

# UNION FACT SHEET 4 - SA

## Occupational Health & Safety



**Health and Safety Representatives (HSR)** *Occupational Health Safety & Welfare Act 1986, Occupational Health Safety & Welfare Regulations, 1995*

A group of workers can elect a fellow worker to represent them on health, safety and welfare issues. The person they elect to represent them is called a health and safety representative (HSR) and has legal rights and functions to assist them to carry out their role.

### **HSRs have the right to:**

- inspect the workplace
- be notified of and investigate accidents and incidents that affect their work group
- investigate any complaints on health and safety issues made by a worker in the work group
- accompany an inspector during an inspection of a workplace
- be present at interviews related to accident/incident investigation
- discuss occupational health and safety issues
- represent members in their work group
- access information about hazards and risks
- be consulted about policies, practices, procedures and changes in the work that affect their work group
- issue default notices that require an action is taken to resolve any health and safety risks
- direct that work cease if there is an immediate threat to the health and safety of a worker in their work group
- be provided with facilities, time and assistance to enable them perform their functions.

**It is not the HSRs role to** ensure workers wear personal protective equipment (PPE), fix health and safety problems in the workplace, develop or enforce policies or procedures or train or supervise other staff.

**HSRs are elected for a three year term and are entitled to attend five days training per year with an approved training provider of their choice.**

HSRs do not have any legal responsibility for their actions, or lack of action on any matter in their role, but if an HSR is found guilty of using their powers or information obtained for an improper purpose, they may be guilty of an offence.

For further assistance and information call SafeWork South Australia 1300 365 255.

**Contact us on 1800 060 556 Free call**

Authorised by Alex Millar National Secretary CFMEU Pulp and Paper Workers District  
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Visit our website [www.cfmeuffpd.org](http://www.cfmeuffpd.org) for more information

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