EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF

MATES in Construction: Industry Wellbeing Environmental Scan and Survey

In late 2021, it became noticeable that workers were experiencing a significant increase in anxiety, fear, anger and frustration. MATES wanted to get a better understanding of how COVID-19 was impacting our workforce. We commissioned a Global Environmental scan to understand how COVID-19 had impacted workers in other countries, and interventions put in place we could learn from. Following the scan, we were able to conduct an industry survey to understand the impacts over a four-month period since Delta arrived in New Zealand. In total, 6,107 people received the survey. 1,202 valid responses were received, giving a response rate of 20.0 percent.

"This research underscores the importance of prioritising our people as we continue to work through the pandemic and look to rebuild our economy and businesses. At MATES, we are expanding around the country to offer mental health support through workplaces, but it's clear we need a joined-up approach by industry, government and providers to support our people through the stormy seas ahead," says Victoria McArthur.

MAIN FINDINGS

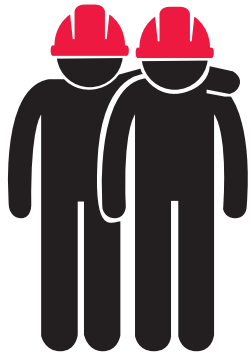
43% OF WORKERS SAID THAT THEIR MENTAL HEALTH WAS WORSE SINCE THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC REPORT

IN THE LAST 4 MONTHS

4% OF RESPONDENTS SERIOUSLY THOUGHT ABOUT ENDING THEIR LIFE

2% MADE PLANS TO END THEIR LIFE, AND

1% MADE AN ATTEMPT TO END THEIR LIFE



THE RESEARCH ALSO SHOWS THERE IS REAL ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT WHEN IT COMES TO HOW WE ARE CHECKING IN ON OUR WORKFORCE AND COLLEAGUES AT WORK. JUST

33% OF WORKERS REPORTED THEIR EMPLOYER CHECKING IN ON THEIR WELFARE AT WORK IN THE LAST YEAR

SUICIDAL THOUGHTS, PLANS, AND ATTEMPTS ARE REPORTED MORE FREQUENTLY BY PARTICIPANTS AGED

18-25

WITH 18% REPORTING SUCH THOUGHTS

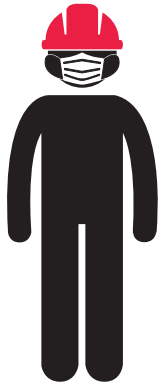
RATES WERE ALSO HIGHER AMONGST

MAORI ON 8%

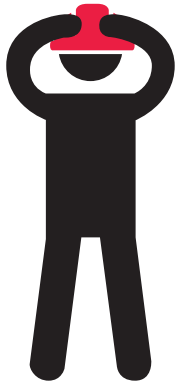
PACIFIC PEOPLES ON 8%

IN THE WORKPLACE, THE THREE MOST COMMON ISSUES OF CONCERN ARE

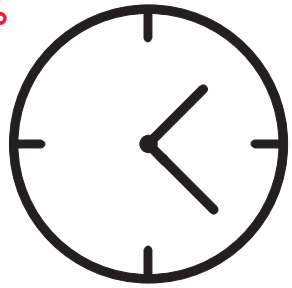
COVID-19 PROTOCOLS AT 31%



HIGH WORKLOAD AT 37%



PRESSURES FROM DELAYS AT 30%



ALLEN+CLARKE

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