



**MEDIA
RELEASE**

Tuesday, April 27 2010

Building Commission linked to construction deaths

Construction workers have linked the rising deaths in the construction industry to the Australian Building and Construction Commission and called for its immediate abolition.

Deaths in the construction industry have increased since the Commission's inception; with only 3.14 deaths per 100,000 workers in 2004, rising to 3.86 in 2005, 5.6 in 2006, 4.48 in 2007 and 4.27 in 2008.

Speaking ahead of nationwide events to mark International Workers' Memorial Day, Victorian CFMEU Construction Secretary Bill Oliver urged all Australians to back moves to reduce the number of lives lost in the sector.

"The safety record of our construction sector is a national mark of shame. The only way to remove this mark of shame is to remove the ABCC.

"Any death is regrettable and deplorable, but to have the number of construction deaths actually rise since the ABCC's inception is the hardest to take.

"Construction laws stop workers taking action in the interests of their own safety and limit union access to ensure construction sites are safe for workers," Mr Oliver said.

"CFMEU members rank safety their top priority and the union responds to this by working constantly to improve safety on construction sites.

"But ultimately it's bad laws that cost lives. Bad laws that stop experienced union organisers visiting sites to review safety. Bad laws which mean a worker like Ark Tribe is facing six months in prison after safety concerns got so bad on his worksite, workers decided they had to take some action. And bad laws that have seen construction sites become more dangerous places to work.

"Too many workers have a story to tell about a workplace accidents. Every worker has the right to come home safely. We know that when there is a strong union presence on construction sites, with active union members, safety is better," said Mr Oliver.

In memory of those killed, the construction union has produced a commemorative video of workers sharing their stories of workplace accidents and giving people opportunity to leave a message for their lost mates. To view the video please go to: www.cfmeu.asn.au

International Workers Day of Mourning Rally: 10:00am at Memorial Rock, Trades Hall, Lygon Street Carlton

ENDS

For more information please call Adrian Dodd on 0401726476

A UNION SITE DELIVERS:

**UNION
BUILT** **QUALITY
BUILT**

✓ Skilled workforce ✓ Safety on the job ✓ No corners cut ✓ Regulations met