

ABOUT PROFESSOR QUINLAN – IRSNSW PATRON’S LUNCH 2019

The patron’s lunch will feature the society's patron (The Hon Lance Wright QC) in conversation with Professor Michael Quinlan, Emeritus Professor of Industrial Relations at UNSW.

Professor Quinlan is an internationally regarded expert in occupational safety and in labour history. He is the author in these fields of many publications in book form and articles in learned journals. Notable publications include.

- “Ten Pathways to Death and Disaster - Learning from Fatal Incidents in Mines and Other High Hazard Workplaces” (2014)
- “The Origins of Worker Mobilisation: Australia 1788-1850” (2017 - Volume 2 in preparation)
- “Managing Occupational Health and Safety: A Multidisciplinary Approach” (various editions)
- The professor has also been commissioned to undertake and advise major inquiries into safety issues and industry disasters. These include
 - •Engagement as part of the independent investigation into the fatal rockfall at the Beaconsfield gold mine. Subsequent engagement by the Tasmanian government to undertake audits of the mine inspectorate (2006-7)
 - •Investigation and Report for the National Transport Commission on “Remuneration and safety in the Australian Heavy Vehicle Industry” (2008).
 - •Engagement to produce expert reports for the New Zealand Department of Labour following the Pike River mine disaster (2011). Subsequent appointment (2013) to the expert advisory group which oversaw the introduction of a new mine safety regulatory regime and then membership of the Extractive Industries Advisory Group, a body that advises the New Zealand OH&S authority on mine safety.

Professor Quinlan has also recently been involved in research on the effects on the deceased’s family of workplace death. See, for example, his co-authored article published in *Frontiers in Psychiatry* in August 2019: “Posttraumatic Stress Disorder, Depression, and Prolonged Grief Disorder in Families Bereaved by a Traumatic Workplace Death: The Need for Satisfactory Information and Support”

Areas to be dealt with in the conversation will include the professor's role in advising and assisting inquiries by coroners, governments and other public authorities into workplace deaths and other safety and health issues. This will include reference to the kinds of experience that he, as a highly experienced Industrial Relations and OH&S academic and practitioner, brings to such matters in the public sphere.

This will lead to a discussion as to how and why he came to write the important work "Ten Pathways to Death and Disaster ... "

He will also reflect upon how his experience in Industrial Relations (including its role in addressing inequality at work) and labour history inform his activities in work health and safety and also how public policy has suffered from failures in necessary breadth in perspective and historical context, including now maligned but significant past achievements that warrant re-examination.

Finally, Prof Quinlan will discuss recent research he and colleagues have undertaken on the effects on the deceased's family of workplace death.
