MODULE 7

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY
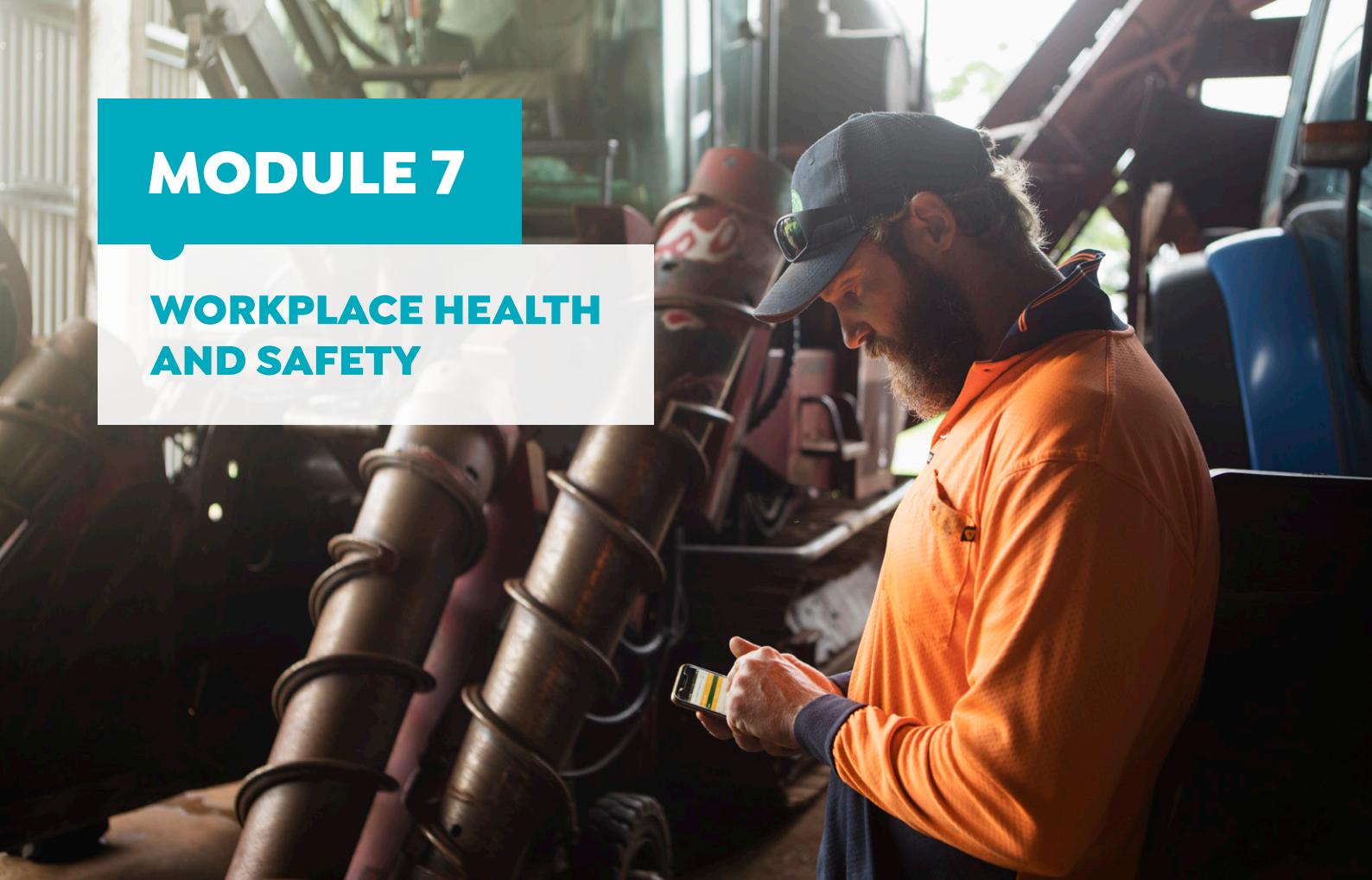
What is this about?

Farms can be risky workplaces. So keeping yourself and others safe on your farm is a serious business.

As a business owner, you have legal obligations to minimise the risks you and your workers, visitors and contractors are exposed to. Implementing workplace health and safety procedures is all about using common sense, and there are many useful resources to help you ensure the risk of injury on your farm is kept as low as possible.

In your workplace health and safety procedures, you need to show you understand your responsibility for your workers, contractors and visitors, and how you take appropriate actions to meet your obligations.

Why is it important?

You're legally obliged to put in place a number of workplace health and safety processes and procedures tailored to your farm. The paperwork associated with this can appear overwhelming, but there are many templates designed for farm use that make this much easier.

What's next?

REVIEW AND DISCUSS

If you'd like to document or review your workplace health and safety practices, you can access Module 7 at ✈ smartcane.com.au. The module records your current practices, and the checklist format helps to identify any options for further improvement.

Your district facilitator or productivity officer can help you to follow-up on any additional information, training or expert advice.

GET INVOLVED IN SMARTCANE BMP

Smartcane BMP has modules that cover all aspects of the cane farming business. It includes the option to become accredited in the farming practice modules (Modules 1, 2 and 3). Participation is entirely voluntary, and your facilitator can talk with you about what's involved and put you in touch with local growers who are also part of the program.

Contact your district facilitator to get involved.

SMARTCANE BMP

What's in the module?

INDUSTRY STANDARD

AWARENESS OF WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Understanding legal responsibilities for the health and safety of your workers, contractors and visitors, and taking actions to meet their obligations

RISK MANAGEMENT

Undertaking a risk management process with your workers and developing procedures for all activities that pose a risk

CONSULTATION

Maintaining a safe work environment by regularly discussing safety with your workers and contractors, and documenting consultation when required

TRAINING AND SUPERVISION

Training workers in safe work practices before they begin tasks, supervising work to ensure procedures are being followed, keeping records of training, and reviewing training and safe work practices before different tasks are undertaken

WORKER INDUCTION AND RECORDS

Before workers and contractors begin work, undertaking inductions and recording critical details to be kept in a confidential personnel file

VISITOR INDUCTION

Undertaking inductions for all visitors and recording the details

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS

Developing emergency procedures in consultation with staff and family that are appropriate to your property, including these procedures in induction for new workers, testing them to ensure they're effective, and reviewing them each year

REMOTE OR ISOLATED WORK

Implementing an effective communication system for remote or isolated workers, and reviewing this annually

CHILD SAFETY

Identifying and controlling risks for the safety of children, creating clear rules, and making sure all staff, family and visitors know what they are

FIRST AID KITS AND PROVISION

Ensuring adequate first aid equipment is available at all work locations and staff have appropriate training, and all accidents and injuries are recorded

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Assessing the use of PPE and making sure it matches work conditions and task-specific requirements, it's kept in good condition, and staff understand how to use it and where it's kept

ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARDS

Considering environmental hazards and putting processes in place to manage the risks, like rotating workers or limiting exposure

INCIDENT REPORTING

Understanding and meeting the legal obligations for reporting incidents under WHSQ and WorkCover