

NZOHS Conference 2019

The Mutual Benefits of Occupational Health
and Occupational Hygiene Team Work



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Health & Safety Consultants

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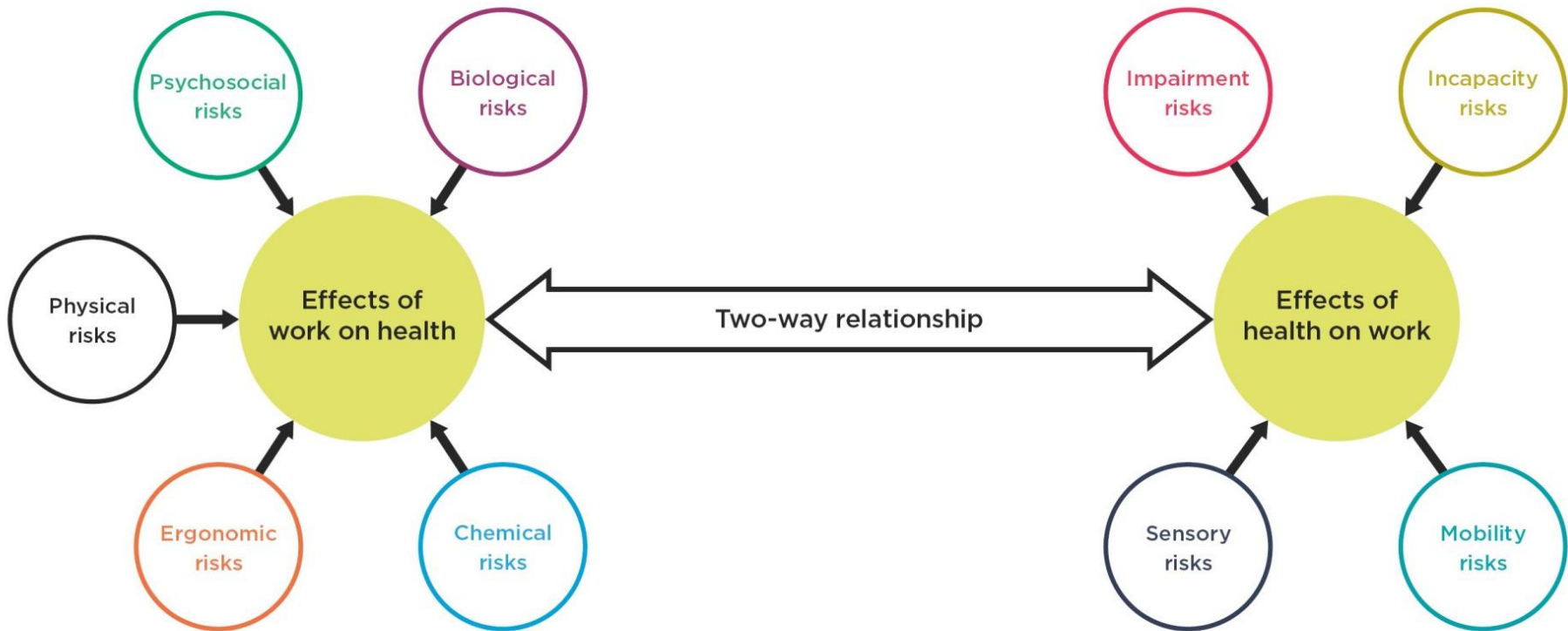
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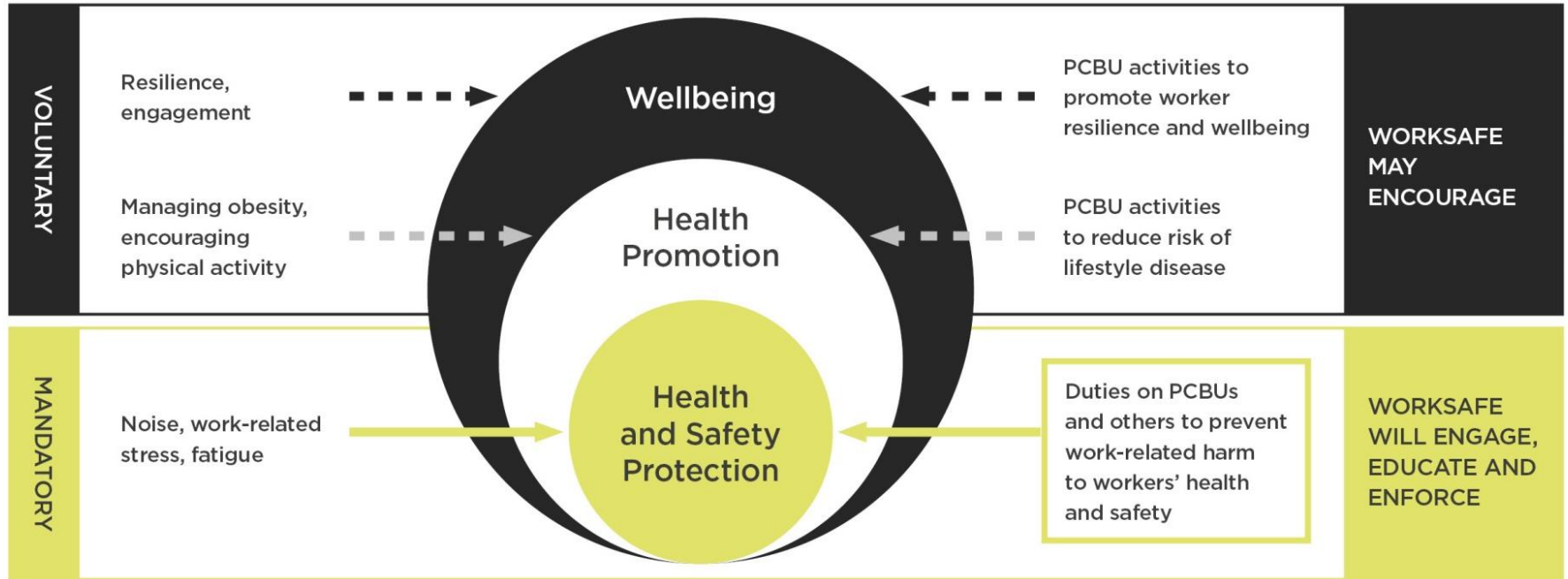
A typical worker is

10 TIMES

more likely to die from
work-related ill-health
than a workplace
safety incident



Supporting worker health and wellbeing



Pathways for OHN Client Contact and Engagement

Many of these Pathways will be same for the OHN Specialist and Occupational Hygienist

- H&S Managers and people we have worked with before
- Website enquires – often as a result of Worksafe visit
- Occupational Health Physicians
- H & S Agencies
- Word of mouth
- Referral from Safety Equipment suppliers
- Occupational Hygienist

Client wants VS client needs

Example of a typical request:

- Everyone needs a hearing test because that's what we have always done.
- Everyone needs a lung function test because we were told that's we needed to do.

What we need to know?

- Has a risk assessment been completed?
- Have any Occupational Hygiene surveys been carried out?
- What PPE do you provide and how has the range PPE been determined?
- Can we look at reports – past health monitoring results, surveys, risk assessments?
- Has anything changed since you last conducted a survey/health monitoring?
- What are your priorities and budget?

Team approach to establishing a health monitoring program

Many of our clients are in high risk industries – a team approach is needed.

Occupational Health Nurses work with a range of H & S Professionals

- Occupational Medicine Specialists
- Occupational Hygienists
- Health & Safety Managers
- Health and Safety Equipment Suppliers

Industry specific screening:


- Target Organs – liver/kidneys/brain
- Heavy metals – Lead, arsenic, chrome – Biological Monitoring.
- Blood tests – invasive so what are we testing for and why?
- Asbestos – chest X-rays, lung function tests, physical examinations
- Dermatitis, sensitisation, skin cancer.

Reviewing all the available information

- Material Safety Data Sheets
- Frequency and duration of potential exposures.
- Task and Job Observations
- Occupational Hygiene reports and surveys
- Biological monitoring results
- Safety equipment surveys
- Review of PPE – so many choices and so many mistakes made
- Training and Education
- Employee involvement
- PPE is not the first line of defence – Elimination & Minimisation

Health monitoring matrix example

	FACTORY 1	FACTORY 2	FACTORY 3	QC & MICRO LAB STAFF	WAREHOUSE STAFF	TECHNICAL, ENGINEERING & PRODUCTION OFFICE STAFF	R & D
PEM including full blood tests. FBC, liver, kidney and blood sugar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Annual Monitoring and Blood tests as above	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓
Two yearly health monitoring including blood tests as above					✓		
Annual hearing tests	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Annual lung function tests	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Cholesterol testing included with blood tests	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓



Our role is to assist our clients to achieve a safe and healthy workplace

- Help meet their Legal Requirements
- Encourage them to be ethical in the way they manage health and safety in their workplace.
- Reduce workplace, injury, illness, disease and preventable deaths.
- Minimise the Cost of workplace accidents.
- Engage with employees to enable a collaborative approach to achieving a safe and healthy workplace.