Successfully Implementing a Global Participative Ergonomics Program across Rio Tinto

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Scope: This presentation will cover the implementation of the Participative Ergonomics program to prevent musculoskeletal disorders across the Rio Tinto global organisation from 2010 to present. This includes implementation across the Aluminum, Iron Ore, Coal, Metals and Energy sectors in Australia, New Zealand, North America and Europe. The large size of this project with almost 2000 tasks assessed and controlled plus the large numbers of OHS professionals delivering in the system required standardised yet flexible processes with the application of a unique and centralised software system to enable these tasks to be documented and shared across the entire global business.

Project Organisation: The content and delivery of the worker and facilitator training, along with the centralised software and other key physical, cognitive and organisational elements that were essential to this project’s success will be discussed.

Results: Examples of the process and controls developed will be presented.

Conclusions: The key factors required to ensure the success the global program along with the next steps of the program to share solutions both inside and outside of Rio Tinto and the involvement of OEMs will also be presented.