

H&S Issues

During the past decade there has been an increasing focus on Occupation Health and Safety Issues—and with good cause. The responsibility of an organisation to provide a safe environment for its workers and community is recognised and acknowledged as important.

Organisations are required to establish a procedure of careful monitoring and documentation to track the process. Relevant safety checklists are developed; and supervisors appointed—sometimes as a full-time paid position. All staff members are required to maintain their area to safe standards. Employees are delegated to check certain areas on a regular basis and report any potential hazards. They are also required to add their signature and the date to validate the document. Checks are made regularly and frequently—and documented. OH&S becomes part of the inspections of the organisation during the accreditation process.

This focus is also necessary for the safety of our school communities. Every teacher recognises the responsibility of having other people's precious

children in their 'duty of care'. This responsibility is acknowledged and supported by the school with appropriate resources and time (admittedly, not always as well resourced as we would like). The response—the OH&S process—is intentional. We dare not leave it to chance. Neither do we take it lightly. Issues are addressed promptly and efficiently.

Consider this statement, "The Eternal Health and Safety of our children is our highest priority". Evaluate the intentionality and the time, effort and resources that are expended in addressing Occupation Health & Safety issues at your school. Now compare it with how well your school addresses Eternal Health & Safety issues? Which emerges as a priority?

How much greater is the Eternal Health and Safety of our children? While OH&S is essential, EH&S is our core business. How intentional are we in ensuring that these issues are addressed...and addressed frequently? How long is it since your staff did an EH&S check of your school environment? Do we give EH&S issues as much attention and careful monitoring as we do OH&S issues? **TEACH**

EH&S issues are a joint initiative between the Adventist Schools Australia Curriculum Unit and Avondale College.