Review of the UQ OHS professional services – Update 1

The purpose of this communiqué is to provide an update on the review of OHS professional services at UQ. The UQ Chief Operating Officer forwarded a memo to UQ managers on 28 October indicating that an internal review of OHS professional services was about to commence. I confirmed this with the UQ OHS network the following business day.

Progress to date
The review team consists of Jim Carmichael, Director OHS Division and Marshall Butterworth, OHS Manager Faculty of Science. A reference group has been established to provide advice and feedback during the review process. The reference group met for the first time on Monday 14 November. The role and membership of the reference group can be found here.

The terms of reference of the review has been developed. As stated in the terms of reference, the purpose for this review is to examine occupational health and safety professional services across UQ to ensure UQ benefits from consistent, effective, progressive and responsive services, and to ensure UQ is well positioned to move to its intended future occupational health and safety positioning.

A project plan has been developed to guide the review process. The "discovery" phase of the review commenced this week. This broadly consists of:

- conducting a base-lining exercise to determine the extent, location and activity of the dedicated and multi-functional role occupational health and safety staff resources at UQ
- conducting a scope of service process to determine the nature and extent of the occupational health and safety services currently being provided across UQ
- engaging the users/clients of occupational health and safety services at UQ to determine the required nature and extent of these services (bearing in mind UQ’s legal and corporate responsibilities)
- compiling information on resources and operating models at other universities.

The review team has commenced meeting with a range of stakeholders this week during this phase of the review.

Input into the review process
We will be talking to a lot of people during the review, both members of the UQ OHS network as well as a range of managers and other UQ staff. Information will be gathered either face to face or by on-line survey. A web page will be available via the OHS Division web site. This site will provide information regarding the review.

The review team will be available for a general Q&A as part of the WHSC seminar program next Wednesday (23 November) in the Terrace Room targeted at members of the UQ OHS network.

Timeline for the review
It is anticipated that a report including findings and recommendations will be provided to the Chief Operating Officer by the end of March 2017.

If you have any queries, please contact either Jim or Marshall at ohs@uq.edu.au

Jim Carmichael