Dear Colleagues,

As a valuable member of the OHS Network we would like to inform you of the OHS performance result for 2016 with respect to the OHS Goals of the University.

On 12 February 2015, the Vice-Chancellor’s Risk and Compliance Committee (VC RCC) approved the Occupational Health and Safety Goals of the University (2015-2017). The 10 goals are each aligned to components of UQ’s OHS management system. A report is generated each year to measure at a corporate level, UQ’s performance against each of these goals. Please find attached the OHS goals report for 2016, that was submitted to the VC RCC on 4 May 2017.

The report highlights that in early 2016, significant continuous improvement projects were being undertaken by the OHS Division including the development a UQ Health, Safety and Wellness Strategy (2017-2021) and the implementation of new electronic database systems for risk and incident management. As such the report differs significantly from the previous report. In addition, to demonstrate effectiveness of the OHSMS the report draws upon the data gathered during OHS audits (and other activities) performed in 2016. This data was considered a representation of whether the University met the OHS goals.

The OHS Managers were briefed on the report last Thursday, and we encourage you to discuss the results with them. As you see in the report, the overall finding was that the University achieved a satisfactory result against the OHS goals for 2016. This report has highlighted the areas of 1. OHS responsibilities, 2. training and 3. risk management as needing improvement, relating to goals 2, 3 and 9 respectively. The OHS Division (as part of the OHS audit review) has flagged these specific areas as a focus for specific targeted audits in 2017/18.

I ask as part of the communication and continual improvement that you consider the following actions:

- Communicate/discuss the results of the report within your area and OHS committees;
- Compare the organisational result to your organisational unit (benchmark);
- Continue to focus on improving awareness of responsibilities, training % and risk management activities (e.g. inspections, formal reviews)
- Seek further assistance (from OHS Manager/Division) if you are experiencing issues in these areas.

If you have feedback or require further information regarding the 2016 OHS Goals Report, please contact the OHS Division via email: ohs@uq.edu.au

Regards, Jim
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