



## WorkSafe Victoria and Manual Handling

As we advised, earlier last week, WorkSafe Victoria is conducting an intervention into the Victoria Police Force (the Force) in an attempt to reduce the Force's high number of 'manual handling' injuries. This intervention has the potential to have a significant impact on the Force as manual handling encompasses all activities from arresting/restraining an offender to typing in a Muster Room, and from OSTT to sitting in a vehicle.

As a result, WorkSafe has now decided to establish a focus group of HSRs to also assist it in its deliberations. If you wish to participate in this focus group please advise the Association's OHS Officer, no later than 4pm Friday 11 February 2011, via email at [general@tpav.org.au](mailto:general@tpav.org.au) or by phoning (03) 9468 2600.

## Manual Handling

The Police Association and the Force have been invited to participate in a new working group established by WorkSafe Victoria. WorkSafe Victoria wrote to The Police Association and the Force advising that the Victoria Police Working Group had been established to help Victoria Police reduce its incidence of musculoskeletal injuries by focusing on harm caused by manual handling activities.

The aim of the working group is to:

- Identify and prioritise the underlying causes of musculoskeletal injuries consequent to activities within Victoria Police.
- Empower, assist and encourage all those within Victoria Police who have rights and responsibilities under occupational health and safety laws to exercise those rights and discharge those responsibilities fully, responsibly and effectively.
- Provide leadership in the development and dissemination of information for the purpose of improving Victoria Police capability to identify and eliminate or better manage manual handling harm.

HSRs who would like some input can call the Association's OHS Officer on (03)9468 2600 or email [general@tpav.org.au](mailto:general@tpav.org.au). Alternatively you can contact any of Victoria Police Force's OHS Consultants. The WorkSafe Victoria sponsored meetings will take place for the next six months. The Association, along with the Force, will keep you up to date with the progress at the meetings.

GREG DAVIES  
Secretary