

## **SIMON\***

Simon\* is an Electrical and Instrumentation Technician working on a Floating Production Storage and Offloading vessel (FPSO) off the coast of Western Australian. Simon is responsible for the electrical installation of new equipment and the inspection of installations made by others. He is the elected HSR for his workgroup.

### *No clear licensing laws*

In Commonwealth Waters where Simon works, his employer and the FPSO are not covered by WA licencing legislation or by the WHS Act. Instead, his employer prepares a 'Safety Case' that sets out how it will meet its obligations to the safety of workers. On the FPSO where Simon currently works, the safety case requires that he and other electrical workers on the vessel hold electrical licences equivalent to the WA licence. However, on other vessels, including those operated by the same company, the same rule does not apply.

Simon describes the risks created when workers are not locally licenced and are unfamiliar with Australian standards:

*"... you're just opening yourself up for a lot of hurt and yeah, a lot of repercussions and possibly fatalities."*

When employers are allowed to design their own safety case, rather than comply with onshore WHS legislation, gaps emerge in not just the licencing but the training and qualification that underpins the licence.

Simon experienced this when his employer directed him to perform high-risk rigging and rope access work. Simon asked his employer to pay for him to get a High-Risk Work Licence for advanced rigging, which is required for equivalent work onshore. His employer refused, saying that it was not necessary because in the employer's view:

*"Anyone can do rigging."*

When Simon raised concerns about the safety of this approach, given the high-risk nature of the work and the fact that a licence is required onshore, he was told:

*'Well, that's what we do at [Simon's employer]. We just get the job done.'*