



The Crane Industry Council of Australia

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Lifting Industry Standards

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release: 17 October 2013

CICA Supports Crane Incident Investigation

***CICA has been notified of the recent tragic road incident in Queensland
involving an articulated mobile crane.***

The Crane Industry Council of Australia (CICA) has this week been advised of the recent tragic road incident which occurred in Queensland last month, near Toowoomba. According to The Chronicle newspaper reports, a 37 year old local woman and her young son were killed as a result of the fatal, head-on crash of two vehicles on 16 September on the New England Highway. From the media reports, it is understood that the 4WD vehicle driven by the deceased woman and an articulated mobile crane collided. As the peak national body for the crane industry, CICA has been approached to comment on the incident.

“On behalf of CICA and the crane industry, our hearts and thoughts are with the family of Ms Christine Leonardi and her son Sam, both killed in this tragic and devastating incident,” stated Alan Marshall, CICA’s Chief Executive Officer. “I have made contact with the Queensland State Coroner’s Office, the Queensland Department of Transport and Main Roads, plus The Chronicle newspaper, to pass on CICA’s full support of all investigations of this horrific incident,” added Alan.

“CICA of course does not have access to specific incident details. However CICA is generally aware of reports of a small number of road incidents involving articulated mobile cranes in recent years. Such incidents are collectively a small percentage of the several thousand such cranes on the roads across Australia, which are being driven responsibly by specially licensed crane operators, consistent with manufacturer guidelines. Mobile cranes are registered as special purpose vehicles and are required to comply with all road regulations and Australian Standards,” said Alan.

“To raise the safety bar, in 2002 CICA launched the industry CraneSafe program, which is a self-regulatory national scheme delivering third party, independent, annual safety inspections for cranes. As crane owners have a legal obligation to ensure all plant is safe and well-maintained at all times, the CraneSafe program is strongly supported by our industry, along with being recognised by major contractors, unions, Safe Work Australia and state WorkSafe departments,” added Alan.

“CICA does recognise the importance of ongoing review and improvement of the effectiveness of operator training and mobile crane safety requirements in order to improve crane safety, both on the roads and onsite,” noted Alan. “Hence I am pleased to confirm, in addition to our training initiatives, CICA will be undergoing fresh discussions with crane manufacturers and crane owners in view of the recent reports, to ensure improved education and operation of articulated mobile cranes,” said Alan.

“In the meantime, CICA and the industry welcome any specific crane incident investigations by relevant authorities to improve crane safety,” said Alan in closing.

For further Information on this Media Release contact:

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CICA is the peak, national not-for-profit association for the Australian Crane Industry. For public information on CICA’s role and activities please refer to the CICA website www.cica.com.au and/or the CICA CraneSafe website www.cranesafe.com.au.