

New Plymouth is a WHO Safe Community working towards being injury free

NPiS “KEEPING YOUNG WORKERS SAFE” SEMINAR A HUGE SUCCESS!

Around 80 people from local industry, schools, training organisations and youth services attended an NPiS seminar, held in New Plymouth on 31st March, to raise awareness of young people's safety in the workplace.

The seminar presented key findings from a Department of Labour survey completed by over 3000 Taranaki secondary students. The seminar also highlighted positive initiatives taking place in local schools as well as successful health and safety approaches already used by employers, including Roana Carran of Coverstaff Recruitment, winner of the ACC award for 'Best Leadership by an Industry Body' in 2005.



Speakers, Ross Gilmour and Dr Carolyn Coggan

Keynote speaker Ross Gilmour provided a psychological perspective on safety training, showing how developing safe subconscious habits can be achieved through solution focused thinking and language, training the subconscious to automatically 'default' to safe behaviour under stress.

Another highlight of the day was a Youth Debate, led by students from New Plymouth Boys High and New Plymouth Girls High school, asking "Who is most safety conscious – teenage boys or teenage girls?"



NPGHS and NPBHS Youth Debate teams pictured at the seminar

Key Findings from the Department of Labour Young Workers' Knowledge Survey:

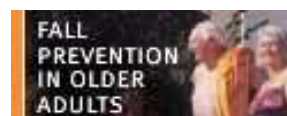
- 42% of students worked part-time
- 73% work in retail, agriculture and food/accommodation services
- Less than half knew their rights and responsibilities as an employee
- 79% had not studied health and safety at school at all
- 19% had been asked to do something they considered unsafe...and 88% went on to do it anyway
- 20% had suffered a workplace illness or injury, of which 93% blamed on either themselves or a 'freak accident'
- 43% did not report their injury as they felt it was 'no big deal', nothing would change or for fear they would get into trouble

To obtain a full copy of the Young Workers Knowledge Survey please contact Jo-Ann Pugh, Dept. of Labour: Jo-Ann.Pugh@dol.govt.nz

NPiS FALLS PREVENTION STRATEGY UPDATE...

Following our most recent Falls Prevention Strategy update, a small sub-group have been working on a funding proposal for a regional Falls Prevention Coordinator whose role would include facilitating access to a range of good quality care and prevention services for those older people who have had a fall or are identified as being at high risk of a fall.

Other initiatives include plans for an NPiS Older Persons' Wellbeing Day, to be held at the TSB Stadium on Tuesday 17th June 2008. The Wellbeing Day is being organised in partnership with Active in Age and New Plymouth Positive Ageing Trust. Planned activities include gentle exercise sessions, health checks, fun activities and a talk on healthy ageing. A presentation focusing on latest research into falls prevention aimed at health professionals and those who work with older people will also take place during the day.



For more information, or to get involved, please contact Channa Perry on 06 753 7777 x8792

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