

# W.H.I.P.

## Workplace Health Improvement Practice

### Nature Play

APRIL 2016

Work Health & Safety Act (2012) sections 19 (3) (a) & 21 (2)

#### OBJECTIVE:

To reinforce the need for sites to ensure “nature play” structures and activities are assessed and supervised to minimise the risk of injury.

#### BACKGROUND:

Several sites are incorporating “nature play” into their curriculum and have been designing and building areas to accommodate these activities.

The Catholic Safety, Health & Welfare Unit have noted an increased number of incidents related to “nature play” and are requesting sites be pro-active when considering the design of nature play areas and structures, the activities being undertaken and the level of supervision required.

#### PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS:

- Engage an arborist to assess trees being used for nature play activities (*eg: placement of ropes used for climbing/swinging etc*)
- Areas directly under trees, or climbing structures, are free of rocks and other objects
- Ensure structures do not have sharp edges, splinters and/or exposed bolts/nuts which may inflict an injury
- Ensure a competent person, with relevant technical knowledge, is engaged to assess nature play areas that require structural stability, water hygiene or structures/platforms built in trees.
- Ensure activities are adequately supervised.

FOR ENQUIRIES OR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT YOUR WHS CONSULTANT