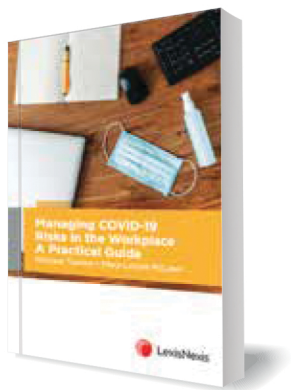


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This month's books cover public health emergencies, managing COVID-19 in the workplace, mediation and true crime.



Managing COVID-19 Risks in the Workplace: A practical guide

Michael Tooma and Mary-Louise McLaws, LexisNexis, 2021, pb \$100

With both federal and state governments eager to avoid policing COVID-19 risks in private workplaces, and consequently placing the onus of providing a COVID-safe workplace onto business owners, this extensive pamphlet from lawyer Michael Tooma and epidemiologist Mary-Louise McLaws serves as a valuable resource for HR professionals, in-house counsel and OHS committee members.

The emphasis of the text is on practicality over an academic treatise on OHS laws and infection control. To this end, the text has concrete and useful advice on protecting workers and customers from COVID-19 infection, engaging and consulting with workers, responding to an infection outbreak and the reporting obligations that apply to businesses.

Each chapter is easy to read while firmly bedded in the statutory obligations that businesses owe under OHS laws. For example, the chapter "Working from home" offers a range of practical matters that should be addressed in a working-from-home policy, such as ergonomic assessments, electrical and fire safety and slip and trip hazards. These practical matters are discussed alongside the employer's continuing obligation to remain vigilant to risks such as burnout from employee's being constantly on-call, domestic violence and mental health.

With new strains of COVID-19 appearing it would seem that workplaces will be required to manage its associated risks well into the foreseeable future. That will make this text a worthwhile investment for any business that wants to ensure that they are taking well considered steps to properly prevent and respond to COVID-19 risks.

Joseph Kelly, Kelly Workplace Lawyers