

## **CONSULTING INDUSTRY TAKES LEAD ON WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY**

The country's first Safety in Design Toolkit for built environment consultants will be launched this Thursday, 25 October by industry association, Consult Australia.

Developed following the recent harmonisation of Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) laws across Australia, the Toolkit will assist professionals to comply with new legislation and coincides with National Safe Work Australia Week.

Consult Australia Chief Executive Officer, Megan Motto said, "This is the first collection of best practice material that draws directly from the intellectual property of the industry's largest consulting firms."

The Toolkit will assist firms to develop updated policies and procedures that reflect new WHS laws, and will assist in alleviating much of the stress associated with this transition process.

"A number of states have already passed the new legislation and South Australian Parliament is expected to announce that they'll be moving to this new model next week," said Ms Motto.

"Adapting to these new changes presents a resource-intensive challenge for many firms, particularly smaller organisations with limited internal capacity and no in-house legal counsel.

"This type of initiative is a fantastic example of how the industry's major players can come together to selflessly support each other and their SME counterparts."

Included in the kit is a flowchart of actions that should be undertaken throughout the design process; links to relevant information documents; hazard risk register and safety report templates; and the industry's first template letter to clients.

"Consult Australia is proud to be able to support our firms through this process and looks forward to seeing a safer, more compliant consulting industry across Australia as a result," said Ms Motto.

### **Ends**

18 October 2012

For further information or to arrange an interview, please contact PR & Policy Coordinator, Gillian O'Young on (02) 9922 4711 or via email at [gillian@consultaaustralia.com.au](mailto:gillian@consultaaustralia.com.au).

### **ABOUT CONSULT AUSTRALIA**

*Consult Australia is the association for professional services firms within the built and natural environment; influencing policy, creating value and promoting excellence.*

*As an association, Consult Australia's primary focus is on improving the commercial environment for its members and raising standards across the industry.*

*Consult Australia's member firms services include, but are not limited to: design; architecture; technology; engineering; planning; landscape architecture; surveying; cost consulting (quantity surveyors); project management; and management solutions. The Association represent some of the industry's biggest players in this space with its member firms collectively employing more than 50,000 staff.*