



# SA News

Volume 6, Issue 2

February 2009

## AMCA SA to offer Rehabilitation and return to work coordinator service to members:

The AMCA SA Executive Committee is currently finalising a new service which members may subscribe to, so as to be compliant with OH&S Legislation requirements for rehabilitation and return work management of injured workers.

The new changes to WorkCover legislation include changes to –

- Provisional liability
- The waiver of the employer excess
- Rehabilitation and Return to Coordinators
- Removal of the arbitration from the dispute resolution process

The change with the most impact will be the requirement for enterprises with 30 or more employees (including casual employees and counted on a head count basis not on an FTE basis) must employ / train a person to manage rehabilitation and return to work coordination.

The Coordinator must be in place by the 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2009.

Training will be required and will run from one day to three days dependent on the risk profile of the industry, levy rates of less than 4.5% will only require one days training.

The proposed AMCA SA Service would offer a Group Cover, so that one person would be trained and instructed to manage the OH&S rehabilitation and return to work functions and each subscribing enterprise could use the service on an as needs basis.

Expressions of interest for this service will be sent out soon.

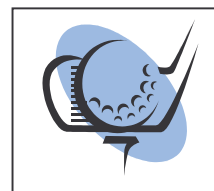
## ‘Modern’ Awards draft handed down by AIRC:

The Australian Industrial Relations Commission (AIRC) issued draft ‘modern’ awards, including a “Plumbing and Fire Sprinklers Contracting Industry and Occupational Award 2010”. This will serve to protect the plumbing trade and means that the mechanical services industry would not be subsumed into a national building and construction award.

Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Mechanics and duct erectors coverage is yet to be finalised, however there may be provision under the Electrical Modern Award and the Manufacturing and Associated Industries and Occupations Awards 2010. AMCA will make a further submission to the AIRC, in late February, with the Commission making its final determinations in April.

## Tariffs on Imported Chillers

Dalkia Technical Services (and subsequently other major importing companies) wrote to the industry concerning the Tariff Concession Order (TCO) which affords the industry a reduction in tariffs for imported chillers. In the letter Dalkia advised that a ‘third party’ had made an application to Customs on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008 to revoke the TCO. In the event the TCO is revoked a duty impost will apply to all imported chillers that commenced transit to Australia on or after 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008.



## AMCA Golf Day 2009 Monday, 4 May 2009

Put this date in your diary: Planning is underway for this annual event.

We are back at the Kooyonga Golf Club this year and as you may be aware the club rooms have undergone a complete upgrade, so things should be better than ever.

Newsletter 1

A journal of the **AIR CONDITIONING and MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION of SA INCORPORATED**  
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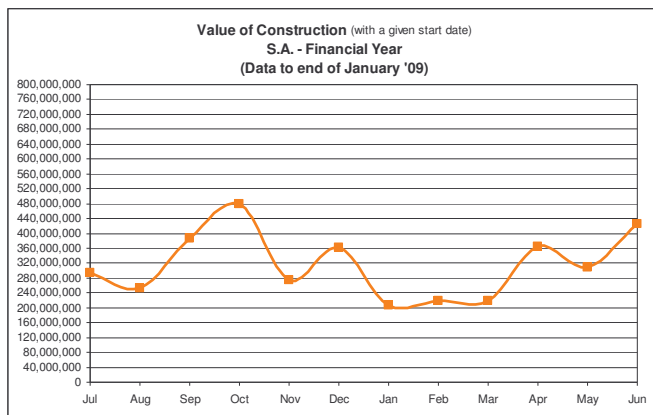
## AMCA SA Industry Dinner: *CORRECTION – date*

Last month we indicated that the AMCA dinner was in May – not true.

PLEASE put this date in your diary **Friday, 17 JULY 2009.**

The dinner invitations will be sent to you closer to the date, but in the mean time start getting together your list of guests to attend the function.

## Construction Activity Report: Feb '09:



With over \$900,000,000 worth of projects reported on in the January data (covering start dates from April '09 through to late 2011), 510,000,000 was attributed to two office tower in the city, a housing and community centre in Mt. Gambier and retirement units development in Wayville. In the same report over \$152,000,000 worth of projects were put back between three and 12 months.

What was positive was that April has picked up, resulting in a smoothing of the data. This change was in part due to the correction of data entry and new work registered, however there is at least one job in the current data, which will be delayed that will see the volumes of the work starting in this month come back down as much as \$100,000,000 – in construction value.

When compared with last month's data, the trend line shows some upward movement as we work through to July. After July the forecasting value of the data becomes unstable and should not be relied on as significant in activity trends.

In that section of the project data, that indicates the stage of the development (given it has been designated a prescribed start date) e.g. - "Design", "Tender", "Post Tender", "Builder Appointed", "Construction", a much larger component of the work is listed as under "Construction" rather than in the "Design" stage.

The number of registrations in the January '09 data are at 88, with an overall project value of \$960,000,000, as against 53 registrations in January '08, with a value of approx. \$616,000,000.



Our Fund Raising Committee met in February.

Apart from our fund raising that will be included in this year's AMCA SA Golf Day (Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May) and the AMCA SA Annual Dinner (Friday 17 July), we will be running a Car Observation (Ramble) from Adelaide to Birdwood, followed by a catered BBQ Lunch.

The date of the **Car Observation Ramble** is **Sunday, 24 May commencing at 10:00 a.m.**

We will send more information as we draw closer to the event to determine how many of your family and friends will be attending, for catering purposes.

## SECURING APPRENTICESHIPS AND TRAINEESHIPS

The Government's \$145.6 million *Securing Apprenticeships and Traineeships* initiative supports out-of-trade apprentices and trainees to remain connected to the workforce and to maintain their investment in training. The initiative also increases the national skills base through successful completion of apprenticeship and traineeship training.

The *Securing Apprenticeships and Traineeships* payments, provides financial support to employers who take on out-of-trade apprentices and trainees, or who successfully complete apprentices or trainees, at the Certificate III or IV level in skills shortage trades, or in selected Diploma or Advanced Diploma level qualifications.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

### **How much are the *Securing Apprenticeships and Traineeships* payments? When and how will it be paid?**

- The *Securing Apprenticeships and Traineeships* payments may provide eligible employers with up to an additional \$2,800. This would comprise a wage subsidy of \$150 per week paid at the twelve week point after recommencement and an additional completion payment of \$1,000 paid on successful completion.
- The *Securing Apprenticeships and Traineeships* wage subsidy will be available to employers, including Group Training Organisations, who recommence an eligible out-of-trade apprentice or trainee on or after 1 January 2009.
- The *Securing Apprenticeships and Traineeships* completion payment will be available to employers, including Group Training Organisations, who successfully complete an eligible apprentice or trainee on or after 1 January 2009.
- Payments will be made through Australian Apprenticeships Centres and will be available for two years until 31 December 2010.

### **What are out-of-trade apprentices and trainees?**

- Out-of-trade apprentices and trainees are former apprentices and trainees who did not successfully complete their apprenticeships or traineeships due to being "laid off" by their employers.

### **What qualifications at the Certificate III/IV level are eligible for the new payment?**

- Qualifications at the Certificate III/IV leading to an occupation in skills shortage are eligible. Occupations in skills shortage are listed on the National Skills Needs List.

For more information about the National Skills Needs List please call the Skilling Australia information service on 13 38 73 or visit the Australian Apprenticeships website at [www.australia.gov.au/australianapprenticeships](http://www.australia.gov.au/australianapprenticeships).

For more information give us a call at the AMCA SA.

## SENATE HEARINGS ON FAIR WORK BILL

The Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee heard evidence in mid February on the Government's *Fair Work Bill 2008*.

The principal areas of concern for employers are:

- Significantly increased costs under new awards and legislated employment standards;
- New Good Faith Bargaining orders and non or lowly-unionised businesses being pressured to concede union claims for higher wages and conditions beyond legal standards;
- The introduction of pay obligations over and above award minimums, secured by unions through multi-employer bargaining (the so called low paid bargaining stream);
- Unions pursuing arbitration in excess of established community standards, increasing labour costs for employers;
- Expanded capacity for trade unions to enter workplaces (right of entry), and inspect the personal records of employees who choose not to join trade unions;
- Potentially complex tests for the approval of agreements;
- Reintroducing unfair dismissal laws for small business, and complicating redundancies and their exemption from unfair dismissal laws;
- Greater exposure to complex and costly litigation, including injunctions stopping restructuring and dismissal and complicated adverse actions claims; and
- The introduction of new rules on the transfer of business ownership.

Some of these changes were foreshadowed by the ALP in the election campaign but others were not. The key test for any change to the system should be the effect on work and workplaces, and on the capacity to maintain employment, especially in the current economic climate.

## Employers, stand up and have your say about skills!

Around 25 000 businesses across Australia will be contacted in coming weeks to measure how they meet their skill needs.

Managed by the National Centre for Vocational Education Research (NCVER), the *Survey of Australian Employers* will help shape future training. Tom Karmel, Managing Director, NCVER said the survey seeks to collect information from employers across Australia about how they ensure their employees have the right skills for their jobs.

"Participation is voluntary, but I strongly encourage those companies that we contact to contribute," Dr Karmel said.

"It is important that the survey results represent all employers. The more responses we get the clearer the picture we will have of the skill needs of Australian businesses and how they use training to meet those needs."

Information from the survey will be used to:

- Gauge how employers rate the skill levels of their employees
- Gain a greater understanding of whether the VET sector is meeting the needs of industry
- Monitor how employers use training and what they think of it

Businesses are randomly selected from the Australian Business Register and the Wallis Consulting Group will conduct telephone interviews between March and May of this year.

The *Survey of Australian Employers* is conducted on behalf of the Australian, state and territory governments. Results from the survey will be published on NCVER's website in late 2009 in *Employers' use and views of the VET system*.

Results from the past two surveys (2007 and 2005) are available from NCVER's website: <http://www.ncver.edu.au/statistic/21066.html>

**TRAINING:** John Pilley Two Day Seminar Delayed – to April 22 & 23.

Due to other commitments, the Contract Law for Senior Construction and Admin Staff and the day two seminar for On Site Supervisors have been delayed. Registration information will be circulated closer to the date.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### RDOs:

#### 38 HOUR WEEK - ROSTER:

RDO 3	-	10 Mar
RDO 4	-	9 Apr
RDO 5	-	11 May

#### 36 HOUR WEEK - ROSTERS:

LDO 3	-	11 Mar
LDO 4	-	14 Apr
LDO 5	-	25 May

Members should check with individual site owners and their contractual provisions.

### Executive Meetings:

(usually 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the Month)

-	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar @	2:00 p.m
-	7 <sup>th</sup> Apr @	3:00 p.m.

### General Meetings:

(following on from the Executive meeting every third month, Tuesday @ 5:00 p.m.)

-	3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	4:00 p.m
-	2 <sup>nd</sup> Jun	4:00 p.m

NOTE change of Time

### Air Conditioning Services Group (ASG) Meetings:

(bi-monthly meetings commencing 7:30 a.m.)

-	15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	8:00 a.m
-	17 <sup>th</sup> Jun	8:00 a.m

### Associate Members Meetings:

(bi-monthly meetings commencing @ 4:00 p.m.)

-	16 <sup>th</sup> Apr	4:00 p.m
-	18 <sup>th</sup> Jun	4:00 p.m

### Women in Air Conditioning :

(monthly meetings commencing @ 3:30 p.m.)

-	16 <sup>th</sup> Mar	3:30 p.m
-	20 <sup>th</sup> Apr	3:30 p.m
-	18 <sup>th</sup> May	3:30 P.M

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S.A.M. Airconditioning Pty Ltd.,  
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**Associate Members:**

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Air Con Serve Pty Ltd  
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Alerton Australia  
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