



October 2010

PRESS RELEASE

Industry Association Endorses Training Resource

The Building Service Contractors Association (BSCAA) has endorsed a proposal by The Workplace Skills Unit at Swinburne TAFE in Victoria.

The Unit has received funding approval from the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), under the Workplace English Language and Literacy (WELL) Program, to develop an OH&S resource to support commercial cleaners.

Margaret Regan, Project Coordinator, Workplace Skills Unit at the Centre for Vocational Education and Training Practice at Swinburne University of Technology TAFE said, "Commercial cleaners often use heavy equipment, perform repetitive manual handling tasks and use and store chemicals which could cause serious injuries and long term health problems for themselves and others, if not used correctly."

"Many workers in this sector have had limited access to education and training and an ever increasing number come from overseas and have language and literacy barriers and are not aware of Australian safety laws and safe work practices. There is also a trend towards older workers entering this sector. There is a vital need for resources to support these cohorts of workers."

BSCAA Victoria President George Stamas said the Training Resource will be targeted at cleaners and will be a national Training Resource that provides information, strategies and contextualised activities on Occupational Health and Safety.

"The proposed Training Resource Pack will use actual workplace scenarios, practices and procedures and will consist of a DVD designed to provide basic workplace safety training to new workers with low level English language and literacy skills, as well as existing workers in need of a 'refresher' course."

"The DVD will be able to be used as an independent training resource or in conjunction with the instruction manual and be supported by information about adult learning principles, tips for assisting learners, ideas for assessment tasks, suggested answers for review questions," Mr Stamas said.

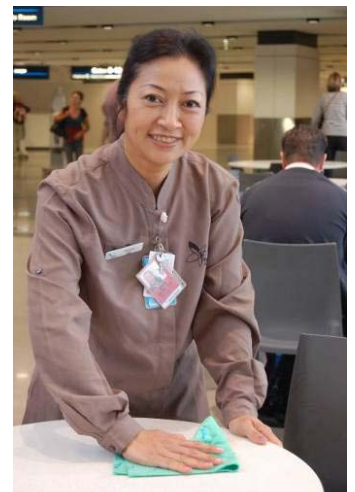


Photo courtesy of Assetlink

BSCAA National President Rodney Barnes said that when completed, information about this resource will be available to all BSCAA members through its knowledge portal on their national web site at www.bscaa.com.