



The Place To Be

# Media release

Geoff Howard MLA, Member for Ballarat East

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3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009

## **GEOFF HOWARD MP CALLS ON BALLARAT SAFETY HEROES**

Geoff Howard MP, Member for Ballarat East, today called on Ballarat workplace safety heroes to come forward and enter the 2009 WorkSafe Awards.

The awards recognise health and safety committees and representatives, workers, employers and companies who are making an outstanding commitment to workplace health and safety in Victoria.

Mr Howard said that Ballarat had been well represented in recent years.

“Companies such as UFS Dispensaries, Central Highlands Water and ASEMA International have led the way in the last few years and this year we want to continue the great representation that Ballarat has had in these prestigious awards.

“I encourage all Ballarat employers, big or small, and their workers to nominate their safety heroes.

“We know that employers and workers in Ballarat take workplace safety seriously and these awards are a great opportunity to acknowledge the hard work that has been completed in the last year.

“That includes everyone from Health and Safety representatives, those involved with OHS committees, to those who have come up with a solution to a risk that helps to make their workplace safer.”

Geoff Howard said that nominations close on the 24<sup>th</sup> April and the award winners will be announced on the 29<sup>th</sup> October during WorkSafe week.

“Because of the dramatic improvement in the number of workplace injuries Victoria has become the safest place to work in Australia.

“The reduction in the number of injuries has benefited not only the Victorian families who suffer when a loved one is injured but also employers who now benefit from the second lowest premium regime in Australia.”

The 2009 WorkSafe Awards have the following categories:

- **Health and Safety Representative of the Year**
- **Health and Safety Committee of the Year**
- **Best Design for Workplace Safety**
- **Best Health and Safety Initiative in a Small Business**
- **Best Solution for Preventing Musculoskeletal Disorders**
- **Best Solution to a Health and Safety Risk**
- **Best Strategy for Health and Safety Management**

Further information about the Worksafe Awards can be found online at [www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/awards](http://www.worksafe.vic.gov.au/awards) or by calling the Awards Coordinator, Juliana Pecar, on 03-8663 5033 or Sandy Ashton on 03-9641 1426.

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