

Media Release

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SA Government should come clean about their deal with builder after another worker dies

The CFMEU is calling for the government to come clean about their deal with Hansen Yuncken following the death of yet another worker on one of their sites.

Just days after the charges were dropped against the builder responsible for the death of Jorge Castillo-Riffo, a 55 year old man was killed on the Flinders Medical Centre site.

South Australian CFMEU Secretary Aaron Cartledge said there were serious safety concerns about a worker of that age working on a jackhammer.

“Questions need to be asked regarding the suitability of that work for someone of that age.

“Being on a jackhammer is probably the most physically demanding jobs in the industry.”

The fatality took place at the same time that workers and unions were rallying on the steps of Parliament for better safety and protesting against the ABCC, following the terrible safety record on sites in Adelaide in the last three years.

“Our union and our community was shocked that charges were dropped against Jorge Castillo- Riffo,” said Mr Cartledge.

“Workers have no confidence that the government is interested in their welfare when they introduce a regulator like the ABCC that prohibits unions from going on site to inspect safety.

“To make matters worse, builders who are responsible for the death of workers go unpunished while workers are prosecuted for taking action.

“We will continue to protest and take action against laws that treat workers like collateral damage.”

Mr Cartledge said the union would run its own investigation into the fatality.

“We are not going to simply accept that he died from ‘natural causes’ given the nature of the work he was doing at the time.

“It’s not as if he was sitting in the lunch shed, having a cup of tea.

“Our thoughts are with the family at this difficult time and we will offer whatever support they need.”

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