BACKGROUND

- Current Work Health Act was written in 1987
- 1987: 71,600 people employed in the Territory
- 2007: More than 107,800 people at work in Territory, including a record number of apprentices and trainees
- NT forecast to have highest job growth rate in nation over next 5 years
- NT WorkSafe currently reports to the Chief Executive of the Department of Employment, Education and Training
- Mandatory legal requirement that Territory’s workplace safety laws – including roles and responsibilities of NT WorkSafe, unions, and other bodies – must comply with the Federal Government’s WorkChoices laws
- Workers compensation premiums cost Territory businesses $82 million last year – average of $6000 per business
- 2949 injury claims lodged last year

FEATURES OF WORKING SAFER PACKAGE INCLUDE:

- Better support for employers and employees, including a small business advisory service
- All industries covered by one piece of simpler, modern workplace safety legislation
- Boosts funding to NT WorkSafe by $2.3 million over three years to improve services to businesses and employees
- Tighter accountability for NT WorkSafe’s performance with new Executive Director position to report directly to Minister
- Opportunity for employees to become Health and Safety Representatives in businesses with more than 10 workers
- For businesses with up to 20 staff, Government will pay for defined accredited training courses
- Clearer roles and responsibilities for NT WorkSafe officers
- As legally required, all aspects of the package are in line with the requirements of Federal WorkChoices laws
- Commonsense approach to workplace health and safety – emphasis on communication and consultation within the workplace
- The new package will come into effect from early 2008