



BODY-WORN CAMERAS FOR WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY INSPECTORS

CASE STUDY

Workplace Health & Safety inspectors play a vital role in keeping worksites safe, but too often they face hostility, ranging from intimidation to physical assault. With 179 businesses flagged as high-risk, m-View, a Tait Company, was selected to provide a video solution that would protect inspectors while reinforcing compliance.

All Image sources: Channel 7 News

m-View
A Tait Company





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BACKGROUND

m-View, a Tait Company, have been selected to rollout 300 Body-Worn Cameras and Altitude, m-View's Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS) for an Australian Workplace Health and Safety Regulator as a part of their daily operational equipment.

Inspectors often work alone and in isolated and remote locations where there is a risk of threatening behaviour, violence and aggression. The client has no tolerance of these behaviours and is committed to the health and safety of its workers. A recent amendment to the [Surveillance Devices Regulation 2022](#) has authorised the use of Body-Worn Video (BWV) by Inspectors.

KEY OUTCOMES:

-  **Stronger enforcement:** The rollout is intended to deter violence and aggression toward inspectors.
-  **Evidence gathering:** Body-Worn Video may assist evidence gathering and enforcement activities.
-  **Secure workflows:** Automatic upload and storage for compliance and legal use.
-  **Cultural change:** Over time, fewer worksites are expected to be flagged as high-risk, supporting safer workplaces across the state.

“It will make their role far more safe, but far more effective.”

- Stewart Little, Public Service Association





THE CHALLENGES

Inspectors are essential in maintaining workplace safety, but that doesn't mean they're always welcome on site.

Violence and aggression against inspectors have increased in recent years, with 179 active employer entities currently flagged for caution.

This means that there has been unacceptable behaviour towards inspectors from these individuals, with several matters under active investigation.

“Your safety is paramount when you're keeping everybody else safe.”

- Sophie Cotsis, Work Health and Safety Minister

THE OBJECTIVES



Keeping inspectors safe in unpredictable environments.



Capturing reliable evidence to hold offenders accountable.



Maintaining inspector confidence in the field.



SOLUTION

To deter violence or aggression against Workplace Health and Safety inspectors, the Government has commenced a statewide rollout of Body-Worn Video.

Inspectors can be exposed to dangerous situations while engaging workplaces and workers, and can find themselves in isolated and remote areas. Body-worn video is part of additional safeguards in the state's 'Enhancing our Safety, Enhances Yours' campaign.

The rollout of Body-Worn Cameras act as a deterrent to inappropriate behaviour and assist prosecuting any alleged offences against inspectors in the course of their duty. All inspectors will be fitted with the cameras and be trained in the use of Body-Worn Video and the handling of evidence.

BENEFITS OF BWC:



Deterrence of aggression: the presence of cameras reduces hostile behaviour.



Real-time, high-quality footage: every incident captured without bias.



Evidence integrity: video supports prosecutions against individuals and businesses.



Secure workflows: automatic upload and storage for compliance and legal use.

INTENDED OUTCOMES

The rollout is intended to support inspector safety, accountability, and evidence gathering.

“This body-Worn Camera technology will deter violence and aggression directed towards our members, and double as an evidence-gathering tool as they go about their duties, keeping us all safe at work,”

-Stewart Little, Public Service Association (PSA)

SUPPORTIVE CONSIDERATIONS FOR BWV

Regarding workplace violence and aggression in Australia.

1. Mental stress from workplace harassment

- Of the approximately 10,000 serious mental stress claims in 2021-22, 16.4% was from exposure to workplace or occupational violence (*Psychological health and safety in the workplace report*)
- After 2016-17, work related harassment overtook work pressure as the main cause of mental stress claims. This represents a significant change, as work pressure had been the main cause of mental stress claims for over a decade prior. (*Psychological health and safety in the workplace report*)

2. Strong enforcement with hard penalties

- Individuals who threaten or assault inspectors face penalties of up to \$50,000 and/or two years' imprisonment. (*Section 190 of the Work Health and Safety Act 2011*)
- Businesses can face fines of up to \$250,000, nearly 10 times higher than individual penalties. (*Cross Selection of Model WHS Offences*)
- Inspectors are legally allowed to use BWCs to record when entering a workplace using their powers under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011, if they have the opinion that there is a significant risk of harm to themselves or another person.

3. Evidence integrity & efficiency

- There are measures in place to help protect personal information from loss, unauthorised access, use, modification, disclosure or other misuse. The data is managed in accordance with relevant legislation, policy and procedures.
- Information is kept for as long as needed to fulfil the purposes of the evidence collected. After this, the information is disposed of securely in accordance with the State Records Act 1998 and any other applicable legislation. (*State Records Act 1998 No 17*)

4. Enhanced public trust

- Securely storing and managing information must abide by strict lawful activities. All BWC recordings are processed and managed in line with relevant policies and procedures.

Inspectors are legally allowed to record even if a person asks not to be recorded when: exercising powers under the WHS Act or the Explosives Act, and the BWC is prominently attached to the Inspector's clothing, and in the Inspector's opinion, there is a significant risk of harm to the inspector or another person.

WE GO BEYOND FOR A SAFER WORLD.

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