

Employer
Success

Resources & Infrastructure

THIESS - SUPPORTING SAFE COMMUNITIES



Thiess

Industry: Mining and Construction

Location: Queensland

No. of Employees:
More than 3000
(Queensland)

www.thiess.com.au

www.thiess.com.au/careers

Mackay Whitsunday Safe Communities (MWSC)

Thiess has a history of supporting local initiatives and contributing to the development of communities from which they depend and interact.

Thiess' commitment to the local area, focuses on the development of healthier, smarter and more sustainable communities.

"The Passport to Safety program addresses the alarming rate at which young people in the workplace injure themselves," said Danny McCarthy, Thiess Mining Area Manager.

Passport to Safety

Thiess partnered with Mackay Whitsunday Safe Communities (MWSC) to facilitate and deliver Queensland's first *Passport to Safety* program.

Over 50% of Queensland's senior students are already in the workforce and it has been estimated by the Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit that these workers are injured at twice the rate of other workers.

Both Thiess and the MWSC believe that this is unacceptable and are dedicated to the delivery of this program to make a difference in the development of safer communities.

By the end of 2008 approximately 2000 of Mackay's senior high school students will have received their *Passport to Safety* certificate.

Teaching the essentials of workplace health and safety

The *Passport to Safety* program originated in Canada and was designed to help eliminate needless injuries and preventable deaths of young workers.

Targeted at high school students, the program is presented in an online forum and aims to educate students about their basic rights and responsibility in the workplace.

The six module and seminar program provides a foundation on which to build the skills required to be a safer and healthier worker.

Students also have an opportunity to talk with health and safety professionals about the practical application of workplace safety and how to identify, rectify and prevent safety hazards.

Working together

The successful delivery of *Passport to Safety* stems from the strong relationship between Thiess and MWSC, which sees the pooling of corporate and community volunteer resources to develop a safer community.



**Passport to Safety
Australia**

www.passporttosafety.com/australia

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An Australian Government Initiative



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AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY
GROUP

Helping to make Australia a safe country

The Australian Safe Communities Foundation (ASCF) is a national, not-for-profit organisation with a vision to make Australia the safest country in the world in which to live, learn, work, travel and play - one community at a time.

The Foundation embraces the World Health Organisation's Safe Communities approach, which is operating in Australia and many countries around the world. Mackay/Whitsunday is a member of the international network.

Through the international Safe Communities network, ASCF has established a strong relationship with the Safe Communities Foundation Canada.

There are currently 2 different pilot programs underway - one in Mackay and a larger one in South Australia which has been delivered to 50 schools and 7000 students.

The South Australia pilot is being delivered via SafeWork South Australia. A working group is led by South Australia Unions and includes Business South Australia and the education and youth sectors.

What does the Passport to Safety Program involve?

The *Passport to Safety* program is currently offered to students at Mackay State High School, Pioneer State High School and North Mackay State High School. It includes:

- A 70 minute Occupational Health and Safety (OH&S) multimedia seminar designed and conducted by members of the OH&S Working Group. The seminars encourage student participation and include a strong element of peer education.
- *Passport to Safety* is a web-based OH&S training program designed to raise the awareness of teenagers about the personal importance of safe work practice and to teach hazard identification and the basic rights and responsibilities of employees to ensure a safe working environment.
- Students work through the modules at their own pace. Modules include: employer responsibilities, Worker Rights and Responsibilities, the Hazardous Substances Information System (HSIS), and workplace injuries.

Students who successfully complete the program are presented with a Passport to Safety Certificate.

Key success factors

The collaboration has been successful due to a shared objective to work together to get the message about Workplace Health and Safety out into schools.

Support was provided by the following organisations:

- Australian Safe Communities Foundation
- Thiess
- Education Queensland
- Department of Industrial Relations QLD
- TAFE Mackay
- James Cook University
- Queensland Health
- G & S Engineering

Thiess' support allowed the *Passport to Safety* website to be offered free of charge to public schools in the Mackay Whitsunday region.

Jointly developed resources and a school OH&S Seminar were also offered.

For more information:

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