CAMPAIGN WRAP UP

INTERNATIONAL DEPLOYMENT

When employees are working overseas, employers may be faced with minimal control and visibility over the environments their employees are working in. In light of the risks this can present, Comcare has developed fact sheets and tools to assist in raising awareness of OHS risks associated with deploying workers overseas.

Background

As part of its Work Health and Safety Plan 2010-11, Comcare worked collaboratively with key stakeholders to identify and address OHS risks associated with international deployment.

A number of scheme employers already had well developed approaches to managing the OHS risks that confront employees when working overseas. However, it was identified that a number of other employers could benefit from improved systems.

Campaign Objectives

1. To assist employers identify and reduce the potential risks associated with international deployment.
2. To provide guidance on assessing and managing the risk associated with overseas work.

Campaign Outcomes

With the cooperation of a range of employers that deploy staff to work overseas, Comcare reviewed the policies, guidelines and tools currently in use. Comcare then developed a comparative framework that was used to benchmark the available materials. As a result, Comcare has created a suite of tools to assist workers and organisations, including:

- a travel risk assessment checklist
- travel tips pocket guide
- fact sheets on topics such as vaccinations, deep vein thrombosis and personal safety awareness when travelling.

During the course of the campaign, an awareness of the issues facing workers returning from international deployment became apparent. A fact sheet outlining employer considerations when repatriating workers was also developed in response.

Where to from here?

For further information on international deployment, see the information in managing hazards within the preventing harm tab at www.comcare.gov.au