# Building and Construction WHS Blueprint to 2026 Snapshot

SafeWork NSW is committed to proactive education, awareness, research and compliance targeting key harms in the building and construction sector. This snapshot showcases our 2023 initiatives and outcomes.



# Falls is our number one regulatory priority



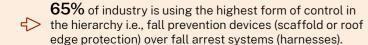


# Work at Heights Safety

**\$920,880** 1167 sites **2505 notices** 

#### Areas for improvement include:

- Use higher order controls e.g., edge protection, scaffolds,
- Ensure scaffolds are complete; altered by licensed workers
- Ensure the SWMS is adequate and followed





### Falls in Manufacturing and Warehousing

**\$14,400** 450 sites **520** notices

#### Areas for improvement include:

- Provide fall protection e.g., platform ladders to access racks/shelving; adequate handrails on mezzanine levels
- Prevent falling objects e.g., racking is secured; stored items do not exceed load limits
- Provide safe access/egress to mezzanines; safety gates are fitted at loading points



# Falls from Heights in Transport

64 sites 25 notices

#### Areas for improvement include:

- Check workers have the appropriate licences
- · Ensure fatigue is managed and a fatigue management policy and/or procedure is in place
- · Worker supervision and orientation of new workers
- Traffic control and ensuring safe zones for drivers

Awareness and education

Communicating and engaging

Over **160** events and presentations delivered

(including sponsored events with NECA, HIA and MBA)

11 industry e-newsletters to over 2000 subscribers

SafetvCasts

Women in Construction

Safety compliance

social media reach

downloads 529 downloads of the

SafetyCast

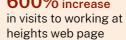
4293 downloads of the Pocket Guide to

with stakeholders

**Construction Safety** 



Raising awareness and campaigns



10.4 million impressions from social media campaigns



260% increase in downloads of our working at heights resources



695k impressions from CALD ads which outperformed expectations



193 downloads of safe solar installation SafetyCast



1.5k views of, and 396 attendees at the falls in construction webinar



## The Building and **Construction Work Health** and Safety Blueprint to 2026



**\$14,400** 191 sites **83 notices** 

- Compliance programs focused on upholding industry standards
- Build communities of safe work practice through collaboration with industry
- Equip PCBUs and workers with knowledge and skills to maintain a safe and healthy work environment



# Plant (2022-23)

#### Areas for improvement include:

- Prevent falls into trenches from the edges, by backfilling the excavation or using fall protection such as barriers
- Regularly assess ground conditions
- Check competency of plant operators



## Safety Around Moving Plant and Vehicles

\$22.320 212 sites 111 notices

#### Areas for improvement include:

• Implement higher order controls to manage vehicles/ traffic e.g., automated barriers or traffic signals



### **Electrical Safety**

Silica Safety

**\$41,472** 269 sites **401 notices** 

#### Areas for improvement include:

- · Ensure safe working distance from underground and overhead power
- Use adequate safety signage on distribution boards
- Supervise apprentices

#### Areas for improvement include:

- Develop adequate and site-specific use of SWMS
- Fit test workers for respirators
- Ensure tilers and labourers stop dust at the source, e.g.,



## Working with industry to improve health and safety outcomes

Nil fines 94 sites 96 notices

Construction inspectors handled 14,260 safety matters, including requests for service, incident responses and proactive site visits

Requests for service increased by 20%

- wet cut, dust extraction

# Focus on silica

over 430 attendees to the silica industry webinar and published the new silica toolbox talk

Site supervisor workshops

93% of attendees rated the site supervisor

workshops as 4.5 out of 5 stars.

# Strategic approach

To identify high-risk PCBUs, SafeWork created a watchlist of over 100 potential high-risk PCBUs from Class 1 and Class 2 building sectors.

SafeWork prioritised the highest risk harms outlined in the Construction Blueprint, which was launched in July 2023.

Released the High Risk Workplace Strategy 2023 to target workplaces that continually do the wrong things with greater scrutiny

# Workers compensation compliance

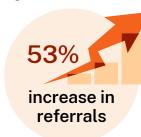
**227** referrals from construction inspector to the State Insurance Regulatory Authority, resulting in:

\$116 million in additional wages declared

\$3.3 million in additional premiums calculated

\* some matters still under investigation and figures may increase

> **Educating young workers** through collaboration with TAFE NSW and Universities





For more information and resources, see the SafeWork NSW building and construction page: safework.nsw.gov.au/your-industry/construction