



Resolution Number Sixteen

Submitted by National Secretary, Paul Howes.

Construction Industry – National Campaigns on OH&S

Background

The AWU has a long and proud history of standing up for and representing workers' rights in relation to occupational health and safety issues in the Australian construction industry.

On average, more than fifty (50) construction workers are killed on the job in Australia each year. This tragic fact makes the construction industry one of the most hazardous industries for workers to be engaged in, and should act to focus the attention of all industry operators on the fact that workers' safety is a matter that cannot be ignored or conveniently brushed aside as a secondary concern.

In recognition of the nature of the construction industry, and in the furtherance of our collective efforts to improve conditions of employment within the industry, it is important that the AWU harness all available resources to continuously inform AWU officials and members about hazards in the industry, new approaches to risk assessment and identification, and the development of strategies and support structures that empower workers to refuse to undertake work that is not safe, without fear of reprisal.

Resolution

This National Conference recommends that a coordinated approach to occupational health and safety in the construction industry continue to be developed on a national basis with the assistance of all Branches, particularly with respect to training and education on the following matters -

- Asbestos identification and removal
- Synthetic mineral fibers
- Chemicals
- Crystalline Silica
- Mobil plant
- Conveyors
- Fatigue
- Work in isolated and confined spaces
- Safe work at heights
- OH&S systems and risk assessment
- OH&S conversations
- Empowering members to say "no" to dangerous tasks without fear of reprisal.

Moved:

Seconded:

Outcome: