



THE HON. JOE TRIPODI MP
MINISTER FOR FINANCE
MINISTER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE
MINISTER FOR REGULATORY REFORM
MINISTER FOR PORTS AND WATERWAYS

M E D I A R E L E A S E

Safe workplaces awarded

(Embargoed until 10pm, Wednesday, October 29 2008)

October 29, 2008

A hotel bed lifting device, a ground-breaking OHS system and a programme to minimise construction industry injuries are among the winners of the 2008 WorkCover NSW Safe Work Awards.

The Safe Work Awards were presented at a gala dinner at the Acer Arena Grand Ballroom, Sydney Olympic Park tonight.

“WorkCover’s increased focus on providing practical advice and assistance has helped reduce workplace injuries to their lowest levels in the last two decades, and work-related fatalities have almost halved in that time,” Mr Tripodi said.

“There is a growing recognition of the importance of workplace safety and the fact that WorkCover received a record 121 entries for this year’s awards shows that.

“The 2008 awards have seen the standard of entries rise to new levels with some initiatives achieving remarkable improvements in injury rates across a diverse range of workplaces,” said the Minister.

- *The Best Workplace Health and Safety Management System* went to the Albury-based **Joss Group** for developing a new OHS management system which progressively reduced lost time due to injuries among Riverina cleaning workers from 1,847 to Nil in two years.

The two Highly Commended entries in this category were Corporate Express Mascot and Talent Pay Pty Ltd, North Sydney

- A Mid-North Coast beachfront hotel at Forster received the *Best Solution to an Identified Workplace Health and Safety Issue Award* for its bed lifting system, which it developed three years ago to prevent back injuries. **The Dorsal Boutique Hotel’s** unique system has been patented and manufactured, and is now receiving worldwide attention from potential buyers.

Toll Transport and the City of Sydney were Highly Commended in this category

- *The Best Workplace Health and Safety Practices in Small Business Award* went to the Cattai-based construction company **WP Projects**, with their whole-of-workplace initiative to reduce risks in building procedures

- The State owned **Eraring Energy** scooped two awards - for *Public Sector Leadership for Injury Prevention and Injury Management* and *Best Individual Contribution to Workplace Health and Safety* – for its success in involving all levels of its workforce in developing and maintaining an effective OHS regime, and for the outstanding contribution of its long-serving Dora Creek power worker Mr Paul Waters

David Stead and Steve Kurtz from PPG Industries, Villawood, were Highly Commended in the Best Individual Contribution to Workplace Health and Safety Awards

- **Bovis Lend Lease** received the *Leadership in Safety Award* for its partnership with WorkCover NSW in piloting the Safe Business is Good Business Mentor program with 10 small Sydney businesses.

“This year the awards have truly exceeded their purpose of providing a showcase for innovation and excellence in business and industry,” Mr Tripodi said.

“The NSW Government and WorkCover will continue to work closely with industries to improve workplace safety and workers compensation for businesses across the state.”

Winning entries from the WorkCover NSW 2008 Safe Work Awards will automatically be entered into the Australian Safety and Compensation Council’s National Safe Work Australia Awards to be presented in Canberra in 2009.

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