



### *Issue:* **Material Safety Data Sheets**

*Raised by:* Central Australia Remote Health Occupational Health & Safety Group

*Background:* There are currently no standardised arrangements in place for Remote Health Centres to hold Material Safety Data Sheets, despite this being a legal requirement.

*Discussion:* It is acknowledged that MSDS need to be available in all health centres. The legal requirement is actually to hold a Register of Hazardous Substances. MSDS may be incorporated into this Register.

Preference is that it would be most efficient to compile registers centrally and distribute to all health centres, to avoid multiplied workload for each health centre to generate a register. It is reasonable to develop a "standard contents list" for a register according to chemicals found in all or most health centres, however any exceptions would need to be accommodated locally.

An Atlas item is required to clearly describe the necessity of a Hazardous Substances Register, and its purpose and use in all health centres, along with description of related staff responsibilities.

*Consultation:* Jan Jones (OH&S Officer, DCIS)

*References:* [NTWorkSafe Bulletin: Hazardous Substances - MSDS](#)

[NTWorksafe Bulletin: Hazardous Substances – Assessment of risk to health from working with hazardous substances](#)

[NTWorksafe Bulletin: Hazardous Substances – Information employers must provide Workplace Chemical Response Action Plan](#)

[Work Health Act 2007](#) See particularly Sections 29(2) & 31(2)

*Outcome:* **Hazardous Substances Registers, inclusive of MSDS, will be compiled and distributed to all Branch Health Centres.**

**An [Atlas item](#) will be developed and distributed to all sites.**