

Hon Bruce Lander QC
Independent Commissioner Against Corruption

The Showmens Guild of South Australia
PO Box 276
TWO WELLS SA 5501

11 June 2018

Dear Commissioner,

RE: Safework SA Evaluation

I am writing this submission on behalf of The Showmens Guild of South Australia. We are an organization of professional operators of amusement equipment that own and operate the majority of the registrable amusement rides in South Australia.

The Guild was formed in 1939 and currently has about 85 members. Many members are third and fourth generation Showmen and are fully committed to the safety of our staff and to the general public. Our aims are the same as Safework SA.

We have however noticed a change in Safeworks attitude towards us in the last few years and would like to raise with you the following concerns we have.

1. Safework SA hiring consulting engineers and electricians

Safework SA require the engineers we use to lodge a CV with us so we know they are "competent persons". Why then is it necessary for Safework to hire their own consulting engineers to inspect our rides. It is the same with the electricians we use. This undermining of these professional people that have had years of experience working with rides is turning them away and making it hard to find anyone willing to do the work.

- 2. The frequency of inspections and audits.** It is not unusual for the same ride to be audited and inspected by Safework 3 to 4 weeks in a row. For example Safework inspectors usually come to Willunga Almond Blossom Festival on the last weekend in July, Port Augusta Wharfest on the 1st Sat in Aug, Crystal Brook Show 2nd Sat in Aug, Whyalla Show 3rd weekend in Aug, Gawler Show last weekend in Aug. They're looking at the same rides week after week. It appears to be a waste of resources.

3. **Inspectors not being consistent.** The frequency of these audits highlights the inconsistency of different inspectors. What was ok for two or three weeks in a row is not ok on the fourth week. Nothing has changed on the rides. The log book audits are fine as they have a system in place. There seems to be no system for the physical inspection of a ride.

4. **Are the inspectors "competent persons" to inspect rides?** As well as being no system in place when they physically inspect a ride we would question whether the inspectors are trained adequately to assess the safety of a ride. They have the WHS regulators Audit Tool to guide them through an audit which is a good system, but some of them then want to go beyond the scope of the audit tool and make recommendations on such things as the blocking up of rides in damp conditions and the condition of hydraulic hoses etc which I doubt if they would have the qualifications or experience to do.

In summary I would like reiterate that The Showmens Guild has the same goal as Safework SA in regard to the safe operation of amusement rides in South Australia.

Unfortunately in the past few years Safeworks attitude towards us has changed and instead of working together as we did under the previous administration, where our executives were invited to forums with Safework to discuss any concerns either party had, they now see us as an adversary and some want to make it as hard as possible to own an amusement ride in South Australia.

I would like to emphasise that this is not all Inspectors. That would not be fair. Most are cooperative and helpful. There does, however seem to be a few that have their own agenda and refuse to listen and respect the years of experience our members have.

Kind Regards,

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Showmens Guild of South Australia

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