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MEDIA RELEASE

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Tool Torque Makes Work Smarter

Pneumatic rattler guns, jackhammers, portable air compressors and dry ice blasting have been the talk of the day at the Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) Tool Torque held today.

More than just a 'torque fest', QAL's Tool Torque takes a hands on approach to reducing the risk of injury to employees by demonstrating the very latest innovations in tools - like they have never been seen before.

Managing Director Phil Campbell said the event is held over two days but within only a couple of hours had proved to be a great success, with hundreds of employees from QAL and other sites filtering through.

"Globally, workplace ergonomics related injuries are responsible for more than 40 per cent of all lost-time injuries. As one of the region's largest employers we are committed to exploring all options when it comes to injury prevention and the science of ergonomics is about working smarter, rather than harder," Mr Campbell said.

"Tool Torque is about providing our employees and other industries in Gladstone with a first hand opportunity to see, touch and feel the latest and greatest in equipment which can assist us to work smarter out on the field. It is the first of its kind held in Gladstone and suppliers have travelled from as far as Western Australia to be involved, which is fantastic."

Event Organiser and QSafe Coordinator Brett Harris said the opportunity for employees to try out the tools on actual valves and equipment that are common on site at QAL was priceless.

"With a particular focus on ergonomics and anti vibration, Tool Torque takes the tools out of the glossy brochures and puts them in a real working situation with the people who use similar equipment every single day," Mr Harris said.

"An integral part of the event was to have actual valves available so that the suppliers and demonstrators could actively show how the product worked in a realistic environment. This is particularly important because people can see and feel for themselves how it will make a difference to carrying out everyday tasks."

Suppliers at Tool Torque include Norbar Torque Tools, Tools r Us, Enerpac, Atlas Copco, Ingersol Rand, Wise United Tools, Valvefit Plus, Dry Ice Tech, BOC Safety Equipment and Hoffman Engineering. QAL's Engineering Team will also be demonstrating a range of site specific inventions throughout the day. Tool Torque will be on until 5pm today and from 7am to 4pm tomorrow and all employees of local large industries are welcome to attend. Food and drinks are available for purchase, with all proceeds going to Variety.

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Caption: QAL Electrical/Instrumentation Apprentice Shawn Taylor takes a liking to the new welding helmets currently available shown by BOC's Joel Scherer.



Caption: Mick Rapkins from Atlas Copco discusses the benefits of a vibration reduced pneumatic hammer to NRG's Phil Hayne, David Hoffman, Mick Chadwick and Greg Simpson.

About Queensland Alumina Limited:

Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) commenced operation in March 1967 with an annual production rate of 600 000 tonnes of alumina. Today QAL is one of the world's largest alumina refineries, producing 3.95 million tonnes of the world's best smelter grade alumina per year. With an average workforce of 1050 employees, QAL is one of the region's largest employers and annually contributes approximately \$200 million directly to the local economy.

About Tool Torque:

Tool Torque is the Gladstone region's first tool expo dedicated to showcasing tools used within the heavy industrial sector. Organised by QAL, it features displays from more than ten industry specific suppliers with hands on demonstrations held throughout the two days. Tool Torque is one of many initiatives to make QAL a Safer. Cleaner. Better workplace everyday.

For further information, contact:

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