

OHS HARMONISATION

“The Commonwealth Government has adopted an approach to harmonise the different state and territory OH&S laws and workers compensation arrangements. The CFMEU understands that a recent COAG meeting proposed that a Committee be established by the Government to oversee this process.

Conference is extremely concerned that this will see an erosion of OH&S standards, with the Government adopting the “lowest” denominator as minimum standards. Conference is particularly concerned that this will result in a loss of the “strict liability” duty of care that exists in New South Wales, as well as the loss of provisions relating to fatalities which may result in imprisonment where a death at a workplace is caused by reckless conduct. These are hard fought for rights and protections which we do not want to see lost.

Conference determines to do all that is possible to ensure that should this harmonisation proceed the standards of OH&S adopted are the best standards and that the best features of each system are retained and extended.

Conference calls on the Divisions and/or Divisional Branches to lobby the regulators and state and federal governments. To ensure there is no diminution of OH&S and Compensation Standards for workers and their families.”

CFMEU

