



EssentialReport

ACTU Occupational Health and Safety



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Executive Summary

This report summarises the results of a questions related to Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S). The questions were constructed by the ACTU and conducted through the Your Source omnibus. Reporting was conducted by Essential Research.

The omnibus was conducted from 25th to the 30th of August and attracted 1013 responses.

The methodology used to carry out this research is available in appendix one (page 13).

Please note not all tables total 100% due to rounding.



Standardisation of Occupational Health and Safety laws

Q. At the moment, workers in each State and Territory are protected by that State's or Territory's own occupational health and safety laws. The Federal, State and Territory governments are going to standardise these laws so that all Australian workers are covered by the same occupational health and safety laws.

Were you aware that all Australian governments were working together to standardise occupational health and safety laws?

	%
Yes	33%
No	67%

Q. Should the new standardised occupational health and safety laws provide more protections and rights for workers, about the same rights or fewer rights?

	%
More	47%
About the same	40%
Fewer	4%
Don't know	9%



Importance of occupational health and safety in the workplace

Q. How important is occupational health and safety to you in your workplace?

	%
Total important	67%
Total not important	11%
Very important	40%
Quite important	27%
Not very important	8%
Not at all important	3%
Don't know	2%
Don't work	20%

Awareness of workplace injury

Q. A recent Government report said that when you include the number of people who die from having a disease or illness that was caused by their work, along with the people who die from being injured in a workplace incident, an estimated 7,000 Australians die every year from work. This is four times the annual road toll. Were you aware the death toll from workplace disease and injury is estimated to be more than four times the annual road toll?

	%
Yes	15%
No	85%



Q. Official statistics show that 400,000 Australians have to take time off work as a result of an injury or illness caused by their work. Do you think more should be done to reduce workplace injuries and illness?

	%
Total more	80%
Total less	2%
A lot more	52%
A little more	28%
About the same	14%
A little less	1%
A lot less	1%
Don't know	5%

Occupational health and safety - the role of employers

Q. Do you agree or disagree that employers should have to do more to protect the health and safety of their workers, even if it means more costs or red tape for their business?

	%
Total agree	78%
Total disagree	15%
Agree a lot	36%
Agree a little	42%
Disagree a little	11%
Disagree a lot	4%
Don't know	8%



Occupational health and safety and the role of unions

Q. Should workers have the right to call in help from a union to check on health and safety issues when they are concerned these issues could result in injuries, even if their employer does not approve?

	%
Yes, workers should have the right to call in help from a union	81%
No, workers should not have the right to call in help from a union	10%
Don't know	8%

Method of electing the Occupational Health and Safety Representative

Q. Many workplaces have occupational health and safety representatives, whose job it is to work with the employer and employees to make sure the workplace is safe and healthy. Should the Occupational Health and Safety Representative be elected/chosen by their colleagues or appointed by the employer?

	%
Elected or chosen by employees	73%
Appointed by employer	15%
Don't know	12%

Taking court action against an employer

Q. If you are injured at work, should you be able to take court action under Occupational Health and Safety Laws against an employer?

	%
Yes	69%
No	8%
Don't know	23%



Appendix One – Methodology

The data gathered for this report is gathered from a weekly online omnibus conducted by Your Source. Your Source is an Australian social and market research company specializing in recruitment, field research, data gathering and data analysis. Your Source holds Interviewer Quality Control Australia (IQCA) accreditation, Association Market and Social Research Organisations (AMSRO) membership and World Association of Opinion and Marketing Research Professionals (ESOMAR) membership. Senior Your Source staff hold Australian Market and Social Research Society (AMSRS) membership and are bound by professional codes of behavior.

Essential Research has been utilizing the Your Source online panel to conduct research on a week by week basis since the 19th of November 2007. Each Monday, the team at Essential Media Communications discusses issues that are topical. From there a series of questions are devised to put to the Australian public. Some questions are repeated each week (such as political preference and social perspective), while others are unique to each week and reflect prominent media and social issues that are present at the time.

Your Source has a self managed consumer online panel of 109 500. The majority of panel members have been recruited using off line methodologies, effectively ruling out concerns associated with online self selection. Your Source has validation methods in place that prevent panelist over use and ensure member authenticity. Your Source randomly selects 18+ males and females (with the aim of targeting 50/50 males/females) from its Australia wide panel. An invitation is sent out to approximately 7000 – 8000 of their panel members. The response rate varies each week, but usually delivers 1000 + responses. The Your Source online omnibus is live from the Tuesday night of each week and closed on the following Sunday. Incentives are offered to participants in the form of points (referred to as 'Zoints').

EMC uses the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software to analyse the data. The data is weighted against Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data.

