

WorkCover Launches Small Business Rebate Program

1 March 2012

WorkCover NSW today launched a new program to make small businesses safer.

WorkCover's Small Business Rebate Program offers rebates of up to \$500 to help small business owners and sole traders purchase and install safety improvements.

General Manager of WorkCover's Work Health and Safety Division, John Watson, said the Program would help small businesses implement solutions to workplace safety problems.

"Small businesses owners know that a safe business is a sustainable and more competitive one," Mr Watson said.

"The Small Business Rebate Program will help more NSW small businesses implement safety improvements, leading to safer workplaces and reductions in injury and illness rates across the State.

"The Program covers a broad range of safety solutions, providing small businesses with the flexibility to fix specific risks in their workplaces while focusing on solutions to the most common risks in NSW workplaces; manual handling, slips, trips and falls, injuries from moving objects, chemical and hazardous goods and hazardous noise."

The Small Business Rebate Program aligns with WorkCover's flagship programs which aim to improve health and safety in the State's highest risk industries.

The Small Business Rebate Program is open to NSW small business owners and sole traders with 0-20 full-time employees or equivalent and replaces the Safety Solutions Rebate Program. To be eligible for a rebate, small businesses must attend a WorkCover safety workshop, webinar, program, event or receive a workplace advisory visit. Applications must be lodged within six months of attending a WorkCover event with rebates provided after the purchase or implementation of an eligible safety improvement.

Mr Watson said the Small Business Rebate Program enabled small businesses to make safety improvements that they otherwise might not have been able to afford.

"Despite NSW's strong performance during the Global Financial Crisis, many small businesses continue to do it tough," he said.

"WorkCover recognises that finding money for safety improvements can be a challenge.

"Thanks to the Small Business Rebate Program more NSW small businesses will be better able to improve safety, resulting in more workers returning home safely at the end of the working day."

For more information on the Small Business Rebate Program and a list of eligible safety solutions, call WorkCover NSW on 13 10 50 or visit www.workcover.nsw.gov.au

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