

# Health and safety a priority for RMF Consulting

## ENSURING SAFE WORK

**PRACTICES:** RMF Consulting's John Fysh plans to help Gisborne businesses deal with health and safety requirements.

Picture by Paul Rickard



JOHN Fysh plans to make an impact in the best possible way on his new home town.

He initially came to Gisborne to fulfil a contract for an Australian company, working alongside Tairāwhiti Roads, but he and wife Jolynn fell in love with the region. They plan to move here with their three teenagers and set up a new business.

John has nearly three decades in the health and safety industry in Australia, working with all sorts of businesses.

His shift to Gisborne is timely, with the new, and much tougher, legislation in place from early April.

"It's all about making sound business decisions," says John.

That means, "a quality product or service, provided in a safe and environmentally sustainable manner".

"People don't need to change the way they work, but rather understand that safety is not something added on the end, but integral to their work processes," he says.

John is keen to help local businesses get up to standard through advice, audits and helping them put the correct systems in place.

He felt New Zealand was streets ahead of Australia when it came to a sound approach to quality assurance, but not so

in the field of safety.

"The law doesn't discriminate between a multi-national company or a one-man sole trader. All businesses are dealt with as equals under the new legislation. That is one of the big changes. Secondly, you now need to consult directly with workers about health and safety on a regular basis. Tell them what they need to know, and ask them for input — get them involved."

The other major change from the 1992 Act is that any contractors working for your company are to be treated as your own workers, with the same health and safety focus.

John says the law is now far more focused. It is the responsibility of the employer or PCBU (person conducting a business or undertaking) to deal with the health and safety impacts of their business across a wider range of people. This includes the general public, who must be given the "highest level of protection", even if they are just walking or driving past job sites.

"It's not rocket science but it is different to what you had."

RMF Consulting offers a comprehensive range of one-on-one services.

Meanwhile, the rest of the Fysh family are packing up their lives in Australia and looking forward to being part of the Coast.

# IMPORTANT

## Are you ready for the new health and safety work act?

- Safety systems development
- Project safety plans
- Contractor safety plans
- Site safety plans
- Site safety and project auditing
- Plant risk assessments
- ACC preparation audits and systems assistance

**Call today for a free one hour consultation\* to talk about your business.**

*\*Bookings must be made before May 31*

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