

# Safe handling & design of surgical instrument transportation

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## BACKGROUND

### Manual handling is the most common cause of workplace injury in Australia.

- The National OHA Strategy highlighted the needed attention to include health & community services among its priority industries.
- Heads of Workplace Safety Authorities [HWSA] conducted a campaign in 2008 in response to the continued high cost of manual handling claims in the health industry.
- Work Cover NSW established a national working party to develop solutions to issues arising from the design and handling of surgical loan sets [SLS]
- Key stakeholder included surgical supply companies, couriers and CSD staff.

## OBJECTIVES – Surgical Loan Sets National Working Party

- Share research & assessment of the different types of manual tasks,
- Design of two new surgical instrument transport cases,
- Development of a National Guide, 'Safe Design and Handling of Surgical Instrument Transport Cases',
- Development of a training package.

## METHODS

- SLS Working party, national membership,
- Legislation updated to the Work Health & Safety Act, 2011,
- Evidence gathering – inspections, risk assessments & discomfort surveys.



## RESULTS / DISCUSSION

- Analysis of evidence involved when using old transport cases,
- A new transport case, developed, tested and evaluated,
- Environmental space considerations,
- Equipment & purchasing considerations: lifter, height adjustable workstation, rollers and mobile shelving,
- Development of a training package – funded by FSRACA and to be customised for each State and Territory,
- Training developed by FSRACA Education CSD Sub-group.

## KEY CLINICAL POINTS

- **The National Guide: Design and Handling of Surgical Instrument Transport Cases** Power Point Presentation or PDF [download]
- **Safe Handling and Management of Surgical Loan Kit training** Power Point Presentation [download]
- **FSRACA CSD Training Video** – View on the website
- **Safe Operating Procedure [SOP], Surgical Loan Sets [SLS], Receive and Despatch** [download]

## BENEFITS

- Cost reductions in compensation and lost time,
- Improved staff morale,
- Increased productivity to streamline processes,
- Up-skilling opportunities for CSD staff.



## References / Acknowledgments

[www.fsraca.org.au](http://www.fsraca.org.au)



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