

THE ANU COLLEGE OF LAW,
AUSTRALIAN LABOUR LAW ASSOCIATION
& INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS SOCIETY OF
THE ACT PRESENT:



PUBLIC LECTURE

NATIONAL OHS REFORM: WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

Robin Stewart-Crompton

Chair, 2008-09 National Review, Model OHS Laws



Tuesday 25 August 2009, 5.30-6.30pm

(followed by refreshments)

Sparke Helmore Theatre 2, ANU College of Law
Fellows Road, The Australian National University

RSVP required for catering purposes (by 20 August)

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This lecture is free and open to the public

Australia is poised to have nationally consistent OHS laws that support unprecedented levels of cross-border regulatory cooperation. Unlike earlier inquiries and reviews that have, with limited effect, recommended ways to rationalise Australia's many OHS laws, the recent national review into model OHS laws was undertaken under the aegis of a reform program driven by the Council of Australian Governments. The review's final report was presented earlier this year and considered by the Workplace Relations Ministers Council (WRMC). In line with a formal agreement between governments, the Ministers have now decided on legislative action. A draft model bill giving effect to those decisions is expected to be released for public consultation after the next meeting of the WRMC later this year. Separately from this initiative, national reforms are also being developed in particular areas of OHS regulation (including in the mining, rail and maritime industries).

In the lead up to the release of the draft legislation for public comment, it is timely to consider what these various initiatives involve, how they might interact, what it means for regulators, duty holders and those whose health and safety is to be protected, and how obstacles to securing the best results might be overcome.

Robin Stewart-Crompton chaired the 2008-09 national review into model OHS laws. The review undertook an examination of Australia's existing OHS laws and, in line with wide ranging terms of reference, recommended what a model OHS law should provide. In this role, Robin drew on his many years experience as a senior public servant, former CEO and member of the National OHS Commission, member of the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission and, since 2005, consultant to a number of government departments and agencies. Robin will not only discuss the key points of the proposed reforms but also place them in the context of the wider reform agenda that may fundamentally change how OHS is protected in Australia.

The views expressed in this seminar are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent the views of The Australian National University.