

WorkSafe: The way forward snapshot

2023-24 to 2025-26 key achievements

Issued August 2026

WorkSafe: The Way Forward is a high-level, three-year rolling strategy that guides WorkSafe's efforts to influence industry and reduce work-related fatalities, injuries and illnesses beyond its day-to-day regulatory activities. The strategy establishes clear goals, priority areas and measures of success, while providing transparency about WorkSafe's commitments and intended outcomes.

This snapshot highlights some of the key achievements and progress delivered between 2023-24 and 2025-26. While not an exhaustive list of all activities and outcomes, it demonstrates the actions taken to advance WorkSafe's priorities and contribute to the shared vision of healthier and safer workplaces across Western Australia.

What are our goals?



Priority one

Repeat hazard exposure

Strengthened industry awareness of workplace hazards that can lead to multiple or repeat fatalities and serious injuries, while supporting duty holders to adopt effective risk management strategies and better understanding their role in preventing harm.



Priority two

Psychosocial hazards

Strengthened the management of psychosocial hazards by supporting persons conducting a business or undertaking (PCBUs) and workers to build safer, more respectful and mentally healthy workplaces, while promoting positive work practices that enhance mental health and wellbeing.



Priority three

Respiratory hazards

Strengthened efforts to improve the management of respiratory hazards by increasing awareness of the health risks associated with silica, asbestos and other hazardous dusts, and by promoting stronger compliance with work health and safety laws across affected industries.



Priority four

Consultation and representation

Strengthened efforts to improve consultation and representation in workplaces by supporting PCBUs, workers and HSRs to engage in genuine cooperation and participate meaningfully in the design and implementation of safe systems of work.



Priority one highlights

Repeat hazard exposure

General guidance materials



Created, updated and translated **81** publications and digital media related to repeat hazard exposures including:

- **10** reports
- **3** guides
- **15** information sheets
- **5** checklists
- **8** significant incident summaries
- **11** health and safety bulletins
- **2** self-assessments
- **7** infographics or posters
- **3** regulator's directions
- **2** other digital publications
- **8** animations
- **1** video: Jayden's story.

Codes of practice

The Work Health and Safety Commission released three codes of practice relating to repeat hazard exposure:



- Tower cranes
- Managing electrical risks in the workplace
- Managing the risks of falls in housing construction.

These codes assist persons conducting business or undertakings (PCBUs) to meet their work health and safety obligations in the respective industry.

Campaigns

- ThinkSafe. WorkSafe.
- Safe Work Month.

Events

Facilitated **70** events including:

- *EveryBODY matters: Musculoskeletal disorder forum*: Safe Work Month
- *Shaping safety with human factors*: Human factors forum
- *Focus on critical controls in the mining industry*: Site senior executive forum.
- *Safety in agriculture*: Farmers' forum
- Work health and safety information sessions for farmers and growers
- *Major hazards forum*



Abattoir project 2023-25

Compliance visits to **19** abattoirs, resulting in:

- **562** improvement notices
- **6** prohibition notices
- **73** verbal directions

Top reasons for notices:

- Guarding of plant
- Provision of safe layout
- Maintenance and inspection of mobile plant



New initiatives

- Agriculture Youth Education Program and Agricultural Youth Safety Award
- Mining monthly insights news alerts
- Farm safety news alerts.



Prosecution

In 2025, RPC Surface Treatment Pty Ltd (RPC) was fined \$975,000 plus costs after being convicted of two offences under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2020*, arising from a fatal workplace incident in June 2023. The PCBU failed to ensure, so far as reasonably practicable, the health and safety of its workers when a 16-year-old labourer was killed after a 425 kg steel beam fell from an overhead monorail system and crushed their chest. The court found

RPC had no adequate systems for selecting or using lifting equipment, relied on unsafe and unrated S-hooks, failed to determine load weights and allowed workers to operate beneath suspended loads. These failures not only caused the worker's death but also exposed other workers to the same risk of serious injury or death.

WorkSafe's [Prosecution and enforceable undertakings](#) webpage contains listings of other prosecutions.



Priority two highlights

Psychosocial hazards

Guidance materials



Created, updated and translated **8** publications and digital media related to psychosocial hazards:

- **3** reports
- **1** guide
- **3** information sheets
- **1** infographic or poster

New initiatives

- Grant programs under a WA Government initiative and facilitated by WorkSafe:
 - [Mentally Healthy Workplaces Grant Program](#)
 - Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Program Support Fund
- [Sexual harassment evaluation tool for mine sites.](#)



Events

Facilitated **27** events including:

- *Pathways for handling psychosocial hazards: Safe Work Month*
- *Psychosocial hazards industry forum: Safe Work Month*
- *Driving respect: Mining Industry Summit 2023*
- *The courage to talk, listen and learn workshops*
- *Dean Laplonge Round Table*
- *Building respect: Mining Industry Summit 2026*



MARS Program (as partner)

Funded **30** initiatives which focus on providing research, practical tools, innovative education and future safety programs aimed at reducing psychosocial hazards in the Western Australian mining industry.

Psychosocial hazards in high-risk industries project

During 2024-25, WorkSafe visited **19** workplaces, resulting in **4** compliance notices.

Campaigns

Sexual harassment awareness reporting engagement (SHare) campaign.

Suicide prevention

As an initiative of the MARS Program, Suicide Prevention Australia developed the *Suicide prevention: A competency framework for the mining industry in Western Australia*, providing practical guidance, training and resources to support early identification and intervention for workers at risk of suicide.

WorkSafe also developed the *Suicide and suicidal behaviours in work-related contexts* information sheet, as well as managing the State Government's Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Program Support Fund.

These resources build workforce capability, promote a consistent approach to prevention, and create safer, more supportive workplaces across the industry.

Enforceable undertaking

Following allegations of failing to comply with requests for information relating to psychosocial hazard exposure allegations, Fortescue Limited entered an enforceable undertaking.



The company committed to engaging experts and developing strategies to better prevent and respond to psychosocial hazards and injuries. The undertaking also involved creating and delivering education programs, industry engagement initiatives, research outputs and tools such as respectful behaviour campaigns and a security and duress app accessible across the mining sector.

To comply, Fortescue committed to implementing all initiatives and investing at least \$1.47 million, with the undertaking completed on 20 January 2026. The resources are available for use by industry on the [Lead Change Respect](#) website.



Priority three highlights

Respiratory hazards

Project: Asbestos

A total of **1444** inspections involving asbestos were conducted between 1 July 2023 and 23 April 2026.

Enforcement actions taken:

- **1395** improvement notices issued
- **5** prohibition notices issued
- **2** convictions for unlicensed work.



Top reasons for improvement notices:

- workers not clean shaven or fit tested
- inadequate safe work method statement or asbestos removal control plan
- asbestos register issues
- lack of training
- inadequate signage, barriers or site security
- failure to hold required licence
- asbestos management plan issues
- non-compliant asbestos removal.

Guidance materials

Created, updated and translated **21** publications and digital media related to respiratory hazards:

- **3** guides
- **2** information sheets
- **1** health and safety bulletin
- **13** infographics
- **1** other digital publication
- **1** regulator's direction.



Workplace vaping ban

In May 2025, work health and safety regulations on tobacco smoke were amended to include tobacco products and e-cigarettes. This means a ban on smoking an ignited or heated tobacco product, or a device (e-cigarette) that generates or releases smoke, vapour or other aerosol in enclosed workplaces.



The change applies to both the Work Health and Safety (General) Regulations 2022 and the Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulations 2022.

Events

Facilitated **11** events including:

- *Breathe easy: occupational health and hygiene forum*: Safe Work Month
- Annual Registered medical practitioners forum
- Multiple information sessions regarding the engineered stone ban.



Project: Crystalline silica substances (CSS)

During 2024-25, WorkSafe conducted **16** inspections, resulting in:

- **2** verbal directions
- **51** improvement notices.

Similarly, **38** inspections occurred during 2025-26, resulting in:

- **4** verbal directions
- **64** improvement notices
- **1** prohibition notice.



WorkSafe found, and addressed, the following issues:

- almost one third of workplaces carried out uncontrolled processing of CCS
- where P2 respirators were relied upon, there were issues with:
 - workers not being fit tested for respiratory protective equipment (RPE)
 - workers wearing tight-fitting respirator with facial hair interfering with proper seal
 - RPE being inadequately stored
- workers were inadequately trained on CSS hazards and respirable crystalline silica exposure risks.

Other compliance projects

- Engineered stone ban verification project 2024-25: **32** inspections resulting in:
 - **10** verbal directions
 - **167** improvement notices
 - **2** prohibition notices

Mercury in gold rooms project 2025-2026: **13** workplace visits resulting in **15** compliance notices.

Project: Asbestos fencing

From July 2023 to June 2025, WorkSafe:

- received approximately **140** complaints involving asbestos fencing, being one third of all asbestos complaints
- conducted **44** investigations
- issued **51** improvement notices.

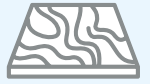
Top reasons for notices:

- failure to hold required licence
- not having the required documents such as safe work method statements.



Campaign: Engineered stone

WorkSafe ran a 'Stone benchtop industry and engineered stone ban' awareness campaign, in preparation for the ban on engineered stone effective 1 July 2024.



Silicosis case numbers

WorkSafe received notification of **68** silicosis cases between 2018 and March 2026:

- Engineered stone - **55**
- Mining and quarrying - **7**
- Non-engineered stone, foundries, and assay labs - **6**



Priority four highlights

Consultation and representation

Consultation

Events

Facilitated **11** events including:

- The way forward for HSRs: Safe Work Month*
- HSR Matters* launch information session
- Consultation, cooperation and representation: An information session for unions*
- How does WorkSafe support HSRs?: HSR lunch and learn*
- Identifying electrical hazards in the workplace: HSR lunch and learn*
- Public Sector work health and safety 2026: A community of practice event for public sector WHS professionals.*



HSR training

Educational presentations were delivered to more than **11,400** HSRs undertaking HSR training.

WorkSafe supported the Work Health and Safety Commission to audit HSR training providers.

Future ready systems and improved data capabilities

Compliance and regulation system (CARS) transformation project

The CARS transformation project seeks to simplify and standardise the administration of work health and safety regulatory functions, activities and processes including notifications, approvals, investigations, prosecutions, inspections, audits, notices, health management, licences, exemptions, registerable plant and levies.

The new streamlined business processes will be supported with a new LGIRS WorkSafe fit-for-purpose Cloud-based solution to replace the two legacy systems, WISE and SRS.

The new system will have a portal for external users, and will facilitate improved data capabilities.

New initiative: SafetyLine Hub



Launched SafetyLine Hub, featuring HSR Matters – an online hub where HSRs can access exclusive resources and connect directly with WorkSafe.