

NEW CODE OF PRACTICE IN NEW SOUTH WALES AIMS TO IMPROVE HORSE RIDING SAFETY- headline from ABC News Wednesday, July 1, 2016

This headline follows on with statistics - almost 2,000 workers compensation claims in the last 5 years relating to horses costing more than \$14 million; one worker in NSW is hospitalised every day due to horse related injuries.

"The new code would ensure people working with beginner riders were adequately trained, and rider experience properly matched with horse temperament."

"This code of practice would assist workplaces to prevent horse-related accidents by ensuring that people working with beginner riders are adequately trained," Better Regulation Minister Victor Dominello said."

So here is some information that you may, or may not have been aware of, presented in a straightforward manner for your information.

INFORMATION FOR PROFESSIONALS, OR THOSE WISHING TO BECOME PROFESSIONALS, IN THE HORSE INDUSTRY

There are many people in this industry who derive their all, or part, of their livelihood from the members of the AQHA, as well as other breed associations. Many trainers have fallen into this industry, due to their talents and love of the activities, and it has become a great lifestyle business. However, times change and with them the standards that must be met develop.

As in any industry, horse trainers have legal obligations that should be met if they are to fulfil their commitments to themselves and their clients in a manner which ensures that everyone is safeguarded. These are obligations that are industry standards, also found in Workplace Health and Safety laws, and absolutely apply to those who wish to be professionals in the horse business.

SOME OF THE REQUIREMENTS INCLUDED:

-WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS: Every person who works with children (a person less than 18 years of age) at any time, either occasionally or daily, must ensure that they have the correct accreditation to do this. The access and requirements on how to achieve this vary from State to State. Normally this can be done on line

-FIRST AID QUALIFICATION: To ensure you can manage an accident appropriately, it is recommended that you have the basics of first aid knowledge. This can be gained through a qualification which is available throughout Australia and should provide you with the unit HLTAID003 PROVIDE FIRST AID.

-INSURANCES: **Public liability insurance** is a routine requirement for businesses in general to ensure that every contingency is covered if an accident occurs or litigation becomes an issue. **Income Protection** can help keep your business going by meeting financial commitments if you are hurt.

If you have employees, either permanent or part time, Workers **Compensation insurance** covers employee accidents in the workplace , AND IS REQUIRED BY LAW.

-INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATION CERTIFICATION: I am going to point out from the get go -the course recommended by AQHA and other Associations, (Horse Safety Australia Instructor qualifications)- is NOT about your training abilities as a horse trainer. It is a course that assists you to implement an effective and safe way to convey your techniques and training systems to your clients. It is about ensuring you become a good role model for participants in your business; covers how to assess Workplace Health and Safety issues that may present themselves; and how to enhance your skills in teaching and training. Also, often watching others do what you do gives another perception and adds to your skill set. The course also ensures you have basic skills and knowledge in animal health and welfare. It is becoming clear that a national certification for teaching horse riding skills is becoming a core part of any equine related business, and it is essential for our association that you get this so that they can continue to endorse you as one of their trainers

Many venues now require to sight qualifications and insurance status prior to allowing people to come and coach on their premises or at their affiliate grounds.

There are a number of different avenues to achieve certification status- through EA; Horse Safety Australia; and specific equine TAFE courses. The Horse Safety Australia course recognises your existing skills and knowledge and can be fast tracked into 4 full days. They understand trainers and their roles in the industry, and make their courses relevant to the course participants and their fields of interest

The Australian Quarter Horse Association has commenced a Professional Trainers and Coaches Division, with all the above criteria fulfilled, and maintained, as part of the requirements for inclusion in this list of equine professionals. Please contact AQHA by going to the web site www.aqha.com.au for further information on the Professional Trainers and Coaches Division. There is a specific page on the site for the Pro Trainers and Coaches, as well as information on how to apply.

Other equine associations are doing a similar thing, ensuring that all the professional participants in their particular equine sector are meeting the government legislation standards for Work, Health, and Safety.

So, be smart. A certification is a qualification to add to your CV and legitimises your occupation. It is always wonderful to have nationally recognised certification - recognition and legitimacy of the fact that you have attained a certain skill set. Running your business in a professional manner is a reflection as to the quality of service that you are potentially going to supply to all who see you in action.

