BeEngaged Report

In the space of occupational health and safety, BeSafe Taranaki is unique in its delivery and opportunity for innovation and collaboration. BeEngaged is aimed at being the dynamic forum where the latest and most pertinent ideas in health and safety can be exchanged. This pillar of BeSafe not only provides the opportunities for engagements to share current and relevant safety approaches but also to bring together leadership thinking to drive standards and practices for health & safety.

BeSafe has continued to support the Taranaki Apprentice Safety Challenge. Last years Challenge day, held on the 20th October 2023, was another well attended event to showcase the talents of our local trades and youth workforce. Lois was integral in the event coordination and provision of resource to ensure the day was a success. It was a day marked by enthusiasm and learning, underscoring the importance of integrating young workers into the culture of safety.

In September 2023, we also supported the Wellbeing Expo, promoting the resources produced through BeAligned on Wellbeing practices. By being involved in the expo, BeSafe offers attendees a wealth of information to support positive strategy for well-being in the workplace.

November last year, BeEngaged presented a workshop on “Drug & Alcohol – the risk of impairment at Work”. The event featured keynote speakers including Philip McCarthy from ABMM, who provided insight into recent case law with examples that were relevant to industry; Jo Gibbons from TDDA, who discussed the workplace considerations of medicinal cannabis and what impairment looks like; and Hilary Gibson, from Todd Energy who provided considerations of what good worker engagement looks like when developing and implementing workplace policies and the need for clear and consistent communication.

Our first event for 2024 was a webinar in February on “Saliva or Urine Drug Testing”, presented by Kevin Stretton of Taranaki Pine and Jo Gibbons. This session was a direct continuation of the November workshop, diving deeper into the practicalities of administering workplace drug and alcohol policies and protocols and the challenges of testing and identifying impairment.

On April 16, 2024, Fiona Ewing presented “Viewing Health & Safety Through a Different Lens,” encouraging attendees to consider safety through the lens of successful work outcomes. This presentation challenged conventional thinking and inspired a new approach to safety practices.

June’s Leadership Workshop, presented by Mike Cosman, was a call to action for strategic thinking in health and safety. It challenged attendees to consider New Zealand’s current and

potential future standing in health and safety strategy, fostering a discussion on leadership development within the sector. This workshop was well received with a high level of engagement and opportunity for discussion on how leaders influence health & safety outcomes.

In July, CHASNZ gave a presentation on their current programmes with the Energy Wheel and the burden of injuries to oganisational performance and productivity. This event also featured Powerco discussing considerations for working around their network.

And recently, in early August, BeSafe hosted Minister Van Velden at the Devon Hotel as a consultation on the Health & Safety Reform. This was an opportunity to provide feedback to the Minister for direction of how New Zealand can create a legal and regulatory framework that supports better health and safety outcomes for all.

BeEngaged continues to be the cornerstone for BeSafe's development of relationships within workplaces, communities, and network partners. With a wealth of health and safety expertise available locally, including the Business Leaders Health & Safety Forum, NZISM, and our BeAligned working groups, BeEngaged is instrumental in driving continuous improvement and improving our collective understanding of the trending issues within health, safety and wellbeing.

Today, Francois Barton, CEO from the Business Leaders Health & Safety Forum, presented on the recent "State of a Thriving Nation Report" and the "Been There." Report - an insight into New Zealands repeated health & safety failures. The New Zealand position on protecting its workers is not as good as it should be. With our ability to come together through BeSafe Taranaki, the thinking, action and leadership to improve health & safety outcomes, resides in this room.

Frances Boyce