

HAZARD ALERT

Student finger trapped in an adjustable desk

28 September 2022

REFERENCES:

WHS Act 2012 (SA) Sections 19, 20, 21 & 27
 WHS Regulations 2012 (SA) – Regulations 34 – 38,
 CSH&W SA Procedure (3) – Work Environment and Facilities Procedure

OBJECTIVE:

To communicate a safety issue recently identified regarding a student getting their finger trapped in one of the adjustable desks of a Catholic Church Endowment Society (CCES) worksite and provide sites with recommendations to ensure hazards are identified, risks assessed, and effective control measures are developed and implemented.

BACKGROUND:

Recently an incident occurred where a student had their finger trapped in the hole used for adjusting the legs on a school desk. The student had their finger trapped for approximately 15 mins before it was removed with the assistance of dishwashing liquid as a lubricant. The holes on these desks can vary in size from one desk to another depending on the manufacturer.



Adjustable Desk

PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS:

- Before purchasing any school furniture, a pre-purchase risk assessment should be undertaken to determine if this furniture poses any risks or is suitable for the intended use.
- All furniture should be compliant with AS/NZS 4610:2020
- Sites that have these types of desks to assess the risk of entrapment and monitor student interactions with them.

For enquiries or further information please contact your WHS Consultant at CSHWSA