

Nurses support smokefree programmes for health workers

The New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) is supporting the call from Smokefree Nurses Aotearoa/New Zealand (SNANZ) for tobacco-free homes and communities.

Parliament's Maori Affairs Select Committee is conducting an inquiry into the tobacco industry.

"Nurses and kaimahi hauora are credible and trusted health professionals, and have the potential to be the largest workforce in Aotearoa New Zealand providing effective smoking cessation interventions," said Kerri Nuku (pictured), a member of SNANZ, and NZNO kaiwhakahaere.

"We can all be powerful advocates for tobacco-free homes and communities," she said.

"Māori nurses can be healthy role models for our whānau, hapū and iwi, but let's not forget that health professionals who smoke need supportive programmes to help quit without being made to feel guilty for their own addiction."

"A programme that is specifically aimed at supporting Māori health professionals to quit, is what we need to empower our communities, whānau ,hapū and iwi to quit."



Kerri Nuku

Have you suffered an injury that affects your ability to work? Are you a union member? Do you need help to access ACC?

We can help you to:

- Find the best way to resolve any problem in accessing your ACC entitlement
- Help to prepare for meetings with ACC or an accredited employer
- Support you at meetings or mediation
- Identify other resources available to you



Contact our advocates at advocacy@nzctu.org.nz or call us on 0800 4 UNION (0800 486 466)

unions talking health and safety

Update from CTU

Our negotiations with ACC have been successful and we will be training 2,000 elected Health and Safety reps under our new contract for July 2010 to June 2011.

As previously, we are working with ACC to prioritise our training in high risk industries. This year these are: *Agriculture, Construction, Forestry, Residential Care, Manufacturing (all areas) and Road Freight Transport.*

As we have limited funding to train reps outside these 6 industries, we are continuing to work with employers to offer in-house courses. These are at a cost.

We are also piloting courses with employers paying for individual H&S reps to attend.

Workers Memorial Day marked

Workers' Memorial Day was again marked on April 28th, with rallies across New Zealand, including on the Wellington waterfront (pictured below).

The events involved several unions, including the Rail and Maritime Transport Union, who said that many trains

across New Zealand stopped for one minute to remember those who had died at while on the job.



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ABOUT

Unions Talking Health and Safety is published every three months by the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions Te Kauae Kaimahi. To be added to the mailing list, visit www.worksafereps.org.nz to subscribe.

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Community campaign launched against methyl bromide use

The Council of Trade Unions is supporting calls for a ban on the use of the toxic gas methyl bromide for fumigating logs at ports.

In April the CTU joined the Coalition Against the Use of Methyl Bromide, a group that includes Soil and Health, the Safe Food Campaign, the Pesticide Action Network, Guardian of the Sounds, Friends of Nelsonhaven and Tasman Bay, port unions Maritime Union New Zealand and the Rail and Maritime Transport Union, and the Green and Alliance parties.

The Coalition held protests in Wellington, Picton and Tauranga.

New Zealand's use of methyl bromide has increased despite being a signatory to an international agreement to phase it out.

“Since log exports to China alone have more than doubled between 2008 and 2009, New Zealand is effectively sanctioning increased use of this dangerous chemical, despite the fact that China, like most of the major importers of New Zealand timber, will accept logs fumigated by other means,” said CTU President Helen Kelly.

The CTU called on the timber industry and Government to reduce, and then abolish, the use of methyl bromide in New Zealand.



Picton rally, photo courtesy Guardians of the Sounds

ON THE WEB:

www.union.org.nz/methylbromide

Bank workers improve systems

Finsec members at National Bank Whanganui have successfully changed their teller system settings, and saved themselves from hours of squinting.

Staff found that the small font size was difficult to work with, and despite being initially told it couldn't be increased, finally had success. The squinting days are over, Finsec's newsletter reports.

Union seeks answers for Marsden Point death

The Maritime Union of New Zealand (MUNZ) says that it will be looking into health and safety aboard the bulk carrier TPC Wellington, after two overseas sailors suffocated in the ship's timber hold.

MUNZ General Secretary Joe Fleetwood said that fatalities and serious injuries occurred far too often in the maritime industry, often due to corner cutting and time pressures in a deregulated industry.

Safe Rates on our roads

A new 'Safe Rates' campaign is calling for an inquiry into whether there is a link between truck driver remuneration and payment methods, and safety outcomes.

The issue featured in a Sunday Star-Times article *Underpaid, overtired and above the speed limit* in April.

The National Distribution Union and supporters want Parliament to look at things like unpaid work, driving hours, waiting times and incentive based payments.

Need more health and safety news?

Try global union website LabourStart's H&S newswire: www.labourstart.org/hswire



In *Health and Safety Rep Corner* this issue, we profile the recent winner of the Ross Wilson Award for the Most Influential Employee at last month's Safeguard Awards in Auckland.

Etuati (Ed) Fili from packaging firm CHEP NZ, is a Council of Trade Unions trained health and safety representative, who has not just limited his involvement in implementing health and safety processes in his workplace.

He has also championed health and safety among Manukau's Pacific community, and is part of a regional health and safety committee that encourages Pacific workers to join health and safety committees.

Ed translated aspects of CHEP Safety material into Samoan, and participates in the *Puataunfo* project - an initiative of unions, government and employers, aimed at raising awareness of health and safety for Pasifika peoples in Manukau.

Congratulations Ed!