



Hunter business is recognised for commitment to safety

WorkCover NSW has congratulated a Thornton-based training company for receiving regional recognition at the 2011 Hunter Business Awards.

General Manager of WorkCover's Work Health Safety Division John Watson said that local training company, People and Quality Solutions Pty Ltd, (PaQS) won the category for Excellence in Safety.

The Award recognised the company's commitment to safety for the development of a work-from-home agreement that meets relevant statutory obligations and includes a comprehensive risk management checklist. PaQS Training Director Pete Grzywacz said the Home Based Work Agreement offers workers the flexibility to work from home knowing they are meeting their workplace safety obligations while enhancing work-life balance for the company's ten staff.

'The safety and well being of our workers is extremely important, as our staff are the company's most valuable resource. The safety and security of our employees in the workplace and at home is a priority. Previously there was no formal policy in place for staff working from home. The flexibility of the Home-Based Work Agreement will build on our company's strong morale

and in turn our safety culture,' Mr Grzywacz said.

'PaQS has not registered any lost time injuries over the past six years and Mr Grzywacz attributes this to the strong safety culture prevalent in their business. We aim to develop a 'safety mindset' among our staff that is based around open communication, consultation and personal accountability to generate mutually beneficial safety outcomes,' he said. 'A legitimate commitment to continuous safety improvement and well-defined policies and procedures relating to safety will help cultivate a safety behaviours in any business.

'Leadership values that empower workers through regular and genuine consultation to become actively involved in work health and safety is fundamental to developing a safety culture,' he explained.

Mr Watson said WorkCover was proud to sponsor this category for the second consecutive year.

'WorkCover is pleased to partner with Hunter Business Chamber to encourage businesses to help foster a workplace safety culture by highlighting their work health and safety achievements in their local business community,' he said. 'A commitment to workplace safety is critical for businesses across all industries to help reduce costs, the risk of injuries and increase productivity.

'New South Wales has the nation's largest number of small employers and WorkCover recognises the difficulties many small businesses face in addressing safety and injury management issues,' he said.

WorkCover offers a range of free services such as advisory visits to workplaces, financial rebates, free information workshops and an annual mentor program to help get businesses moving in the right direction.

TO FIND ABOUT MORE ABOUT HOW WORKCOVER CAN ASSIST SMALL BUSINESSES OR TO REGISTER FOR A WORKSHOP CALL 13 10 50 OR VISIT WWW.WORKCOVER.NSW.GOV.AU