



## The New Zealand Health and Safety System in 2024

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### Guest Editor

Welcome to the second edition of the New Zealand Journal of Health and Safety Practice. The first edition explored issues relevant to health and safety practice in 2024. This edition's theme is the New Zealand workplace health and safety system. It appears as a response to the Coalition Government's proposed "Reform [of] health and safety law and regulation" (Luxon & Seymour, 2023, p. 5). This has led to a "Major health and safety consultation" (Van Velden, 2024).

Our authors were invited to write about the origins of UK legislation from which our Health and Safety at Work Act (HSWA) was derived, and we are taken from the early 1800s (Brabant, 2024) to the tragedy of Pike River. Have we made progress following the work of the Independent Taskforce (Cosman, 2024)?

Three authors point to variations in sentencing between New Zealand and other countries under health and safety legislation (Lill, 2024) and ask whether "recklessness" in the HSWA needs to be reconsidered (Nicholson & Wray, 2024), and whether New Zealand needs the proposed corporate manslaughter Bill (Belich & Callinan, 2024).

Some key stakeholders were asked for comment on the current health and safety system and legislation and we received strong arguments from the business leaders' forum (Barton & Beaglehole, 2024), the Institute of Directors (Beatson & Watson, 2024), and the trade union movement (Bourne, 2024). The NZISM provided early results of its online survey of members and others (Sissons, 2024).

Memberships of the health and safety professions have been growing (as reported in another editorial by Presland) and, representing the next generation of health and safety practitioners, we welcome two articles written by postgraduate students at Victoria University of Wellington examining biorisk (Morris, 2024) and its management in laboratories and failures of health and safety auditing (Wassenaar, 2024).

These articles give a broad spectrum of informed comments and ideas for improvement. They are rounded off by a review of some of the components that are missing in our health and safety system (Peace, 2024).

Thanks to the authors for their hard work, the important work of our anonymous reviewers and the editorial team. Our special thanks to Sharon Murdoch and Stuff for their kind permission to publish the cartoon in Mike Cosman's article.

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