

PROTECTING VICTORIAN WORKERS



Too many Victorian families have felt the pain of losing a loved one while they were at work, and know the feeling of injustice when negligence is penalised with a fine.

Everyone should come home from work each day, safe and sound, and yet up to 30 people are killed at work in Victoria every year.

That's why a re-elected Andrews Labor Government will create a new criminal offence of workplace manslaughter, with up to 20 years in jail for employers whose negligence leads to the death of an employee or member of the public.

SAVING LIVES

Every death at work is one death too many and the penalty must be a strong enough deterrent to make employers take workplace safety seriously, and to protect Victorian workers.

That's why a re-elected Andrews Labor Government will create a new criminal offence of workplace manslaughter in the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004.

The offence will apply if a worker dies, or is injured and later dies, as result of a company's negligent conduct. It will also apply if this negligence causes the death of an innocent member of the public.

The law covers both the corporate entity and individual senior officers or managers responsible, with fines of almost \$16 million for employers and up to 20 years jail for individuals.

The offence will not apply to senior officers who are volunteers, such as voluntary community board members.

This new law will send a very clear message that putting lives at risk in the workplace will not be tolerated.

GETTING IT RIGHT

WorkSafe will be responsible for investigating and prosecuting this new offence and it will be given the extra powers and resources it needs to do so.

This law will save lives so it's vital we get it right.

That's why a re-elected Labor Government will establish an Implementation Taskforce, including business and union representatives, to consult on the detail of the proposed laws.

Good employers have nothing to fear by these laws. And we hope these laws will never have to be used.

All Victorians deserve a workplace that is safe so they can come home to their loved ones at the end of each day – a re-elected Andrews Labor Government will help make sure they do.