



Welcome to the second issue of Seacare News. This newsletter replaces the former Seacare Authority Quarterly Report. The aim is to provide you with an overview of decisions of Seacare Authority meetings plus information on current Authority events, initiatives and products. Further information on all the topics contained in this newsletter is available from the Seacare website at [www.seacare.gov.au](http://www.seacare.gov.au). The Authority would welcome your comments on, and input to, Seacare News.

Geoff Gronow  
Chairperson

---

## OHS Awards Presentation – 3 April 2003

The Sea Safe-Work Awards, which will recognise seafarers and their employers who are leading the way in occupational health and safety are less than a week away – on **Thursday 3 April 2003**. This is your final opportunity to register.

The Hon Tony Abbott MP, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, will deliver the keynote address and present major awards.

Further information is available from the Seacare website at <https://www.seacare.gov.au/news/default.asp#SSWA>.

## OHS Conference – 3 April 2003 (afternoon)

An important aspect of the Seacare Authority's half day OHS conference which precedes the awards presentation will be the unveiling of an OHS Statement of Commitment to be signed by maritime employers.

A draft Statement of Commitment is currently under consideration by CEO's, Managing Directors and General Managers. The Statement aims to commit maritime employers to the OHS performance improvement targets set by the Seacare Authority for the maritime industry.

## Transfer of support for the Seacare Authority from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations to Comcare

The *Workplace Relations Legislation Amendment Act 2002* (WRLA Act) was passed by the Parliament on 11 December 2002. The WRLA Act amends the *Seafarers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1992* (Seafarers Act) and *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (SRC or Comcare Act) to require Comcare to provide the Seacare Authority with secretarial services and staffing resources to allow the Authority to perform its functions. Seacare Authority Secretariat staff have been co-located with Comcare since 1 July 2002.

The WRLA Act commences on a date to be proclaimed (yet to be determined) or if there is no earlier proclamation, on 12 June 2003.

## Manual Handling Guidance Note

The Seacare Authority's new *Guidance Note on Manual Handling and Body Stressing in the Australian Maritime Industry* has now been circulated to all sections of the industry. It is also available on the Seacare Authority website at [www.seacare.gov.au](http://www.seacare.gov.au). Additional hard copies are available by emailing a request to [seacare@comcare.gov.au](mailto:seacare@comcare.gov.au)

## Summary of outcomes from Seacare Authority meeting 45 – 19 February 2003

The Authority:

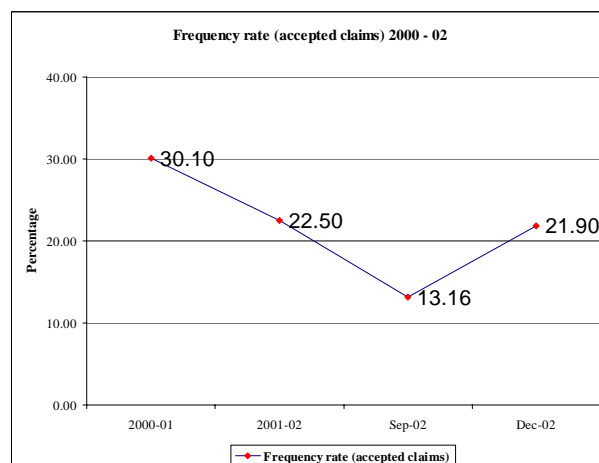
- agreed to advise the Minister that the levy rate should be maintained at \$53 per berth per quarter for the April to June 2003 quarter and that the current administrative arrangements for management of the safety net Fund remain in place until at least 30 June 2003;
- noted progress with preparation of a regulation under the *Occupational Health and Safety (Maritime Industry) Act 1993* to prohibit the use of chrysotile, crocidolite and amosite asbestos in the maritime industry – to take effect from 31 December 2003;
- agreed that stage two of the Authority's review of legislation commence at the May 2003 meeting of the Authority and noted that stage one priorities are under consideration by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations prior to it advising the Minister to enable a Bill to be prepared;
- endorsed a program and priorities for reviewing the applicability of all National Occupational Health and Safety Commission (NOHSC) OHS standards and codes of practice to the maritime industry; and
- agreed to the development of additional OHS performance indicators to improve reporting on OHS performance in the maritime industry.

## Seacare Authority statistics and performance reports – Sept & Dec quarters 2002-03

**Table 1: Claims data**

Claims data at end of quarter	Sep 02	Dec 02	2001-2002
Total claims reported to AMICA	32	36	164
Claims accepted	18	30	147
Claims accepted less property claims	31	NA	146
Claims rejected	2	0	12
Claims pending	12	6	5
Claims accepted – on duty	17	24	133
Claims accepted – off duty	0	3	10
Claims accepted – other (travel, study)	1	3	4

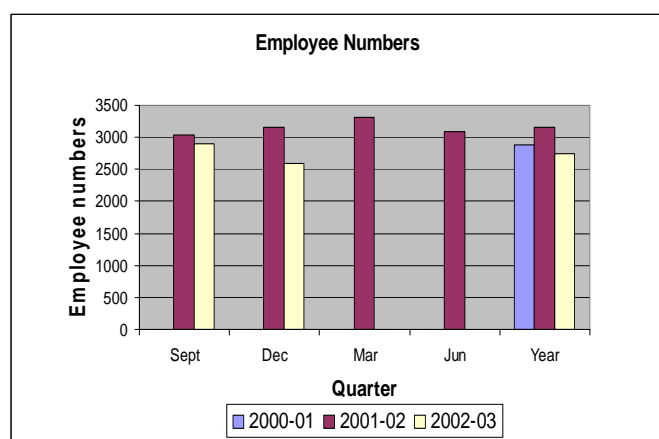
**Chart 1: Injury Frequency rate**



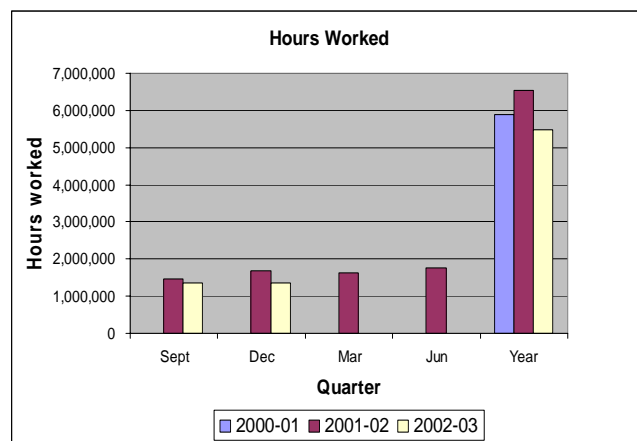
**Table 2: OHS Inspectorate activity**

	Sep 02	Dec 02	2001-02
Incidents reported to AMSA	19	15	56
Dangerous occurrences notified	1	2	5
Investigations of incidents	0	1	14
Improvement notices issued	0	0	3

**Chart 2: Employee numbers**



**Chart 3: Hours Worked**



Source: Seacare Authority

### Seacare Contacts

#### Members:

Mr Geoff Gronow	Chairperson
Mr Noel Swails	Deputy Chairperson
Mr Mal Hearnden	Employer member
Cpt Warwick Norman	Employer member
Mr Paddy Crumlin	Employee member
Mr Martin Byrne	Employee member
Mr Clive Davidson	Australian Maritime Safety Authority

#### Deputy Members

Mr Bob Evans	Deputy to Mr Clive Davidson
Mr Mick Doleman	Deputy to Mr Paddy Crumlin
Mr Trevor Griffett	Deputy to Cpt Warwick Norman
Mr John Flood	Deputy to Mr Mal Hearnden

#### Secretariat:

Rod Pickette	Manager
Leanne Yeates	Assistant Manager

#### Contact details

Phone: 02-62750070  
 Fax: 02-6275 0067  
 Email: [seacare@comcare.gov.au](mailto:seacare@comcare.gov.au)  
 Website: [www.seacare.gov.au](http://www.seacare.gov.au)  
 Address: GPO Box 9905  
 CANBERRA ACT 2601