

## **Buses & First Aid Kits.....Tasmania's OHS Obligations**

The issue of First Aid Kits on buses has been raised by TBA members in Tasmania.

Tasmania is covered by the Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995 and though there is no code of practice covering first aid there is however a requirement to '*ensure that any person at the workplace is safe from injury and risk*'.

### **Workplace Standards consider that buses are a workplace for the purpose of health and safety requirements**

With new changes to OHS at a national level, employers need to consider the likelihood of injury or illness in the workplace, the number of people within the workplace and the distance to first aid facilities.

### **You must make your own assessment based on your workplace. We offer the following information to consider as part of your assessment:**

- Consider a reasonable first aid kit at the primary workplace/s (house, workshop, office etc.) which can be accessed by all employees or first aiders at the site when necessary. Users must complete an accident/incident form.
- Consider basic first aid kits on each bus – if drivers are in remote locations they may require extra items. An accident/incident form must be completed.
- Consider someone on site trained in first aid – if a driver is remote (more than 30 minutes from medical services) then you may need to consider if they need basic first aid training.
- First Aid Kits cannot contain any panadol, disprin or associated medications.
- Wherever possible, if a person requires a bandaid or treatment you should have them apply the bandaid or apply the treatment to themselves.

Untrained people have no legal requirement to provide first aid treatment in the workplace except under duty of care to avoid injury, loss or damage to another person.

**If persons do provide free assistance to the best of their care and skill then the Civil Liability Act 2002 protects 'good Samaritans' from certain prosecutions.**

**However the Civil Liability Act 2002 does not protect a person when they:**

- Fail to take reasonable care or do not work within their skill level when administering first aid, or
- Are under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or
- Impersonate a health care or emergency services worker or a police officer.

For further details you can go to: <http://www.wst.tas.gov.au> or contact TBA or the Centre for Tasmanian Industry to discuss.