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\$3 million to prevent injuries in the construction industry

A \$3 million funding pool is available to individuals, organisations and consortia with ideas to prevent injuries in the construction industry, following the launch of the icare Foundation's Injury Prevention in Construction (IPIC) fund.

"Injury prevention is fundamental to icare's DNA. The more claims we can prevent, the better," said Barney Smith, General Manager of icare Foundation.

"Because construction sites are complex workplaces there are multiple challenges at play in this industry. The nature of the work, such as operating machinery, contact with electricity and working at heights, means construction is an innately high-risk work environment. Added to this, communication can break down easily when there are numerous contractors on site at once."

The IPIC fund aims to address these challenges at three levels: individual risk taking and other behaviours, supervision and site safety culture, and industry-wide approaches that permeate through organisations down to the individual worker.

"The social impact of a workplace accident has a ripple effect beyond the injured worker, to her or his family, workmates and the business itself. We are hoping this fund can contribute towards reducing the human toll and social cost of serious injuries," said Mr Smith.

According to icare 2017-18 claims data, 45 per cent of injury claims in the construction industry came from young workers, aged 19 to 32. This may be due to their inexperience on site, and because they are more prone to risk-taking behaviours.

"Significant injuries early in a person's career can not only lead to loss of current earnings, but also a reduction in future earning potential and their productive capacity. We want to address the root causes which create unsafe behaviours and accidents so we can reduce injuries," said Mr Smith.

"We aim to drive changes across the industry through innovative, scalable ideas and we're especially interested in partnerships that might stimulate creative approaches.

"We're looking outside the square – beyond the construction industry – calling on innovators, behavioural specialists, tech developers, research institutes, peak bodies and industry leaders to bring their diversity of knowledge and ideas together to address injury prevention," said Mr Smith.

Expressions of interest are open until 23 August 2019. Interested parties should explain their idea and how it will address the problem in 250 words or less and email foundation@icare.nsw.gov.au.

For more information, visit: <https://www.icare.nsw.gov.au/ipicfund/>.

Media contact: Catherine Rout | media@icare.nsw.gov.au | 0427 247 137

icare Foundation

icare, as a social insurer, invests in ideas and innovations that enhance our customers' experience and have a broader social impact on the communities of NSW.

icare Foundation was established in 2016 as a social venture investing \$100 million over five years to partner with a range of third party organisations, innovating to extend the reach and support provided to injured customers, carers and their families.

For more information: www.icare.nsw.gov.au/icare-foundation