

## HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

### August 2017

In this month's H&S update, we'll be giving you more information on the Diocesan Health & Safety Working Group, what it's working on and how that fits in with our H&S roles and responsibilities.

#### MEET THE HSWG

The Diocesan Health & Safety Working Group (HSWG) is now in full-swing, so we thought it would be a great time for you to 'Meet the HSWG'. The group's members come from across the Diocese and have a tremendous amount of H&S knowledge and experience from many different environments. You can read more about them [here](#). The group is being guided by a H&S Specialist to develop an ingrained, holistic safety culture within our Diocese.

#### WHAT DOES THE HSWG DO?

From a legislative perspective, the HSWG will be the bridge between our Ministry Units, our people, and the Diocesan Council and General Trust Board, making sure that together we're meeting our H&S obligations. We all have a responsibility as individuals and as a Diocese to make sure that we don't cause harm to ourselves or others, and the purpose of the HSWG is to help us achieve that.

The HSWG is developing a H&S plan and will be working on joint safety initiatives in order to support you with your own H&S management. The group will develop safety working guides and tools that you can use to manage key risks and other safety issues. The group will provide support such as advice and training, and where possible will look at areas where cost-saving efficiencies can be made.

#### WHAT DO WE ALL HAVE TO DO?

Establishing a positive culture of safety and well-being can't be achieved without your support and involvement. The HSWG needs you to actively participate and provide feedback on specific safety topics. Therefore, it's really important that if you haven't already done so, you let us know the contact details of your Ministry Unit's H&S representative, so we know we're reaching the right people to keep you all informed.

H&S should be discussed at every vestry/committee/council meeting, so if this isn't currently happening at your Ministry Unit please ask your governing body to make it so.

It is also essential that you let the Diocesan Office know of any incidents that happen at your Ministry Unit. (If you're not sure if an incident needs to be reported or not, please tell us anyway.)

You need to know what the risks are for your Ministry Unit, and your Ministry Unit will need to manage those locally. The great news is that the HSWG will be providing support, guides, and tools that you can use to accomplish that. Your Ministry Unit may already have a H&S management system in place and we thank those who are proactive in doing so.

We know that there's some concern out there about who's liable should somebody be harmed. If we all do our part in working together, follow the guidance and participate in the consultation process, the likelihood of that happening is considerably less.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

The HSWG is looking at the risks that most of our Ministry Units face. Look out for upcoming updates on that.

In the meantime, if you need to contact the HSWG or if you have any H&S concerns, queries or incidents to report, please email [keepsafe@auckanglican.org.nz](mailto:keepsafe@auckanglican.org.nz).

Keep safe,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SM Maugham', written in a cursive style.

Sonia Maugham  
On behalf of the HSWG