



AAco held a youth roundtable at Wrotham Park Station on 10 June 2005 with the objective of

“Advancing the partnership for employers and employees in providing safe rural workplaces”.

The Youth Roundtable was designed to benefit employees and the community through enhancing industry awareness of workplace health and safety issues, especially as they apply to younger employees and achieving greater overall compliance with workplace health and safety laws

The roundtable was facilitated by Garry (Gus) Saunders, Senior Consultant NSCA (National Safety Council of Australia). Participants included young employees from Wrotham Park Station, North Australian Helicopters, Wrotham Park Lodge and industry representation from FarmSafe and Workplace Health and Safety QLD.

The participants of the Youth Roundtable have submitted the following recommendations to the Minister for Industrial Relations:

Recommendation 1:

Australian Standard 4801, Safety Management System be recognised as the benchmark for safety in the rural industry and that the rural industry be encouraged by industry leaders and representative bodies working with government to strive to achieve compliance with AS4801 as a means of effectively managing safety in the rural industry.

Recommendation 2:

That the recent findings of the FarmSafe survey into rural industry practices which identified that risk assessment was not a feature of safety in the rural industry, be acted upon and that documented risk assessments be recognised throughout the rural industry as an integral tool in achieving safe management practices in the rural industry.

Recommendation 3:

That different sectors of the rural industry investigate and identify their key safety risks and be pro-active in addressing those risks. That Australian Standard 1885, Injury and Disease Recording be considered by the rural industry as the standard for reporting and measuring injury and disease.

Recommendation 4:

That representatives of different sectors of the rural industry work together to achieve relevant Codes of Practice for safe management practices in their operations.

Recommendation 5:

That a behavioural approach to safety be adopted to guide change processes in regard to safety in the rural industry and that features of this behavioural change should include:

- All persons within the industry accepting responsibility for safety
- Leaders operating in a consistent and committed way toward safety