



Welcome to the first issue of the Seacare Newsletter. This newsletter replaces the existing Seacare Authority Quarterly Reports. The aim is to provide you with an overview of the recent Seacare Authority meetings plus information on current Authority events, activities and products. Further information on all the topics contained in this newsletter is available from the Seacare website at [www.seacare.gov.au](http://www.seacare.gov.au).

Geoff Gronow  
Chairperson

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## OHS Awards

The Sea Safe- Work Awards will recognise seafarers and their employers who are leading the way in occupational health and safety and rehabilitation. **Nominations will be accepted until Friday 10 January 03.** Organisations are welcome to nominate for one or more of the following award categories:

1. Offshore Employer – OHS Achievement Award
2. Small Employer – OHS Achievement Award
3. Large Employer – OHS Achievement Award
4. Health and Safety Committee – Achievement Award
5. Health and Safety Committee – Achievement Award
6. Best Solution to a Major OHS Risk
7. Best Rehabilitation and Return to Work Programme
8. Best OHS Training Programme

The Awards function will be hosted in Melbourne at a gala ceremony and dinner on Thursday 3 April 2003. A brochure with more information about the Awards has been sent to your organisation.

Please note that the date of the Awards is now **3 April 2003**, not 8 April as printed in the brochure.

Further information is available from the Seacare website at <https://www.seacare.gov.au/news/default.asp>

## Notice 06/2002 Maximum Level of Benefits

Subsection 31(7) of the *Seafarers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1992* provides for a ceiling on weekly incapacity payments after the first 45 weeks. This ceiling is 150% of the Average Weekly Ordinary Time Earnings for Full Time Adults (AWOTEFA). The AWOTEFA is updated quarterly by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

A new Notice was issued on 25 November 2002 advising of an updated AWOTEFA figure. This notice is available at <https://www.seacare.gov.au/publications/notices/Notices2002/Notice062002.pdf>

## Annual Report

The 2001 – 2002 Seacare Authority Annual Report is now available from the Seacare Authority or through the Seacare website at <https://www.seacare.gov.au/publications/annualReport/SeacareAR2001-02.pdf>

## Manual Handling Guidance Note

**In the 2001-02 financial year, body stressing injuries contributed to approximately 43% of the total compensable injuries in the Seafarers scheme (source: AMICA).**

Like many other industries, injuries from manual handling represent a large proportion of all body stressing claims in the maritime industry. However, in the maritime industry the number of body stressing injuries occurring as a result of factors, other than handling of objects, also contributes to a large proportion of workers' compensation claims.

The Seacare Authority has endorsed a new *Guidance Note on Manual Handling and Body Stressing in the Australian maritime industry*. This Guidance Note is designed to provide practical advice on **identifying** manual handling hazards, **assessing** the risks associated with those hazards and assisting to find practical ways to **control** the risks.

The Guidance Note will be available in hard copy and from the Seacare website in January 2003.

## Outcomes of the Seacare Authority Meeting 44 – 19 November 2002

The Authority:

- agreed to advise the Minister that the levy rate should be maintained for the Jan-Mar 03 quarter but that the Authority would further consider the levy rate at its February 2003 meeting and advise the Minister of any adjustment needed for the April-June 03 quarter;
- agreed to prepare a regulation to prohibit the use of chrysotile, crocidolite and amosite asbestos in the maritime industry; and
- noted that the Chairperson forwarded a letter, accompanied by a schedule of legislative proposals, to the Minister, advising on the Authority's stage one legislative amendment priorities.

## Seacare Authority statistics and performance reports – September quarter 2002-03

**Table 1: Claims data**

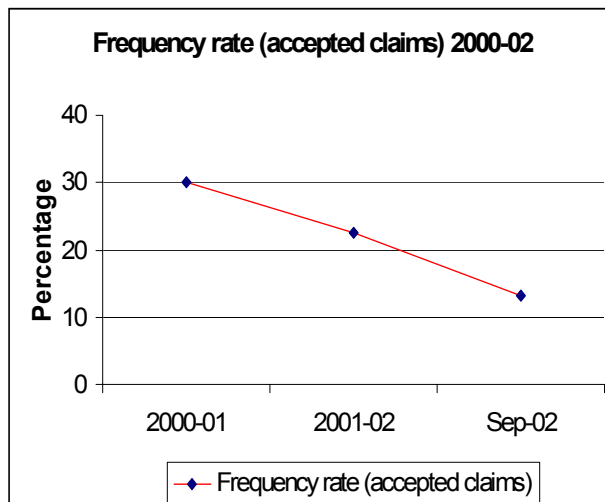
Claims data at end of quarter	Sep 02	2001-2002
Total claims reported to AMICA	32	164
Claims accepted	18	147
Claims accepted less property claims	31	146
Claims rejected	2	12
Claims pending	12	5
Claims accepted – on duty	17	133
Claims accepted – off duty	0	10
Claims accepted – other (travel, study)	1	4

Source: AMICA, Seacare Authority

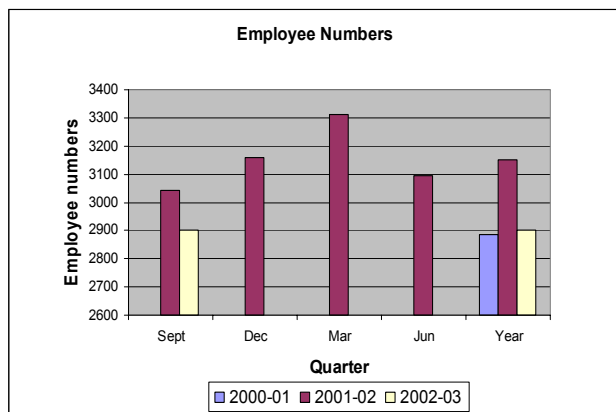
**Table 2: OHS Inspectorate activity**

	Sep 02	2000-01	2001-02
Incidents reported to AMSA	10	69	56
Dangerous occurrences notified	1	8	5
Investigations of incidents	0	12	14
Improvement notices issued	0	0	3

**Chart 1: Injury Frequency rate**

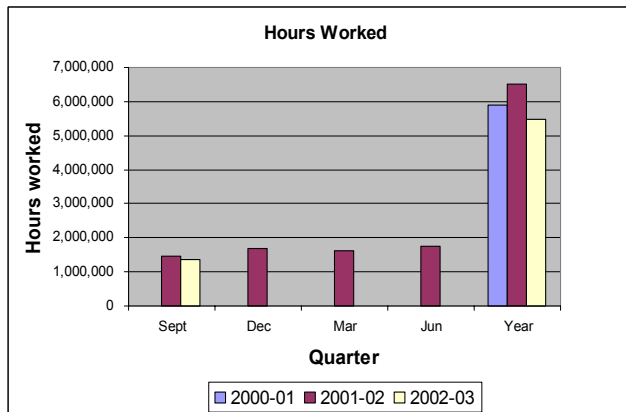


**Chart 2: Employee numbers**



Source: Seacare Authority

**Chart 3: Hours Worked**



### Seacare Contacts

**Members:**

Mr Geoff Gronow	Chairperson
Mr Noel Swails	Deputy Chairperson
Mr Clive Davidson	Australian Maritime Safety Authority
Mr Martin Byrne	Employee member
Mr Paddy Crumlin	Employee member
Mr Mal Hearnden	Employer member
Capt Warwick Norman	Employer member

**Deputy Members**

Mr Bob Evans	Deputy to Mr Clive Davidson
Mr Mick Doleman	Deputy to Mr Paddy Crumlin
Mr David Parmeter	Deputy to Capt Warwick Norman
Mr John Flood	Deputy to Mr Mal Hearnden

**Secretariat:**

Rod Pickette	Manager
Leanne Yeates	Assistant Manager

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