationships between the Board, the universities and individual program coordinators and educators.

Emeritus Professor Mike Capra, chair of the Accreditation Board, said that Pam had been a driving force for the establishment and functions of the Board and had created processes that will greatly facilitate the continued successful operation of the Board. Her enthusiasm and devotion to the development of OHS education in Australia is unsurpassed. The Board expresses its thanks to Pam and offers her its best wishes for the future.

Professor Capra noted that the Board has appointed a worthy successor to Pam in Meagan Browne, an OHS professional with significant experience in the OHS sector, previously a senior manager with an OHS regulator and an inaugural member of the Accreditation Board.

SIA Chairman Patrick Murphy also welcomed Meagan and thanked Pam for her contribution. "The work of the Accreditation board is one of the cornerstones of our broader capability agenda, and has been making an important contribution to a growing quality and consistency of higher education in health and safety. Pam's work as the foundation Registrar has been invaluable, and Meagan's arrival comes at a time when the Accreditation process moves into its first generation of re-assessments and reviews."

Meagan said that she had been very impressed by the collaborative and constructive approach taken by the Board and the university academics involved in the accreditation process during her time as a Board member, and was looking forward to contributing to that good work in a different role in the future.

Go to [www.ohseducationaccreditation.org.au](http://www.ohseducationaccreditation.org.au)

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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 recognising 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.

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 academic from outside the OHS arena.

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.

Of 15 universities teaching OHS in Australia 10 have one or more accredited OHS programs, two are currently being assessed and three are not at a stage where accreditation assessment is appropriate. A total of 19 under-graduate and post-graduate programs are accredited.

Information on the Australian OHS Education Accreditation Board can be found at the web site, by emailing the registrar at [registrar@ohseducationaccreditation.org.au](mailto:registrar@ohseducationaccreditation.org.au) or telephoning on 0413 483 203.