



Australian High Commission
Solomon Islands

MEDIA RELEASE

SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU: EVERYONE, EVERY DAY GETS HOME SAFELY

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Australia's infrastructure program marks World Day for Safety and Health at Work (28 April) with a clear message: safety is about everyone getting home safely to their families.

This year's theme focuses on creating a healthy working environment and recognises that safety is not only about tools and rules, but also about how people think, feel and behave at work.

Health, Safety and Environment Officer for Australia's Solomon Islands Infrastructure Program, Zitinah Milcy Rotu, said safety on construction sites depends on good systems and personal responsibility.

"When safety procedures are not followed, people can get seriously hurt or even lose their lives," Ms Rotu said.

"That's why safety starts with each of us: wearing protective equipment, using harnesses and looking out for your team are all simple actions that save lives every day."

Ms Rotu said her motivation comes from knowing workers can return home safely. "What drives me is making sure workers go home safe to their families every day. Looking after yourself and your teammates is just as important as following the rules," she said.

Ms Netanya Tolinao is responsible for health, safety and the environment at Australia's Naha Birthing and Urban Health Centre project, which has employed 100's of local workers during its 18 month construction.

She says a strong safety culture also means looking after people's wellbeing.

“A safe workplace is where people feel comfortable, understand the risks and are not afraid to speak up,” Ms Tolinao said.

“When workers feel respected and supported, they are more likely to make safe choices.”

Worker safety is given a high priority on Australian-supported infrastructure sites around the country, especially since the majority of Australia’s infrastructure is delivered by Solomon Islanders.

World Day for Safety and Health at Work is observed globally on 28 April, led by the International Labour Organization. It aims to promote the prevention of workplace accidents, injuries and illnesses.

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PHOTOS:



Photo 1 - Zitinah Rotu (far left) ensures a high standard of safety is met on the construction site of the new Seghe Market, Morovo.



Photo 2 – Netania Tolinao reviews site safety plans at the Naha Birthing and Urban Health Centre project, helping to manage safe movement around active construction areas for both workers and the general public.



Photo 3 – Australia ensures all workers stay safe by wearing personal protective equipment like boots, gloves and ear wear.



Photo 4 – Safety at work ensures both workers and members of the public remain safe around construction sites.