

This issue of *AUSA POST* prepares us for the AVCC OHS Conference to be held at the University of Adelaide from 5-8 July, 2005. All AUSA members are encouraged to participate in this conference – the most relevant OHS conference for the tertiary education sector in Australasia.

CONFERENCE

A reminder from the Conference Organising Committee that July is fast approaching and the deadline for submission of abstracts is FRIDAY 1 April.

Participation in the conference does not just mean sitting back and taking it all in. It means preparing and presenting relevant papers that will be of interest to other members. All experienced AUSA members should have something to offer.

Please submit the abstract (or at least confirm your topic) for any paper you wish to present as soon as possible to assist with scheduling. Go to the conference website at: <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/hr/ohs/conference/>

Click on "Abstracts and Papers" on the side menu, for further information. Remember, you need to submit before the deadline to be eligible for the prizes!

Although we have had some suggested topics or themes for papers (see <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/hr/ohs/conference/subthemes/index.html>) please feel free to consider any OH&S related topic that you feel will be of interest to other members.

Our hosts assure us that the flood water has subsided at Adelaide Uni, the floors are mopped and they are ready to present an interesting and thought-provoking series of papers and discussions over the 3 days in July.

BENCHMARKING

Twenty-three Australian and one New Zealand University participated in the AUSA Positive Performance Indicator (PPI) benchmarking project conducted in 2004. This was a self assessment survey (with a total of 30 questions) based on AS/NZS 4801:2001 'Occupational health and safety management systems - specifications with guidance for use' and incorporated the five sections of policy, planning, implementation, measurement and evaluation and management review.

Participating Universities were provided with the average scores from their State and from the overall survey to compare with their own returns.

The highest scored question was to do with the organisational OHS policy and to which level the accountability, responsibility and authority statements were aimed at. The lowest scored question was to do with what percentage of managers and supervisors who have completed OHS responsibility training.

The four leading score Universities (in alphabetical order were): Flinders, Queensland University of Technology, University of Technology Sydney and Western Sydney.

Further results from this survey and opportunities to explore best practice within the higher education sector will be provided at the Adelaide AUSA AVCC Conference, 5-8 July, 2005.

AGM and Elections

The AUSA Annual General Meeting and election of office bearers will coincide with the Adelaide conference. More information will be provided in the next edition of *AUSA POST*.

AUSA WEBSITE

Visit the AUSA website for information about AUSA and membership. <http://www.ehs.uts.edu.au/AUSA/>