

Media Release

Monday 15th May, 2006

KINGAROY HEALTH AND SAFETY WORKSHOP FOR SMALL BUSINESS

Small business operators in the Kingaroy region are invited to attend a workplace health and safety workshop on Monday the 29th May from 6 -9 pm at the South Burnett Enterprise Centre, 6 Cornish Street, Kingaroy.

Small Business Minister Chris Cummins said the Beattie Government was delivering the workshop, *Managing Workplace Health and Safety*, to help local people implement effective health and safety procedures within their businesses.

"The workshop, presented by a Small Business Advisor from Workplace Health and Safety Queensland, costs \$27.50 and will include refreshments," he said.

"Workplace injury and illness costs Queensland \$4.7 billion a year.

"More than 85,000 work-related injuries are reported in Queensland each year and can be very costly for business when you factor in the disruption to the workplace, reduced productivity, added costs and the hassle of rehiring, possible prosecution, loss of reputation, fines and increased workers' compensation premiums."

Mr Cummins said the simplest way for employers to prevent injuries in their workplaces was to develop a risk management plan for safety hazards and risks.

"Businesses that champion safety in their workplaces benefit directly through reduced costs and improved business performance," he said.

"Workers who see their employers are serious about safety in the workplace will be more eager to adopt safe work practices and make safety a priority."

Mr Cummins said participants in the *Managing Workplace Health and Safety* workshop would learn:

- To identify and understand their obligations as an employer;
- Specific workplace health and safety requirements;
- To identify risk and hazards in the workplace; and,
- To develop a workplace health and safety action plan for their business.

To book for this workshop, or to find out about workshops scheduled for later in the year, telephone the State Development Centre Maryborough on (07) 4121 1780 or go online at www.sd.qld.gov.au/maryborough.