

Mr Paul Druckman
Chief Executive Officer
International Integrated Reporting Committee

Via email: dpresponses@theiirc.org

Dear Mr Druckman

International Integrated Reporting Committee (IIRC) Discussion Paper

Safe Work Australia is an independent statutory body responsible for improving work health and safety and workers' compensation arrangements across Australia. It is an inclusive, tripartite body comprising 15 members, including an independent Chair, nine members representing the Commonwealth and each State and Territory, two representing the interests of workers, two representing the interests of employers and the Chief Executive Officer of Safe Work Australia.

Section 1 of the *Safe Work Australia Act (2008) (C'th)* requires Safe Work Australia to develop national policy relating to OHS and workers' compensation. Further information about Safe Work Australia and its functions can be found at www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au.

Safe Work Australia has been an active participant in the Australian roundtable group, the Business Reporting Leaders Forum and was able successfully to see work health and safety explicitly included in the Forum's Discussion Paper. The IIRC Discussion Paper is of interest to us because we are working to improving organisational level work health and safety reporting. Safe Work Australia is currently working with a range of stakeholders to improve the work health and safety aspects of sustainability reporting in Australia.

While I understand the IIRC Discussion Paper is not a template for an integrated report, it is an outline of the important components of such a report, why they are important and how they can be interrelated and presented. I seek your agreement to explicitly mentioning work health and safety in the Discussion Paper as an important element of any sustainability report.

As the leading global body promoting improved sustainability reporting, the IIRC is well placed to move work health and safety reporting onto the global sustainability agenda. The impacts of workplace injury and illness include the physical, social and financial consequences of lives lost as well as a significant economic burden to the wider economy. A general lack of meaningful work health and safety reporting means stakeholders remain uninformed about work health and safety hazards, risk management processes and the high consequences of injury and illness outcomes of particular organisations.

There is no accepted framework for work health and safety disclosure. The lack of guidance available to those who prepare reports about the most important issues and performance indicators for public disclosure means stakeholders will likely remain uninformed of important work health and safety information.

A range of organisations around the world mandatorily collects work health and safety information. In my view, work health and safety performance seems a logical and appropriate inclusion into a global sustainability reporting agenda and consequently the IIRC Discussion Paper.

Safe Work Australia continues to follow closely the IIRC Pilot Program and looks forward to a future in which sustainability reporting is standard.

Should you require further information, please contact Ms Caitlin O'Dea on +61(0)2 6121 7035 or at caitlin.o'dea@safeworkaustralia.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. J. Hoy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R" and a distinct "Hoy" at the end.

Rex Hoy
Chief Executive Officer
Safe Work Australia

5 December 2011