

Public Events within Local Councils Project

Stakeholder Group
Meeting

29 October 2008



- **10:30 – Introductions**
- **Background to the Public Events within Local Councils project**
- **Feedback and lessons learnt from the project**
- **Overview of WorkSafe's events strategy into the future**
- **12:00 – Close, followed by lunch.**

Section 23 OHS Act 2004



- **Duties of employers to other persons:**

- > An employer must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that persons other than employees of the employer are not exposed to risks to their health or safety arising from the conduct of undertakings of employers.

Public Events with Local Councils Project



- Local government has a duty to the public under S23 of the OHS Act 2004
- At commencement of the project, the extent to which local government are meeting their S23 duties and obligations is unknown
- This project looked at the types of public events organised and their OHS impact on participants
- The project's main focus was safety of event operations

Project Stakeholder Group's Role



- **Aims:**
- Communication with relevant council personnel about the project and associated roll out
- Discussion with relevant event providers around project objectives
- Act as a point of contact for enquiries about the project
- Act as a conduit between your organisation and WorkSafe's Public Safety Branch their OHS impact on participants
- The project's main focus was safety of event operations

How did it go?

Feedback and Lessons Learnt



- **Overview**
- 118 inspector visits conducted
- Wide variation between councils on quality of OHS systems for managing events
- Different departments adopt responsibility – eg. arts & culture, sport & recreation
- 1 improvement notice issued, multiple voluntary compliances
- Overall, a good result

Feedback and Lessons Learnt



- **Specific feedback to industry**
- 'What is an event?' in relation to OHS Act 2004 – Inspectors have addressed in all Victorian local councils. Examples:
 - > What events do you run?
 - > What happens in the community?
 - > Are council employees involved in set up?
 - > Whose property?
 - > Who else can I talk to in your council about events? Who gives permits out?
- Risk management – councils who understood/utilised risk management performed better
- Staff turnover – systematic guidance and support needed for those new in event management jobs
- Interstate-based companies must comply with Victorian OHS Act 2004

WorkSafe's Events Safety Framework



- **Victorian Hallmark Events**
- **Victorian Public Events**