

Classrooms: hazardous playgrounds for teachers?

What schools must do to minimise their exposure to legal liability

Mills Oakley is pleased to invite you to attend a round table discussion designed specifically to equip school leaders and principals with the skills and knowledge to ensure, that they provide and maintain a safe working environment for their teachers.

The High Court in *Deal v Father Pius Kodakkathanath* [2016] HCA 31 has recently sounded a wakeup call for school leaders and principals who might find that their schools are liable in damages to individual teachers for failing to do everything reasonably practicable to prevent a teacher performing a task other than in the safest way possible.

Ms Deal was a grade 3 teacher and was using a step ladder to remove papier mache displays from the pin up board on her classroom wall. She was small in stature and was using a 2 step ladder to reach the displays. She was descending backwards down the step ladder, whilst carrying multiple displays, and missed a step, fell and suffered a knee injury. The High Court held that it was open to infer that the school breached its statutory duty to do what was reasonably practicable to prevent Ms Deal from doing a task other than in the safest manner.

So what are the implications of this decision for school leaders and principals? How can schools identify, so far as is reasonably practicable, the risks associated with each and every way that a task could be carried out as well as guard against every one of those risks? What are the risks of not doing so?

This round table discussion will take a close look at the decision in *Deal* and the practical implications for school leaders and principals in minimising their exposure to liability.

Presenters

Kate Walawski

Special Counsel | Mills Oakley

Workplace Relations

+61 8 6167 9844 **direct**

kwalawski@millsOakley.com.au **email**

Tracy Caspersz

Consulting Counsel

Workplace Relations, Safety and Employment Law

+61 417 916 209 **mobile**

tracy.caspersz@westnet.com.au **email**

www.tracycaspersz.com.au **website**

Event Details



Tuesday, 25 October 2016



8:45am – 10:00am

(Morning tea and light refreshments will be provided)

**Mills Oakley Boardroom**

Level 2, 225 St Georges Terrace

Perth, WA 6000

RSVP

Please RSVP by **Tuesday, 11 October 2016**

to **Lauren Jeffers** on

+61 8 6167 9827 or at

ljeffers@millsOakley.com.au