

WORKING SAFELY AT HEIGHTS

Information for schools and external providers

Key messages:

The safety and wellbeing of students engaging in workplace learning activities is the key concern of the department. There are risks associated with working on ladders, scaffolding or at heights in many workplaces including, but not limited to the Construction and Entertainment industries.

To minimise these risks host employers are to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that any work involving the risk of a fall is carried out on the ground or on a solid construction. All students should undertake an induction and training process which includes the safe use of ladders and scaffolding.

Working on a roof or in a roof cavity is a prohibited activity.

All work on ladders or scaffolding is permitted to a height of no more than two metres. Ladders and scaffolding are to be industrial grade, must comply with the requirements of the latest editions and relevant Australian Standard. SafeWork NSW provides comprehensive information on the use of [ladders](#) and [scaffolds](#). Key points are listed below.

Any student using a ladder must:

- be used on a flat and stable surface
- climb to a maximum height of 2 metres
- face the ladder when going up or down
- stand no higher than the second step below the top plate of any ladder, with the exception of a 3-rung step
- have three points of contact with the ladder
- climb a ladder with all the locking devices secured
- secure tools in a tool belt or side pouch when climbing the ladder.

Any student using scaffolding **must:**

- be used on a flat and stable surface
- work on a scaffold to a maximum height of 2 metres
- have completed an induction process specifically on the use of scaffolding, which includes information, training and instruction
- use a scaffold that is prefabricated or of a modular construction and meets Australian Standards
- only access a mobile scaffold once castors are locked to prevent movement
- only use a mobile scaffold while it is stationary.

Host employers **must:**

- ensure scaffold is erected by a licensed scaffolder
- ensure scaffold is prefabricated or of modular construction and meets Australian Standards
- use of scaffold above 2 metres is only for access and egress to a multi-storey building under supervision of the host employer
- ensure students do not carry out any work on a scaffold above 2 metres.

For further information in relation to work experience, contact:

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