

13 March 2024

Latest WA mining industry worker survey shows slow progress and the continued need to improve

A report released today by Curtin University's Centre for Transformative Work Design surveyed 2,550 workers across Western Australia's mining industry, with 60 workers interviewed one-on-one.

The Mental Awareness, Respect and Safety (MARS) landmark study is the fourth report in a series, completed in October 2023, focusing on workers experiences, attitudes, and behaviours in the mining industry.

A number of interview participants acknowledged that in the past few years, more attention has been paid to improving bullying and sexual harassment.

One worker surveyed commented that change in the industry has been noticeable, "you can just see the cultural change towards safety in the attitudes ... we're not putting up with the old school mentality anymore."

But the survey also shows there is still significant room for improvement.

"As an industry, we are continuing to make changes for the better.

"Our industry is under no illusion that there's still more to do" said AMEC Chief Executive Officer, Warren Pearce.

A comparison to the 2018 FIFO Study revealed a reduction from 31 per cent of WA mining workers reportedly witnessing bullying, compared to 22 per cent in this latest study.

With a clear challenge evident in the report of poor mental health and well-being struggles facing women and younger workers in the sector.

"Physical safety has been a core focus of the mining industry over many decades, but there is also a much stronger awareness and focus on mental health and well-being now."

AMEC acknowledges this important work, to learn more about the experiences of workers on the ground level. And in doing so, to recognise the changes in behaviours and attitudes that are still required to propel our industry into the future.

"This is another important step to ensure all workers feel safe and have an opportunity to thrive in their chosen profession" added Mr Pearce.

But by listening to those impacted and collectively continuing to improve the culture of the industry, it will be even more rewarding for everyone.

Mr Pearce concluded by saying, "There is no reason, or excuse, for a worker in the WA mining industry to have their physical or mental health and safety put at risk."

A link to the full report is available here: https://www.wa.gov.au/system/files/2024-03/mars_report_insights_20240312.pdf

AMEC MEDIA RELEASE



A link to the WA Government Media Release is available here:

<https://www.wa.gov.au/government/media-statements/Cook-Labor-Government/Workforce-safety-insights-revealed-in-latest-mine-worker-study-20240312>

ENDS –

*For further comment, please contact Ryan Rampling – National Manager of Media & Communications
– 0419 809 341 / ryan.rampling@amec.org.au*



Media enquiries to:
Ryan Rampling | Manager - Media & Communications
M: 0419 809 341 | E: ryan.rampling@amec.org.au
www.amec.org.au