



Forestry OneSafeGroup focuses on mental health first aid training

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As part of its ongoing commitment to safety, OneFortyOne and its contractor partners in the OneSafeGroup are continuing their work improving safety across the region's forestry industry, expanding their focus into mental health and wellbeing.

OneFortyOne's Emma-Kate Griffiths recently organised an accredited St Johns 'Mental health first aid course' for Group members, teaching people how to provide initial support to adults who are developing a mental illness or experiencing a mental health crisis.

"We know that mental health has taken over physical injury as the largest cause of absences from work in Australia, and so it was important to all the companies in the OneSafeGroup to prioritise mental health training in the same way we train our people in first aid", Mrs Griffiths said.

Local harvesting company, Harvestco, was keen to participate and support the mental health of its workers. Safety Officer, Tim Stapleton said "At Harvestco, we want to actively influence the positive mental health of our team, and this training provided the perfect opportunity for me to learn how to recognise and respond appropriately to signs of mental illness."

Chipping and Logging contractor LV Dohnt & Co were also delighted to take part in the training, sending 7 of their team to participate with plans to send all their supervisors and team leaders in the future.

LV Dohnt's Alicia Geue said "We know how important mental health awareness is. Unfortunately, we make judgements on the unknown and I personally misunderstood so much about this topic, but because I was fortunate enough to participate in the course I am now more prepared to deal with my own emotions and behaviours, and those around me."

LV Dohnt's WHS and Compliance Manager John Bruttomesso thanked OFO for organising the training, finding the course exceptional in helping to understand mental health illness.

"I am confident that I now have the tools to identify persons that could be affected by this illness, and my approach would definitely be different at home and my workplace as a result of the training", said Mr Bruttomesso.

The nationally recognised OneSafeGroup was formed to foster collaboration and improve safety across the forestry industry and the wider Green Triangle region.

"We know through our industry collaborating in all aspects of safety, physical and mental health and wellbeing, our people can have a positive impact at work and in the wider community", said OFO's Emma-Kate Griffiths.

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About the OneSafeGroup

The Group was formed in 2016 by OneFortyOne Plantations and its seven major operational contractors as a collaborative contractor safety forum. Its aim is to foster collaboration and alignment to improve safety across the supply chain, the forestry industry and the Green Triangle communities in which the group members operate in.

The original group members were forest owner (OneFortyOne Plantations); harvesting contractors (Harvestco), haulage contractors (Scheidl), harvesting & haulage contractors (KC & MR Boulton, Tabeel Trading, Moreland Holdings, Fennell Forestry) and a log marshalling contractor (ISO).

In September 2017 the group was awarded the 2017 Australian Forest Products Association (AFPA) Forest Industry Innovation Award for Innovation in Safety, presented by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

The Group has now expanded its membership, and the following companies are also members:

LV Dohnt & Co, Reid Logging, Kettle Logging, Tasman Trading, Bonojero, Aldo Circelli, A&M Contracting, Clark Grading, Gildera Forestry Services, GPG Fencing, Helifarm, K&G Plantation Maintenance Services, Kennedy Plantation Services, MGL Contracting, Vickery Bros, Dirtfert, Gambier Earth Movers, Teagle Contracting and WFC Contracting.



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