

## **MEDIA RELEASE - 24<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

### **Construction Managers Safety Forum**

**Contact: Channa Perry (NPiS Trust) 753 7777 ext 8792**

New Plymouth injury Safe Trust teamed up with the Taranaki Construction Safety Focus Group to organise this morning's breakfast forum aimed at construction managers and contractors. The event was organised as a response to feedback from the local construction industry regarding contractor management and compliance issues.

Organisers were delighted to have over 100 construction and management staff turn up, with representation from large national companies through to small one-man businesses.

The main aim of the event was to share experience, information and ideas about how we could all work together to build a safety culture into all levels of the contracting process.

Speakers included a number of local employers who spoke about the impact of workplace injury on themselves, their employees and their business. Speakers from Department of Labour and ACC contributed information about the range of resources and materials available to support health and safety at work. The event also provided an opportunity for construction workers to share their ideas about improving safety culture in the workplace.

One of the main issues raised at the forum was that building good but potentially more costly health and safety measures into contract tenders brought with it a risk that the company would lose a contract due to the higher costs these measures create. However, what the seminar also brought home was that, although implementing health and safety measures costs money, ignoring them can cost even more.

### **Additional Notes:**

The seminar was organised by New Plymouth injury Safe in partnership with Taranaki Construction Safety Focus Group.

The Taranaki Construction Safety Focus Group is an informal group of construction workers with a passion for improving health and safety throughout the construction industry. The group meet the first Tuesday of every month, 8am at the Department of Labour offices on

Devon Street East. Anyone is welcome to turn up. For more information on the group contact Lesley Johnson of Clelands on 758 0869