

# The new Australian Animal Welfare Standards – What they will mean for producers and processors?

Presented by Deb Kelly  
Manager Animal Welfare  
October 2016



**Government of South Australia**

Department of Environment,  
Water and Natural Resources





# In the beginning ...

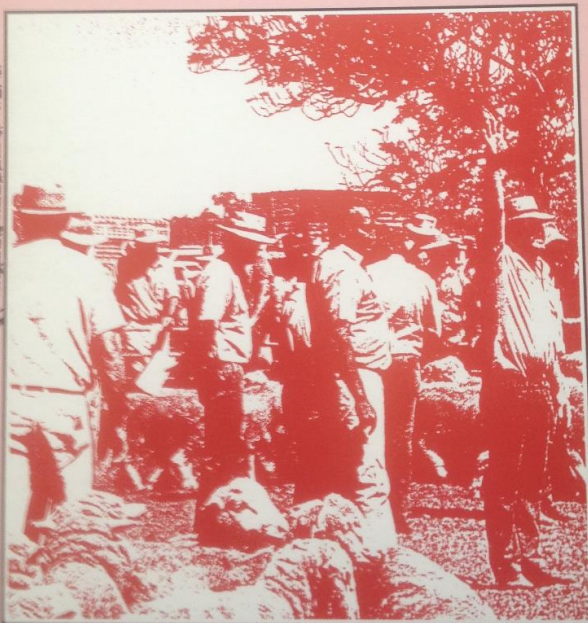
A Standing Committee of the Agriculture and Animal Health Committee developed Model Codes of Practice.

They were intended to enable States to develop codes of practice to meet their individual needs.

There was no intention for national consistency - and there wasn't any!

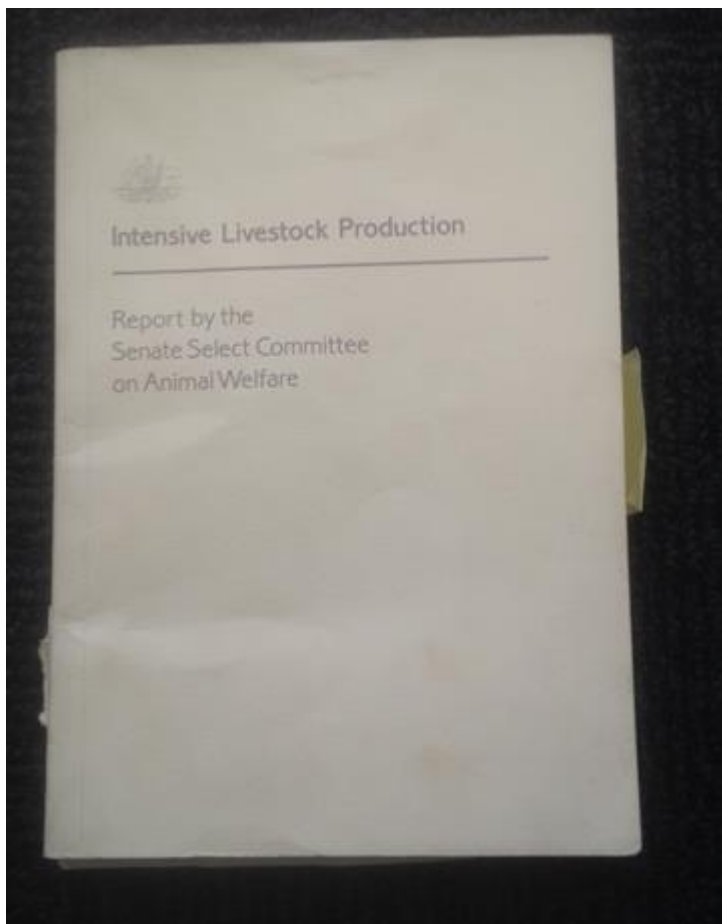
Standing Committee  
on Agriculture,  
Animal Health Committee  
  
Model Code of Practice  
for the Welfare of Animals

## Animals at Saleyards





# Then, in November 1983 ...



A Senate Select Committee was established to inquire into and report upon:

The question of animal welfare in Australia with particular reference to:

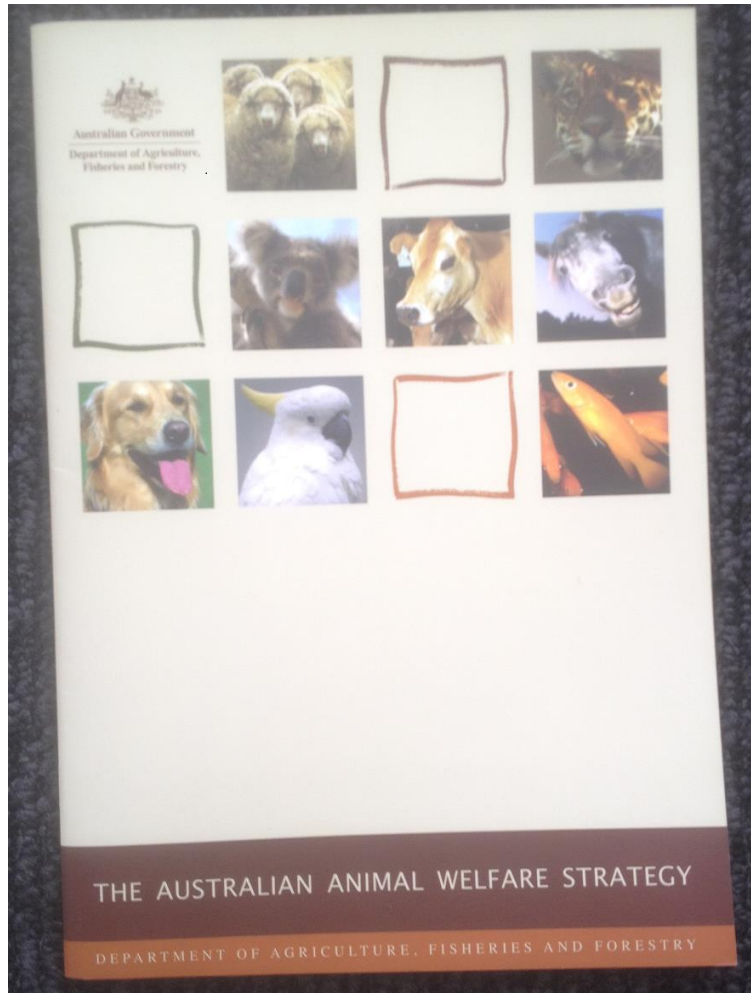
- (a) Interstate and international commerce in animals;
- (b) Wildlife protection and harvesting;
- (c) Animal experimentation;
- (d) Codes of practice of animal husbandry for all species; and
- (e) The use of animals in sport.

Recommended that Codes be reviewed every 5 years; that codes be mandated; that legislation is complimentary nationally.





# In 2005, the AAWS was born



The aim of the Australian Animal Welfare Strategy was to assist in the creation of a more consistent and effective animal welfare system across the whole of the nation.

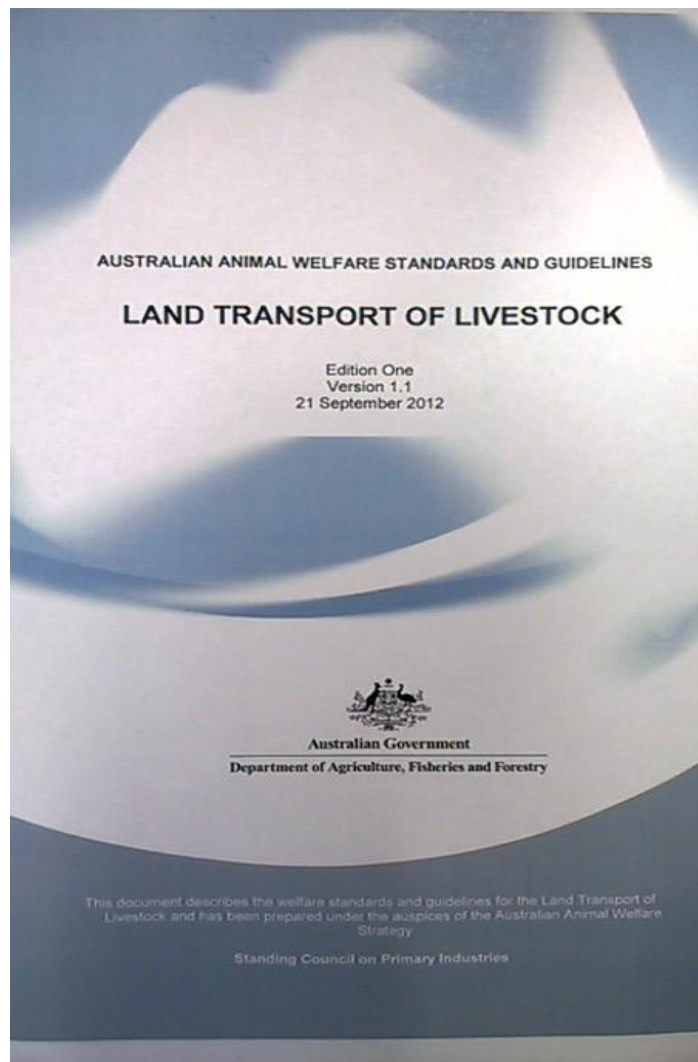
- Funded \$1 million per annum by the Australian Government
- Significant in kind support from jurisdictions and industry
- Tripartite approach including animal welfare groups.







# In 2006, PIMC agreed ...



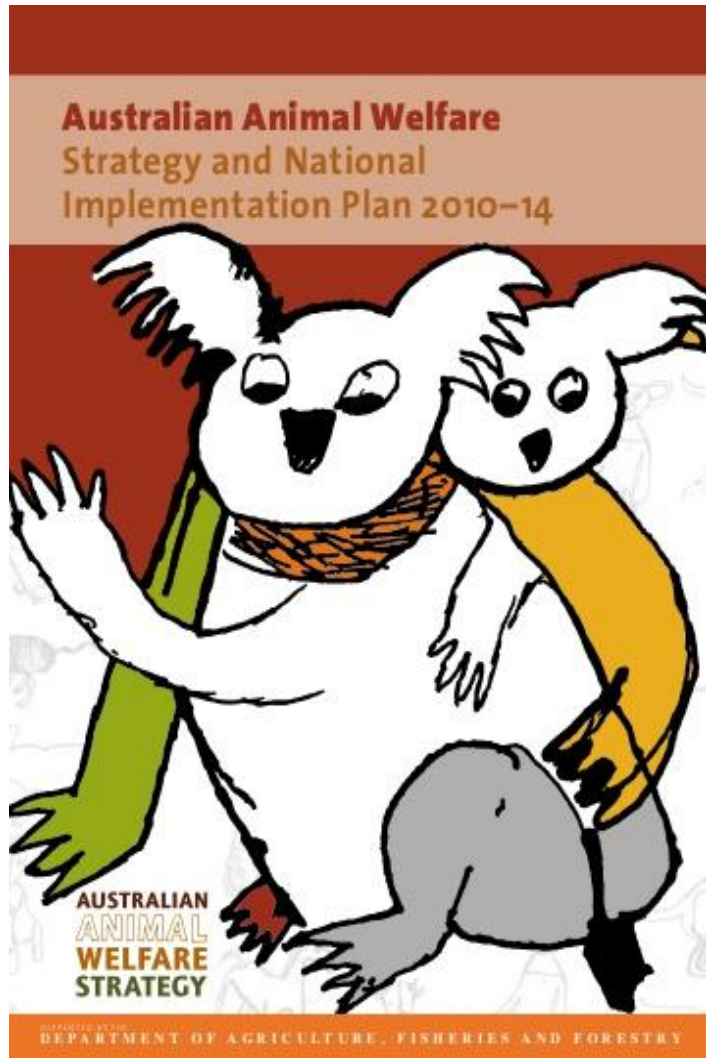
The Model Codes would be replaced by Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines. The Standards would be:

- Enforceable;
- Consistent in all jurisdictions;
- Based on science;
- Achievable by industry;
- Important for animal welfare.





# And, in 2014, the AAWS died...

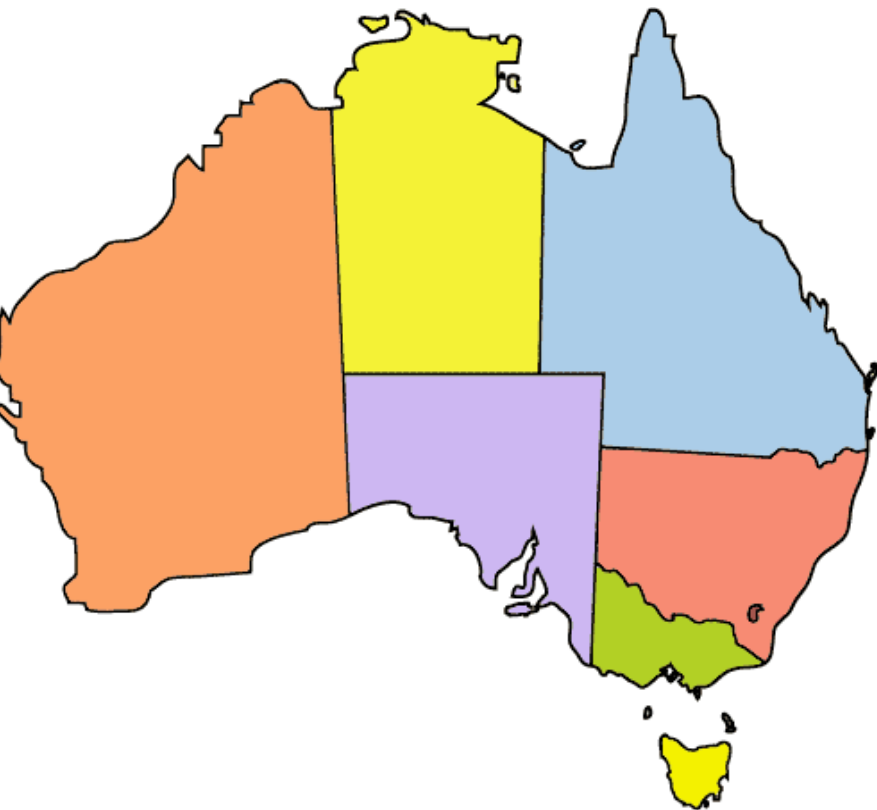


Under the Australian Constitution, animal welfare is a responsibility of the States and Territories. The Australian Government removed their leadership and funding.

They only consider animal welfare in international trade (imports and exports).

Efforts to maintain the AAWS have had very limited success.





# Since the AAWS

The commitment to developing Standards and Guidelines has remained.

Animal Health Australia coordinates the process.

Commitment to national consistency and harmonisation has somewhat diminished. Most standards are mandated in most jurisdictions - but the jurisdictional borders have been reinstated.





# So, where does that leave us?



The development of Standards and Guidelines has continued - and is still progressing.

## Endorsed

- Pig Code (in S&G format)
- Livestock transport
- Sheep
- Cattle

## Under development

- Saleyards
- Meat processing establishments
- Poultry







# The Standards and Guidelines

Most of the Standards and Guidelines address the following:

- Responsibilities of personnel
- Design, operation and maintenance of facilities and equipment
- Facilities for holding livestock
- Equipment
- Management procedures and staff competency
- Management and care of livestock
- Identification and management of weak, ill or injured livestock
- Daily management of livestock
- Feed and water
- Livestock handling
- Humane slaughter procedures





# The supply chain really is a chain



Producer	Transporter	Saleyard	Transporter	Feedlot	Transporter	Abattoir
Farmer	Driver	Stockmen	Driver	Manager	Driver	Agent
Agent	Company	Agent	Company	Owner	Company	Driver
Driver	Agent	Producer	Agent	Stockmen	Agent	Stockmen
		Yard owner				Manager

One person might carry out all the functions in the chain, or there may be dozens of people involved and links may be repeated - or omitted. But the fundamental concept remains.

Each link depends on every other link.  
So where are the strengths and weaknesses?





# The producer



## Intensive

Highly professional industries  
Good understanding of standards and guidelines  
Good facilities

## Extensive

Most take pride in their stock  
Some flexibility in timing  
Some facilities (e.g. pens, ramps etc.) poor



## Intensive

All in, all out gives no room for latitude.  
If something goes wrong its on a large scale

## Extensive

Want to sell drought stock rather than kill on site  
Poor understanding of standards and guidelines  
Hobby farmers

(These are all generalisations and do not apply to every producer)





# The producer - biggest threat



Consigning of stock that are not fit to load

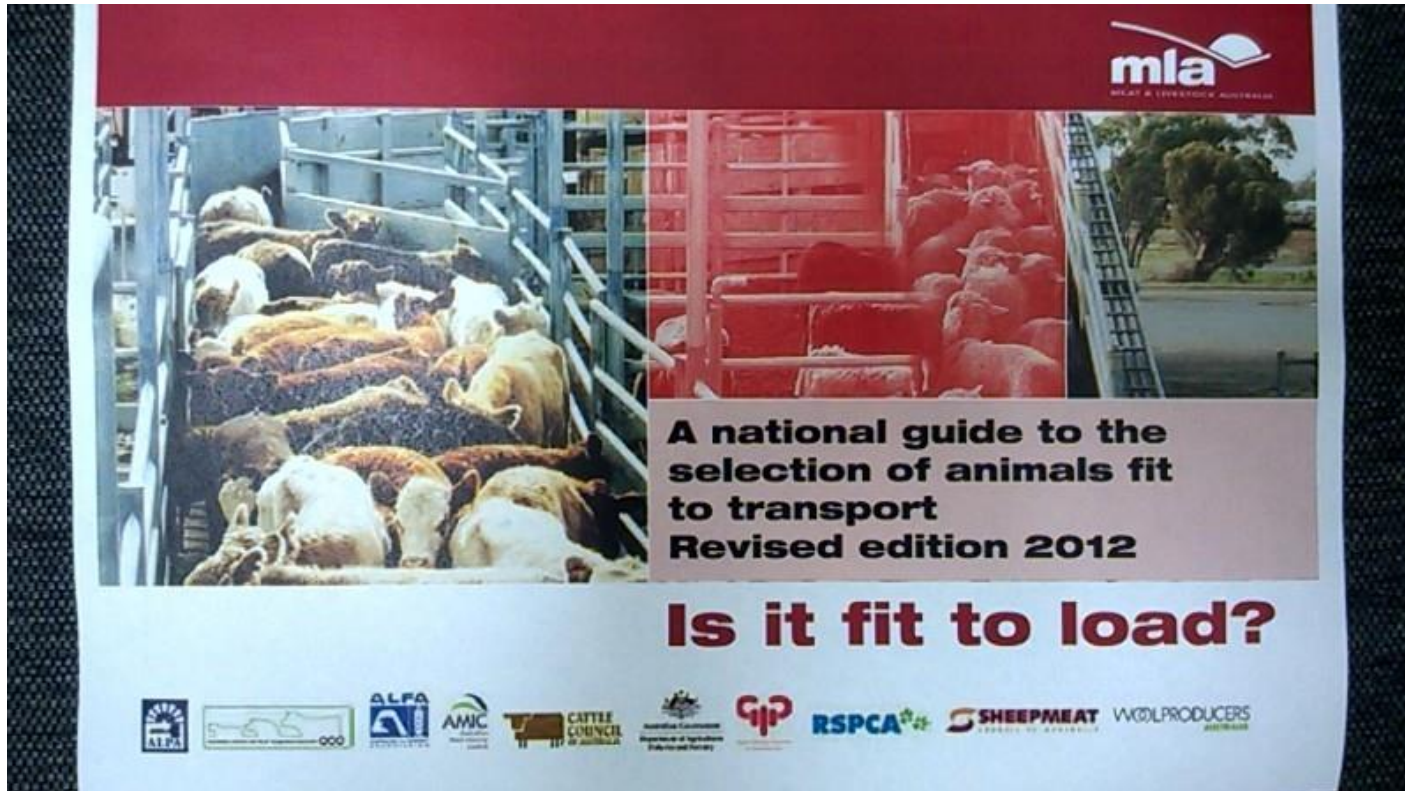






# Risk Mitigation

Transporters not accepting stock which is not fit to load.





# Livestock transport



Professional drivers very professional  
Good understanding of standards and guidelines  
Specialise in livestock species  
Trucks purpose designed  
Companies promote compliance



Farmers transporting their own stock problematic  
Difficult to refuse to take stock  
Injuries and accidents on the road  
Cant euthanize animals or unload on the road  
Meeting time schedules, rest stops etc.

(These are all generalisations and do not apply to every driver)







Government of South Australia

Department of Environment,  
Water and Natural Resources

# Livestock transport - biggest threat



Injuries en route



Government of South Australia

Department of Environment,  
Water and Natural Resources





# Risk Mitigation

Training, safety and professionalism.

## Australian Livestock and Rural Transporters Association



[Home](#) [About ALRTA](#) [Privacy](#) [Join ALRTA](#) [National Sponsors](#) [Ramps Guide](#) [LivestockASSIST](#) [TruckCare](#) [Contact Us](#) [Links](#)





# Saleyards



Visible to the public and inspectors  
Established work practices and role descriptions  
High level of supervision  
Most have sick bays  
Producer pays for disposal of unfit animals



Injured stock arriving out of hours  
Large numbers of animals  
Little personal buy-in with groups of animals  
In a hurry so get rough and take short cuts  
Sick bay animals may wait till after the sale

(These are all generalisations and do not apply to every saleyard)





Government of South Australia

Department of Environment,  
Water and Natural Resources

# The saleyard - biggest threat



Management of animals which should not have been presented for sale



Government of South Australia

Department of Environment,  
Water and Natural Resources





# Risk Mitigation

Good stockmanship, training and clear expectations.

## ProHand Pigs:

### What is it?

Training of stockpeople as professional managers of animals has generally been ignored. **ProHand**, Pigs was designed in recognition of the vital role that stockpeople have in the overall productivity, welfare and health of the livestock under their care and control.

**ProHand** Pigs builds upon the key findings from extensive international research, both in livestock industries and research laboratories, on factors which affect the productivity and welfare of farm animals.

This proven training program has been designed and tested on actual stockpeople at commercial farms around the world.

#### ProHand Pigs:

- Improves the quality of human-animal interactions (minimizes handling stress),
- Improves animal performance and welfare, and
- Improves stockperson work motivation and performance, and job satisfaction.



#### Objectives of ProHand Pigs:

- Develop an understanding of the impact of the interactions between stockpeople and farm animals on farm animal behavior, welfare, and productivity,
- Outline why farm animals become fearful of humans and how this fear can markedly affect animal productivity and welfare,
- Identify appropriate and inappropriate behaviors of stockpeople towards farm animals and how to recognize fear responses in farm animals,
- Conduct the Stockperson Handling Questionnaire, which allows stockpeople to compare their attitudes with others in the industry and provides individually tailored feedback on opportunities to improve handling,
- Provide Professional Handling Guidelines, which are designed to maximize animal productivity and welfare, as well as to ensure that farm animals are easy to handle and to move, and
- Provide material to aid acceptance and retention of the **ProHand** message, including posters and newsletters delivered in the months following participation in the training.



#### Structure of ProHand Pigs:

A small group (4 to 10) of stockpeople are trained together. The program is divided into two days, which are run about a month apart. The first day consists of three, 2-h sessions, while the second day comprises a 2 hour, facilitated group discussion with a variety of videos and PowerPoint presentations.

The computer-based training allows stockpeople to progress through the program at their own pace in a non-threatening setting, and provides summaries and reviews to check progress. Group discussions are also included in the program.

- The training package specifically targets those key attitudes and behaviors of stockpeople that have been shown to have a direct effect on the pigs' fear of humans.
- The program provides specific advice on when, where, and how behavioral change should occur, plus strategies to maintain this behavioral change.

#### Benefits of ProHand Pigs:

- Minimize animal handling stress and thus improve animal productivity and welfare, and
- Improved stockperson job satisfaction, work ethic, and motivation to learn.

**Potential for 5% increase in ADG & extra 1 pig/sow/yr without additional capital investment.**

The Australian Animal Welfare Science Centre (AWSC) has developed a number of ProHand training packages for stockpeople in several livestock industries, including the pork industry. The AWSC is now working its colleagues at The Ohio State University to introduce these programs into Ohio and other US farms.



# Abattoirs and meat processors



Established work practices and role descriptions  
High level of supervision  
Producer pays for disposal of unfit animals  
Zero tolerance for non-compliant behaviour



Transient workforce  
English as a second language  
Cultural values in relation to animal welfare  
High volume, short timelines

(These are all generalisations and do not apply to every meat processor)







Government of South Australia

Department of Environment,  
Water and Natural Resources

# The abattoir - biggest threats



Management of animals which should not have been presented.  
Ensuring staff understand and care about welfare, hygiene etc



Government of South Australia

Department of Environment,  
Water and Natural Resources





# Risk Mitigation

Training, simple messages, good supervision, good workplace culture.

Just because I don't  
care doesn't mean I  
don't understand.

covers8.com - Homer Simpson





# So, what are the implications?

There has always been a requirement for a “duty of care” or equivalent in all Australian jurisdictions. The Standards and Guidelines provide the details of what that means.

Most of the Standards are (or will be) enforceable in most jurisdictions.

With mobile phones, hidden cameras and drones, assume someone is watching all staff at all times.

Competency is having the knowledge, skills, experience and attitude to accomplish a task efficiently, effectively and humanely.

If staff know what is required and are trained to do it, the chain will be strong.







**Government  
of South Australia**

Department of Environment,  
Water and Natural Resources

**Thank you!**