



# ROLE OF THE WORKCOVER INSPECTOR

WorkCover NSW Inspectors have a dual role. They help employers and employees to understand their rights and obligations under occupational health and safety, injury management and workers compensation legislation. They also have a range of powers to enforce compliance with the legislation.

They are empowered to act under the:

- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000*
- *Workers Compensation Act 1987*
- *Workplace Injury Management and Workers Compensation Act 1998.*

Inspectors are situated at WorkCover offices across NSW. They have qualifications in a range of disciplines and experience in various occupations and professions. Many also hold tertiary qualifications in occupational health and safety related disciplines.

## WORKPLACE VISITS

Inspectors visit workplaces to:

- investigate work place incidents and breaches of legislation
- attend court, provide evidence and prepare comprehensive reports
- respond to OHS complaints from workers, unions, OHS committees and the public
- give advice and information to management, committees, union and workers
- carry out compliance inspections relating to work places and industry hazards
- target hazards in industry sectors as part of specific injury prevention projects and campaigns
- resolve workplace health and safety disputes.

## ENFORCEMENT ROLE

Inspectors have the power to:

- issue notices which require employers to remedy unsafe working conditions or hazards
- issue notices prohibiting work from continuing until a hazard is fixed
- issue notices requiring employers to provide proof of correct worker compensation insurance
- issue on-the-spot fines for breaches of the OHS Legislation
- collect evidence and recommend a prosecution.

## INFORMATION ROLE

Inspectors are trained to advise employers and employees about the risk management approach to all aspects of occupational health and safety, injury management and workers compensation matters.

For example, they can give advice on how to:

- conduct a workplace risk assessment
- bring plant, equipment and work methods up to the required standards
- establish a rehabilitation program.

WorkCover. **Watching out for you.**