

# Media Release

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Saturday, 25 July 2009

## **Tasmanian unions welcome occupational health & safety initiative**

Tasmanian unions today welcomed the announcement by Workplace Relations Minister, Lisa Singh that she will take a proposal to Cabinet to allow union right of entry to workplaces for occupational health and safety issues.

Unions play a major role in promoting the health, safety and welfare of workers and many unsafe work practices are only ever brought to light because of trade unions.

Secretary of Unions Tasmania, Simon Cocker said:

"Safety at work is core business for unions and it is important that we are able to support and assist workers who find themselves in dangerous situations at work."

"Right of entry to worksites for appropriately authorised union representatives exists in most other states and is an integral part of a working occupational health and safety system. "

"We have unacceptably high levels of workplace injury and death in this state and the minister is to be commended for taking this important step," said Mr Cocker.

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