



New online health and safety tool to help SMEs manage risks

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WorkSafe has developed a new online tool to help businesses get started with managing their workplace health and safety risks. The 'Around the Block' tool is animated and interactive, taking users on a journey through a typical city block.

Thirteen businesses often seen on a city block have been included so far – from cafes and hair salons, to medical centres and petrol stations. Clickable hotspots within each of the interiors identify some of the health and safety risks in that business and provide some information on how to manage them.

Over time, more business types will be added to the block, particularly targeting small and medium sized businesses that make up some 97% of the in New Zealand business landscape.

"Businesses have told us they want to better understand health and safety in their particular business context, so we worked with representative businesses to develop and test the tool. It's designed to support them with training and involving workers in identifying and managing some of their key health and safety risks," said Katherine Low, Manager Education and Engagement Strategy at WorkSafe.

The tool, aroundtheblock.worksafe.govt.nz, was built by WorkSafe in collaboration with ACC to help businesses better understand their obligations under the new Health and Safety at Work Act from a risk management perspective.