

School of Management and Marketing
Seminar Notice

TITLE : **Unanticipated safety outcomes: Shiftwork and the emergence of a drive-in, drive-out workforce**

SPEAKER : **Associate Professor Lee Di Milia**
Head, School of Management
Faculty of Business & Informatics
Project Leader, CRC in Integrated Engineering Asset Management
Central Queensland University

DAY/DATE : Thursday, 6 April 2006

TIME : 12.30-1.30p.m.

VENUE : 40.130

ABSTRACT

Extended work shifts (more than 8-hours) and a marked increase in the use of a contractor workforce has resulted in significant productivity gains for employers. These developments we argue have resulted in an unanticipated outcome that has OHS implications; the emergence of a drive-in drive-out workforce (DIDOW); a workforce that is permanently based outside the Bowen Basin but travel to and from their place of work. The concern with a DIDOW is that they are at greater risk of driver sleepiness as a function of the work schedule compounded by a long distance commute. These factors place the driver and the community at a greater accident risk. The results suggested some driver's commenced travel at 0200 and drove up to 1300 km to commence work. Driving in the early morning and traveling longer distances was associated with significantly higher levels of self-reported sleepiness. Some 13% of drivers reported falling asleep when driving to work compared to 23% following night shift. Driver sleepiness is a significant safety risk factor in a DIDOW. We argue that the planned expansion of the coal industry will result in more employees joining the DIDOW.

Lunch will be provided.

SMM Research Seminar Series Convenors,
Trevor Spedding & Sara Dolnicar