



Aged & Community Services  
SA & NT Inc

## Media Release

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### **Assistance to Manage OHSW Risk for Community Workers**

Aged & Community Services SA & NT (ACS), with funding from Employers Mutual Ltd, have significantly revised the *Occupational Health, Safety & Welfare Guidelines for Community Workers (Guidelines)*. The Guidelines aim to tackle the complex health and safety issues facing people who provide services and supports in clients' homes, and will be launched on 27 May by the Hon Jennifer Rankine MP, Minister for Ageing and Minister for Disability.

Initially developed in 2000 by WorkCover SA and Safer Industries and last updated in 2003, the Guidelines aim to reduce injury by providing sought-after best practice information, tools and templates which can be readily integrated into daily practice. Topics include working in isolation, domestic squalor, psychological health, vehicle and driver safety and challenging behaviour.

The trend for older people and people with a disability to prefer assistance in their own home rather than in residential care is increasing. The wide range of personnel providing support in clients' homes including care workers, social workers, volunteer visitors, paramedical or allied health staff, housekeepers, maintenance personnel, pharmacy providers and nurses, adds complexity to existing occupational health, safety and welfare (OHS&W) risks. The Guidelines contain case studies, best practice examples and sample checklists/forms to provide the reader with practical solutions to effectively manage hazards to prevent injury to workers in clients' homes.

The resources were developed in consultation with the aged and community care sector and will be available electronically on the SafeWork SA, Employers Mutual Ltd and Aged and Community Services SA & NT Inc websites. ACS will also have a limited number of CD copies available.

The Hon Jennifer Rankine will launch the new resources on Wednesday 27 May at 9.30 am at Morphetville Junction, Camden Park.

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