

# Building and Construction Industry Victoria

## Rapid Industry Guidance on Coronavirus (COVID-19)

**(Release: 22 April 2020)**

A Rapid Industry Guidance (RIG) service is now available to all stakeholders for responding to issues associated with coronavirus (COVID-19) in the Building and Construction Industry in Victoria. This service has been launched in conjunction with an update of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidelines for the Building and Construction Industry Victoria – Version 3 released on 20 April.

Under the guidance of the Victorian Government, a COVID-19 Taskforce has been established for our industry. A dedicated Industry Liaison Role has been established to be the authoritative single point of contact to provide rapid guidance to industry parties for clarification or explanation of these Industry Guidelines.

The Taskforce comprises representatives from:

- Victorian Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) – Greg Stenton
- WorkSafe Victoria – Colin Radford
- Victorian Building Authority (VBA) – Sue Eddy
- Department of Premier and Cabinet (DPC) – Matt O'Connor
- Chair of Victorian Building Industry Disputes Panel – Peter Parkinson

Michael Paynter has been appointed to the role of Industry Liaison Officer, engaged by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Michael is an experienced consultant in the Building and Construction Industry and has a proven ability to communicate effectively with all stakeholders in the industry.

DHHS has also engaged respected Professor Malcolm Sim from Monash University to provide expert advice to the Taskforce in the field of occupational and environmental health.

Workers, unions, contractors, employers, industry associations and any participant in the industry can now ring for advice about such issues as hygiene standards, physical distancing, screening workers coming to site, use of personnel hoists and other practicalities of continuing to keep the Building and Construction Industry working safely.

A dedicated Call Centre has been established within the Victorian Building Authority which is accessed by calling the DHHS Coronavirus Hotline on 1800 675 398 and selecting Option 5. This will direct you to a specialist team at the Victorian Building Authority who will be able to provide assistance and advice. The specialist team will escalate matters to the Industry Liaison Officer (Michael Paynter) as necessary. The specialist team is operating under the auspices and guidance of the Task Force and Industry Liaison Officer. In certain circumstances, on site assistance may be made available to address specific situations.

These new services will help ensure the safety of workers and to maintain confidence in the Building and Construction Industry during these uncertain times, as it is essential that workplaces and jobs are kept safe, and the industry keeps working, safely.

**DHHS Coronavirus COVID-19 Hotline: 1800 675 398: Select Option 5**