



Mills Oakley to build national Health & Safety practice with top HSF hire

November 12, 2018: Top Ten law firm Mills Oakley is launching a national Workplace Health & Safety (WHS) practice following the hire of respected expert Harold Downes from Herbert Smith Freehills this week.

Mills Oakley already boasts a well-established Workplace Relations practice which is recognised by leading directories such as *Legal 500* and *Best Lawyers*. Now, Mr Downes will launch a new national Health & Safety sub-team operating within the broader Workplace Relations practice.

Mills Oakley CEO John Nerurker said that Mr Downes would bring an important new dimension to the Workplace Relations practice:

“Workplace health and safety are critical elements of any business and particularly in labour-intensive sectors,” he said. “Harold’s expertise is a natural fit not just for our Workplace Relations team, but for our entire firm.”

Mr Downes said that WHS was a logical growth area for the firm: “Mills Oakley has a strong reputation across a number of key labour-intensive sectors including Property, Construction, Infrastructure and Banking. I look forward to supporting our clients in their commitment to health, wellbeing and safety. This aspect of business has become increasingly sophisticated in the last few years and I hope to bring some pragmatic solutions in this area,” he commented.

Harold’s experience includes advising on front end governance, training and strategy, back end regulatory enforcement and WHS litigation and what he describes as “pointy end” crisis management and incident response. He acts for both principals and contractors across both listed and non listed companies. By way of giving back to the community, Harold also lectures on WHS at both the University of Queensland and the Queensland University of Technology.

Harold commences with Mills Oakley today.

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