



Letter from the editor

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Our authors and their work

The New Zealand Journal of Health and Safety Practice was founded in 2024 to publish and disseminate research from New Zealand and elsewhere, including work by new researchers and graduate students. The Journal was and remains open access with no subscription charges and minimal (usually, no) article processing charges. This should make it readily accessible to all health and safety practitioners and professionals. We hope it will encourage practitioners and professionals to study for further qualifications and to write for the Journal.

Two health and safety professionals have written to the Journal on critical risk and controls related subjects. Bates (2026) gives a strong argument against use of the term “critical risk”, arguing it discriminates against some workers. Clarke discusses the gap between pressure for the private sector to apply the hierarchy of control while the state sector seems to default to administrative controls. Michell (2026) provides a brief item distinguishing occupational health and wellbeing, first published on the UK IOSH website. Do you agree with her argument?

If you disagree with these authors we will welcome informed responses, supported by evidence.

Peirce et al. (2026) provide insights into the use of assessment tools for musculoskeletal disorders, groundbreaking work carried out in New Zealand.

In this edition we welcome recent graduate work reporting literature reviews on the effects of first aid and emergency planning on injury rates (Bhalothia, 2026; Matthew, 2026; Muthusamy Muthuswamy Gopalan, 2026). Their work helps to resurface earlier work on the effects of first aid in Canada and the UK from the 1970s (Atherley et al., 1973; McKenna, Stephen P., 1978; McKenna, S. P. & Hale, 1981, 1982) and from Australia (Lingard, 2001, 2002).

We also welcome other graduate work covering the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare. Jain (2026) draws attention to the emergence of AI in workplace health and safety (WHS) – a topic that requires research in New Zealand. Knobel (2026) – a regular contributor – comments on the impact of artificial intelligence on people who are neurodiverse.

A long-running issue in New Zealand is the emphasis on compensation and treatment while prevention has a lower priority. Kemper (2026) uses ACC data to clearly show how this relates to noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL). Are we seeing too much enforcement action on critical and other risks with obvious consequences and insufficient attention to chronic causes of illhealth such as NIHL?

Psychosocial risks in the workplace can lead to suicides (Workplace Health Expert Committee, 2022). Clarry and Sutherland (2026) provide an informed review of a recent British Standard, BS 30480 (BS30480, 2025), that is open access and worth downloading, reading and responding to.

Artificial intelligence

Finally, the Journal will welcome submission of articles on artificial intelligence and its effects on workplace health and safety. Hallucination of references has been found in cases before the courts and academic writing as well as the routine summaries found in online searches. Health and safety practitioners and professionals may be tempted to use AI to research solutions without fully checking their sources.

Submissions to the journal must be supported by sources the Editorial Board can find and review. This editorial is fully supported by such references, many of which are open access.

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