

MEMBER NEWS

Edition: January 2018



Happy New Year and welcome to all our Members with the first edition of Member News for this year. We hope you have had a great start to 2018!

Member Survey

Members should have received the member survey link from EMRS, our partner in the survey.

If you haven't received the email please check your Email Trash file as we have been informed by some members that it may end up there.

We encourage all members to complete the survey as it will provide important information for the Committee as it plans for the future.

If anyone has any queries about the survey either contact our Executive Officer, Andrew Cameron, on 6343 2244, or **EMRS** on **62 111 222**.

PETskills Training

We are pleased to report that the Minister for Primary Industries has announced Skills Fund grants which will subsidise practical training through TasTAFE in the following areas:

1. Operate and Maintain Chainsaws
2. Operate Side-By-Side Utilities
3. Operate Tractors
4. Provide First Aid, and
5. Licence to Operate a Forklift.

These are subsidised courses available only to PET members and their employees. Places are limited so it will be a first in best dressed situation.

A separate training package for shearing shed workers was also announced.

For several years PET has pushed for subsidised training for Quad Bike safety, and ChemCert training. We are pleased to advise that these are now subsidised by the Government for all participants, recognising the importance of safety and upskilling in these two important areas.

PET has had a long-standing and successful partnership with TasTAFE. In announcing the funding the Minister stated that the funding is in line with the State Government's Agrivision 2050 Paper which identifies that the cost of farm injuries in Tasmania is unacceptably high.



Minister Rockcliff announcing the PET Skills training funding at Freer Farm.

Membership

Membership renewals are in the post and you should receive your 2018 membership application shortly.

As indicated in our last newsletter, all members will receive a copy of the Safe Farming Induction Handbook, together with a USB containing short induction videos in relevant areas, upon payment of their membership.

References

PET is often asked as to whether employers are required to provide a reference to an employee who is leaving.

Our recommendation is not to give a written reference as your idea of a good worker and a prospective employer's idea may vary. There was a notable legal case where an employer successfully sued a former employer for providing a false reference as to an employee's skills and capacity.

It is now more common to give a Statement of Service, a simple document that sets out when the employee started work, the duties they performed, and the date the employee ceased work.

PET can assist members in this regard, and all matters relating to the end of an employee's service.

It is now more common to give a Statement of Service, a simple document that sets out when the employee started work, the duties they performed, and the date the employee ceased work.

PET can assist members in this regard, and all matters relating to the end of an employee's service.

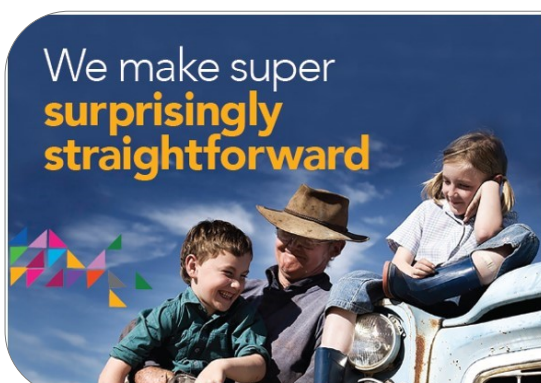


Public Holidays and Personal Leave

With a number of public holidays recently occurring many employers have employees who take "a sickie" on the day before or after. It is not uncommon for employers to query such absences.

The National Employment Standards do require an employee to advise that they will be absent as soon as is practicable, and indicate to the employer how long they expect to be absent. Many employers have policies regarding personal leave which cover such things as notice, evidence of illness, how many days of absence before a medical certificate is required, and special requirements for absences adjacent to public holidays.

PET can assist you in this regard and provide advice as to all leave entitlements for employees.



Contact your Regional Manager to find out how.

Nick Birt on 0458 000 745

Visit primesuper.com.au call 1800 675 839



Call 1800 675 839 for a Product Disclosure Statement. Prime Super (ABN 60 562 335 823, RN 1000276) is issued by Prime Super Pty Ltd (ABN 81 067 241 016, AFSL 219723, RSE L0000277).