



Australian Government

Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation
and Compensation Authority

SEACARE NEWS

Issue 14 – July 2007

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Chairperson's Comments



At this time of the year the Seacare Authority takes pause to consider some of the achievements of the previous twelve months and to review the scheme's performance. Of course this information will be detailed in the Authority's Annual Report which is due to be presented to the Minister and tabled in Parliament in October. However, it is very pleasing to note that the scheme is maintaining its positive performance across a range of key injury prevention and workers' compensation indicators.

In 2006-07, the Seacare Authority continued to improve the scheme's OHS framework with the introduction of new manual handling regulations and an approved code of practice. It efficiently managed the *Seafarers Safety Net Fund* so that reserve level targets are met and maintained, and carried out its regulatory duties, along with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), in an effective and capable manner.

A highlight of the year was the *Seacare Awards & Conference 2006* held in Melbourne. Both the Conference and Awards programs were outstanding successes due to the generous sponsorship provided by several companies, the high-quality speakers and panellists, the participation of those attending and the many organisations and individuals who prepared award nominations. The next Awards and Conference programs will take place in 2008. However, in the meantime the Authority has been prompted to continue the success of the Conference program and provide an event in Western Australia in October this year.

In May, Mr Clive Davidson stepped down as a long-serving and valuable Member of the Seacare Authority following his retirement from AMSA. Mr Graham Peachey has been appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of AMSA and has joined the Authority. The Authority welcomes Graham and looks forward to working with him.

Geoff Gronow ESM ED
Chairperson

National Recognition for Seacare Award Winners

Three winners of *Seacare Awards 2006* were finalists for the Australian Safety and Compensation Council's (ASCC) *Safe Work Australia Awards*. The finalists were acknowledged at the national awards ceremony at Old Parliament House in Canberra on 23 April 2007.

In 2006, three of the Seacare awards categories were aligned with national awards so that the winners of these Seacare awards might be considered for a national award. Seacare's national finalists were:

- **Category 1 Best Workplace Health and Safety Management System**
- Teekay Shipping (Australia) Pty Ltd
- **Category 2 Best Solution to an Identified Workplace Health and Safety Issue**
- Farstad Shipping (Indian Pacific) Pty Ltd
- **Category 5 Best Individual Contribution to Workplace Health and Safety**
- Lee Gravolin (Teekay Shipping (Australia) Pty Ltd)

The Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, the Hon Joe Hockey MP and Mr Bill Scales, Chairman of the ASCC congratulated and presented certificates to the Seacare finalists.



Allan Kneller (Teekay Shipping)
accepting acknowledgement certificate



Carl Allan and Peter Barrow (Farstad Shipping)
accepting acknowledgement certificate



Sam Culley (Teekay Shipping)
accepting acknowledgement certificate on behalf
of Lee Gravolin

Seacare Event Western Australia

Planning is underway for a Seacare event at the Western Australian Maritime Museum in Fremantle on 16 October 2007.

The half-day program will focus particularly on the offshore sector and is being supported by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, the Australian Mines and Metals Association, as well as the maritime unions. The program follows on from the successful *Seacare Conference 2006* held in Melbourne last October and is timed to coincide with the Authority's *Sea Safe Work Day* as well as *Safe Work Australia Week*.

Program and registration details will be available shortly and will be distributed to scheme stakeholders in WA and other interested parties. Please contact Seacare for further information.

Employers' Reporting Obligations

Scheme employers must report details to the Seacare Authority on their employees and ships in January and July each year. Employers must also declare their workers' compensation insurance arrangements within 14 days of renewing or taking out a new policy. These reports must be submitted via *Seacare Online*, which is accessible from the Seacare website.

Employers are reminded that trainees, as defined under the Seafarer Act, must be included in reports on employee details.

Workers' Compensation Claims Reporting

Scheme employers are required to provide the Seacare Authority with details on all claims for workers' compensation made under the Seafarers Act. As well as submitting copies of claim and determination forms, employers must provide update details in July and January each year on any claims that remain active or were finalised in the preceding six month period. Claim Update Report forms are sent to employers by the Seacare Management Section for completion as appropriate.

Seacare OHS Strategy & Seacare Leaders Program

The *Seacare OHS Strategy 2007-08 to 2009-10* is a key statement of the scheme's contribution towards national efforts to improve OHS outcomes. A central element of the Strategy is the establishment of targets for reducing the incidence of work-related injury and illness.

In conjunction with the Strategy, the *Seacare Leaders Program* seeks to secure the commitment of scheme employers to the Strategy and to taking responsibility for improving OHS. One way that employers can demonstrate their commitment and accountability is by setting their own injury reduction targets. Further information on the Seacare OHS Strategy and Seacare Leaders Program is provided to employers and is available by contacting Seacare or from the Seacare website.

Asbestos Prohibition

The *Occupational Health and Safety (Maritime Industry) (National Standards) Regulations 2003* commenced on 31 December 2003 making it illegal to import, store, supply, sell, install or reuse any products containing asbestos. The regulations allow for exemptions in certain circumstances upon application to the Seacare Authority. However, scheme employers and operators are reminded that all asbestos exemptions will cease on 31 December 2007.

Further information on complying with the asbestos prohibition is available in the Seacare Authority's *Guidance on the Prohibition on the Use of Asbestos in Australian Maritime Industry Workplaces* - available by contacting Seacare and from the Seacare website.

HSR Training Course Providers

The Seacare Authority welcomes applications from registered training organisations for accreditation as providers of Health & Safety Representative training courses under the Seacare scheme. Guidelines to assist applicants are available by contacting Seacare and from the Seacare website.

The Authority has recently accredited a new HSR training provider, **Ferriby Marine Pty Ltd**. Contact: Trevor Colton – phone (07) 5488 0044 or 0421 072 469, email trevor@ferriby.com.sg

Australian Maritime Safety Consultants also provides accredited HSR training courses. Contact: Dominic Panetta – phone 0404 031 858, email dominicpanetta@optushome.com.au

Seacare Notices

Seacare Notices are issued to scheme employers and published on the Seacare website. Current notices include:

03/2007 - Maximum Level of Benefits

02/2007 - Indexation of Compensation Benefits

Seacare Authority Appointments

In May 2007, Mr Graham Peachey was welcomed as a Member of the Authority following his appointment as Chief Executive Officer of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. Mr Peachey began his new role upon the retirement of Mr Clive Davidson. The Seacare Authority has recorded its appreciation for the significant contribution made by Mr Davidson to its work.

Also in May 2007, Mr Martin Byrne was reappointed as a Member of the Authority representing employees for a period of two years.



Seacare Authority Meeting held at Parliament House, Canberra on 31 May 2007.

Members

Mr Geoff Gronow	Chairperson
Mr Martin Dolan	Deputy Chairperson
Mr Martin Byrne	Employee Member
Mr Mick Doleman	Employee Member
Mr Peter Bremner	Employer Member
Mr Mal Hearnden	Employer Member
Mr Graham Peachey	Australian Maritime Safety Authority

Deputy Members

Mr John Wydell	Deputy to Mr Byrne
Mr Paddy Crumlin	Deputy to Mr Doleman
Ms Teresa Hatch	Deputy to Mr Bremner
Mr Tony Caccamo	Deputy to Mr Hearnden
Mr Geoff Toomer	Deputy to Mr Peachey

Seacare Management Section

Mr Phil Beaumont	Director
Mr David Bonny	Assistant Director

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