



Welcome To Our First Edition Readers

spir.I.T. has been servicing local small businesses and individuals since 1998.

With a broad range of expertise we are able to offer a multitude of services including:-

- Database Design
- Survey Design
- Web Design
- Business Analysis
- Graphic Design
- Computer Tuition
- Personal Computer Configurations
- Computer Software Installation
- Internet Security
- Design And Imple-

- mentation Of Training Courses
- Business Templates: Accounts, Ledgers, Mail Merge & Publication Templates
- Typing Services
- File Management

Our primary focus is on making our knowledge of the information technology/business sectors (and sub sectors) work for you.

We have recently released our NEW website. An exciting part of this website is its focus of providing a wide range of free informa-



spir.I.T. Graphic Design Services

tion sources regarding government issues, laws, policies, workers rights, workplace safety and more. We hope that this will enable our users to maintain a contemporary understanding of important issues.

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Special points of interest:

- New release of spir.I.T.'s Disability Services OH&S database.
- Frankness & Candour—Government Policy Fact Sheet No.
- Occupational Health and Safety Amendment (Workplace Deaths) Act 2005

spir.I.T. Updates

We have now finalised our latest version of spir.I.T.'s Disability Services OH&S Database for Accommodation, Respite and In Home Support Services.

The database allows committee members or OH&S representatives to gather information that

will generate reports on incidents, hazards, and workers compensation claims.

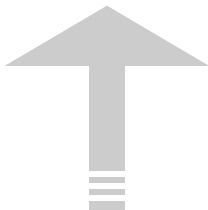
The search menu within the database allows for easy retrieval of information e.g. *view all hazards reported in*



the month of January 2006.



John Garnaut provides an interesting piece for this Oped entry, and once again, as in the last week, Howard and Costello are the focus.



To see more art from the above artist visit <http://www.smh.com.au/news/opinion/the-high-cost-of-selling-yourself-short/2006/07/13/1152637804996.html>

Workplace Reforms Update

The ACTU says the changes will:

- abolish protection from unfair dismissal for 4 million workers employed in companies with fewer than 100 staff members.
- allow employers to put workers onto individual contracts that cut take-home pay and reduce employment conditions to only five minimum standards. Workers who refuse to sign may fear being sacked.
- change the way minimum

wages are set, so as to make them lower.

- mean many workers will lose conditions such as weekend, shift and public holiday rates; overtime; redundancy pay; allowances; and casual loadings.
- keep unions out of workplaces and reduce the capacity for workers to bargain collectively with their employer.
- take away the powers of the independent Industrial Relations Commission.

- effectively abolish the award safety net and replace it with just five conditions:
- a minimum hourly rate of pay (currently \$12.60).
- eight days sick leave.
- four weeks annual leave.
- unpaid parental leave.
- weekly working hours.

Source: ACTU - *Your Rights at Work* (<http://www.actu.asn.au/data/files/general/dlbrochure.pdf>)

Occupational Health & Safety—OH&S Committee Functions

What are some of the activities or duties that an OH&S Committee performs?

- Consultation with employees and employers
- Identify ways to improve the OHSMS (*OH&S Management System*) through risk management techniques

- Suggesting corrective actions
- Reviewing hazards, recording systems
- Analysing accident/incident statistics
- Conducting periodic workplace inspections
- Inspecting areas of concern
- Reviewing safe work practices

- Reviewing complaints from employees and management

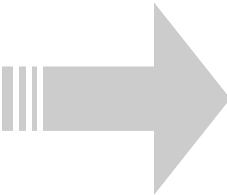
The role of an active OH&S Committee is vital to any business.

For local OH&S Training in Newcastle contact Health & Safety Solutions, Kotara

Phone: (02)49 033200

Fax: (02)49 033201

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Public Sector Agencies fact sheet No 6.

Frankness and Candour—Government policy

Government policy, which finds its most relevant expression in the codes of conduct adopted for government and by agencies, also supports frankness and candour in the giving of advice.

The Model code of conduct for NSW public agencies provides that “fairness, impartiality and integrity” are general principles applicable across

the public sector. It states that: “The people of New South Wales have a right to expect the business of the State to be conducted with efficiency, fairness, impartiality and integrity. Public employment carries with it a particular obligation to the public interest. It requires standards of professional behaviour from staff that promote and maintain public confidence and

trust in the work of government agencies.” These principles are reflected in most public sector codes of conduct. Such codes emphasise fairness, honesty, integrity and impartiality, and that information provided by public officials should be clear to the intended audience, accurate, current and complete.



Australian Government—Hot Topics

Poll confirms backlash against Howard's labour agenda.

By Mark Metherell Political Correspondent
July 5, 2005

Has John Howard's famous instinct for voters' anxieties gone terribly awry? The backlash against his plans to wind back union power and significantly curtail anti-dismissal laws presents the first real halt to the

Coalition's triumphal march since last October's election. The clear majority of voters who know about his industrial relations agenda oppose the changes, and have delivered a sharp slap to the Prime Minister and the Federal Government.

Despite jobs growth and rising living standards and the decline of the unions and industrial action, the *Herald Poll* indicates that voter worries about job security remain as potent as ever.

For Labor, the poll is a tonic after a week in which former leader Mark Latham declared his party "beyond repair", overshadowing the mass protests against the planned industrial relations changes.

Perhaps the ACTU has tapped into community angst with its emotive television ads showing a woman forced to choose between her job and minding her children.

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/national>



Photo: Chris Lane

10 Signs that you are Tech Obsessed

Most of us have a love-hate relationship with technology, but for some it goes beyond healthy admiration, writes Harriet Alexander.

1. You forget basic bodily functions - *Drink, eat, go to the toilet, sleep?*
2. You collect ridiculous accessories



3. You check your email on Sunday ... at 3am
4. You know your mates by their online 'handles' rather than their real names
5. Your favourite song goes "beep"
6. Instead of laughing, you say 'LOL'
7. You answer your mobile phone when you're on a date

8. You change their 'outfits' depending on their 'mood'
9. You own a BlackBerry - *Enough said.*
10. You speak in a secret language - *Your favourite come-on line is "boot me up".*

Technology Review

Review: Samsung YP-Z5

Simon Tsang -June 10, 2006
<http://www.samsung.com.au>
RRP: \$379 Rating: 3/5
Clearly, the YP-Z5 is intended as an iPod nano competitor. The portable digital music player is about the same size as the nano (slightly

shorter, but much thicker and marginally wider), is also flash-memory based and has the same 1GB, 2GB and 4GB capacities in the range. Its exceptionally long 35-hour battery life (nano is rated at 14 hours) and larger 4.6cm display no doubt account for much of the Z5's extra bulk and weight. But technical su-

riority aside, one has to question the wisdom in pricing the Z5 above its intended rival - that is, the most popular MP3 player in the market.

For full review visit <http://www.smh.com.au/news/reviews/review-samsung-ypz5/2006/06/07/1149815302108.html>



Samsung YP-Z5



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Occupational Health and Safety Amendment (Workplace Deaths) Act 2005

All workplace deaths are a tragedy. In recent years there have been increasing calls for tougher sentences to be applied to the small number of people whose complete disregard for basic occupational health and safety cause the death of a person at any place of work.

In 2003 the NSW Government commissioned a panel of eminent legal experts to advise the Government on enhancements to the legislation as they relate to workplace fatalities. The panel reported to Government in 2004 recommending that New South

Wales introduce an additional offence in the Occupational Health and Safety Act, specifically relating to workplace fatalities, including higher penalties. The panel unanimously ruled out industrial manslaughter laws and any new offence under the Crimes Act. The Government accepted this recommendation.

The Government released a draft Bill late last year, the Occupational Health and Safety Legislation Amendment (Workplace Fatalities) Bill 2004 for consultation. Following extensive consultation and

consideration of many submissions, the Government released a revised draft of the Bill, the Occupational Health and Safety Amendment (Workplace Deaths) Bill 2005 for consultation. The Bill was subsequently introduced into Parliament on 27 May 2005 and passed on 10 June 2005. The provisions became law as the Occupational Health and Safety Amendment (Workplace Deaths) Act 2005 on 15 June 2005.

For more information visit <http://www.nohsc.gov.au>

spir.I.T. Recommends



We recognize that as the business environment gets more competitive and the need to innovate more urgent, more and more work is being carried out by project teams. Knowing how to manage these teams is rapidly becoming a critical success factor in many organizations and business sectors.


We want to give you an always-available support system for all your project management challenges. An easy-to-use starting point for whatever you need.

We know that there are great resources out there--but we're all time-strapped and often don't have time to find them.

We won't duplicate all the information and wisdom that's already out there; we'll find the best, summarize it, and point you to the best sources.

We understand that colleagues are the deepest information sources available. Part of our job is creating a place where you can easily connect and collaborate with others facing the same issues you are.

And we love using the latest technologies to create something new, to help you solve problems, to make an important contact, to advance your career.



Speak your Mind... coming to the Autumn Edition!

To have your say about an issue or to simply share information forward drafts to or contact spir.I.T.

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