



Community & Public Sector Union  
Civil Service Association of WA

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Civil Service Association of WA Inc

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29 June 2018

The Hon. Adele Farina BA, LLB MLC  
Chair  
Standing Committee on Public Administration  
Parliament House  
4 Harvest Terrace  
WEST PERTH WA 6005

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Dear Chairperson

**Re: WorkSafe Inquiry: WorkSafe reporting following investigations of fatalities**

Thank you for your letter inviting the CPSU/CSA to provide the Committee with further commentary on the issue raised by witnesses to the Inquiry identifying a need for WorkSafe to provide comprehensive and publically available reports of fatalities investigations.

CPSU/CSA members advise that there is an existing significant incident reporting function performed by WorkSafe, however there is not a specific reporting framework for fatalities investigation reporting. CPSU/CSA members have also advised that fatalities investigation reporting is not compulsory and has historically been dependent upon the focus of the WorkSafe Western Australia Commissioner.

In contrast, the Mines and Safety division's significant incident reports are thorough, timely and preserve options to pursue future prosecutions in relation to the fatal workplace incident. Unlike the Mines and Safety Division, the grave consequences of a haphazard approach to fatalities investigation reporting within WorkSafe is a lack of effectiveness in reducing workplace fatalities which fall within this jurisdiction. This lack of direction in reporting has the potential to put the fatalities investigations themselves at risk, in the sense that if reporting is not mandatory there is limited scope in ensuring fatalities are being thoroughly and appropriately investigated. The CPSU/CSA is strongly in support of using the Mines and Safety division's reporting framework as a potential template for use by WorkSafe, to be developed appropriate to the hazards within WorkSafe's jurisdiction.

The CPSU/CSA is less familiar with the Australian Transport Safety Bureau's investigation reports as this agency falls outside of our membership coverage, however examples of these reports on the agency's website indicate there are features which would greatly benefit fatalities reporting to be conducted by WorkSafe. In particular, the CPSU/CSA is impressed by the publically available information such as the status and phase of the investigation, published interim reports, details of equipment, context, safety analysis, findings/recommendations and sources and submissions. This detailed reporting of fatalities investigations if used in a

WorkSafe context would go some way to progressing the overall aim of eliminating fatalities in WA workplaces.

Another example of comprehensive fatalities reporting which our CPSU/CSA members within WorkSafe have drawn to our attention is the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB). This body conducts extensive public reporting of chemical fatalities, includes Case Studies and utilises a range of multimedia features for educational use both internally and externally to the agency, including video, animation and graphics for media and social media use. These reporting functions create records of each fatal incident for the purposes of quality improvement as well as the potential for education within workplaces and the public, private and community spheres.

The CPSU/CSA notes and supports the submission of UnionsWA on the issue of WorkSafe fatalities investigations reporting in a letter to the Committee dated 15 May 2018. In particular, the CPSU/CSA supports UnionsWA's references to the need for fatalities investigations reporting to be mandatory and to preserve options to prosecute fatalities incidents.

Please contact \_\_\_\_\_ or on \_\_\_\_\_ for any further questions in relation to the WorkSafe Inquiry.

Yours sincerely /

Toni Walkington  
Branch Secretary

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