TO: UQ Managers, UQ OHS network
FROM: Jim Carmichael, Director Occupational Health and Safety Division
DATE: 23 September 2016
Re: Safe Work Month at UQ

October is the National Safe Work Month. While the health, safety and wellness of staff and students should always be front of mind in “how we do what we do” at UQ, October is a great time to collectively focus on the health, safety and wellness of our staff and students, and ourselves.

Tragically, around 17 Queenslanders die each year as a result of traumatic workplace incidents, and over 5000 suffer a permanent injury. These deaths and injuries carry with them a devastating and personal impact on workers and their families, with a significant financial cost to the Queensland community.

A calendar of events has been arranged during October and you are invited to browse the OHS Division’s Safe Work Month web site - [http://www.uq.edu.au/ohs/index.html?page=241761](http://www.uq.edu.au/ohs/index.html?page=241761)

I encourage you to participate where able and also share this information with your networks.

October also presents a great opportunity for UQ leaders to demonstrate their commitment to the health, safety and wellness of their staff and students by doing some or all of the following!

- Commence discussions with staff on how hazards and risks are dealt with in your workplaces;
- Do walk-throughs of various work areas and ask staff what the primary hazards are in the area and how they are managed;
- Proactively raise health, safety and wellbeing at staff meetings;
- Be aware of the messages we convey by our actions e.g. whatever you are willing to walk past, you are willing to condone; and
- Engage with the OHS Managers, co-ordinators, representatives and committees in your work areas.

It is important for leaders to be visible, inquisitive, consultative and active in health, safety and wellness matters if they are wanting to demonstrate to their staff that they are committed to their health, safety and wellbeing. Please refer to this guide for further practical ideas on how you can demonstrate your commitment to health, safety and wellness at UQ. [http://www.uq.edu.au/ohs/COMMUNICATIONS/2016/Notice/Safety-Leadership-Guide.pdf](http://www.uq.edu.au/ohs/COMMUNICATIONS/2016/Notice/Safety-Leadership-Guide.pdf)

The OHS Division and the broader UQ OHS network will be focussing on a number of safety issues during the month of October. More on this over the coming days.

The role of the UQ OHS Division is to promote the highest practicable standard of occupational health, safety and wellness within UQ, support a positive OHS culture and facilitate compliance with legislation and national standards. Please contact us (see below) if we can be of any assistance.