



Drop in injuries at work for state in 2012

By EMILY BAKER

WORKPLACE injuries in Tasmania are down 4 per cent, according to figures released yesterday.

Workplace Relations Minister David O'Byrne yesterday announced 8934 workplace injuries were reported in 2012.

The figure was 378 fewer than 2011 and the first time injuries reported numbered less than 9000.

"We have to support families and communities that support those workers," Mr O'Byrne said.

Mr O'Byrne said workplace safety was a constant challenge and required constant work due to the changing nature of the workplace.

Active Launceston co-ordinator Sharon King said the sedentary

workplace was "the new smoking".

The dietician said resulting illnesses became a cost on the economy.

"It's up to workplaces to encourage and promote health," Ms King said.

She said staff activities could help improve employee loyalty and culture and required small adjustments to daily operations.

"For example, instead of sitting at meetings, we'll go for walk and talk meetings," Ms King said.

WorkSafe Month was launched yesterday at Country Club Tasmania.

The month aims to get Tasmanians talking about work health and safety issues and runs from September 30 to November 1. Details are available at worksafe.tas.gov.au.