

AAPA 2017 NSW SAFETY INITIATIVE AWARD WINNER



GEORGE KAYAFIS

George Kayafis is well known in the industry, having started in asphalt at the age of 18. His focus is now on imparting his 27 years of experience and knowledge to create a culture that prevents incidents and injuries.

George's background in all aspects of the industry, from traffic controller to crew, then lab technician and now safety manager, means that he can speak from personal experience to a wide range of staff about their work. George undertook Certificate IV in Work Health & Safety and a diploma in Frontline Management to further his management and leadership skills.

Upon joining State Asphalt Services in 2013, George set about developing an internal safety training program for all workers, known as the SAS Card training. Based on Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment and Control (HIRAC) principles, it has been adopted as part of the standard induction program for all new workers.

In collaboration with the Business Systems Manager, George developed risk management tools for high-risk activities such as working around overhead powerlines and workers on foot around mobile plant.

George has championed a company culture that reports hazards, incidents and simple concerns, and shares knowledge and lessons learned. His consultative approach ensures that safety is discussed openly, without judgment or blame. He ensures that the risk profiles of projects are examined and considered from planning stages, culminating in project-specific risk management logs with each project management plan.

George has used all his practical experience to build and support a resilient safety culture.