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MEDIA RELEASE

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Manual Handling and Ergonomics Expo, featuring Torque makes Gladstone industries work smarter

Working smarter, not harder. That is the talk of the town this week, as industry and supplier representatives arrive from all over Australia to showcase the latest innovations in ergonomics and manual handling.

Today and tomorrow, Queensland Alumina Limited (QAL) is hosting the Rio Tinto Alcan (RTA) Manual Handling and Ergonomics Expo, coupled with an interactive trade show, Tool Torque.

Representatives from RTA's operations at QAL, Yarwun, Weipa, Gove and Rio Tinto's Boyne Smelters are in attendance to highlight initiatives aimed at improving manual handling and ergonomic issues at their respective sites. The sites will hold presentations and displays of their improvements, while representatives from other local industries have also been invited to reap the benefits of the information sharing.

QAL Managing Director, Phil Campbell said the Expo and Tool Torque complement each other in assisting representatives improve the safety of their workplaces.

"Muscular-skeletal injuries are a large contributor to workplace injuries, yet they are highly preventable with the right education and techniques of conducting tasks."

"Over the past year RTA sites have been carrying out the manual handling and ergonomics program designed to target the highest risk tasks and implement solutions. The Expo is a way for us to share our achievements and challenges so that wider improvements can be made across all attending sites, ultimately making our workplaces safer for employees."

Combined with the Expo is the Tool Torque trade show, a host of interactive displays and demonstrations from over 20 vendors specialising in ergonomic tools and equipment. The displays feature a wide variety of material handling products, valve automation technology and anti-vibration tools and equipment, focusing on innovations to reduce musculoskeletal disorders by improving ergonomics.

Event organiser and QAL Safety Advisor, Rebecca Devine encourages representatives and employees from all industries to take advantage of what Tool Torque has to offer.

"Technology is providing new ways of doing tasks without the muscular stresses or ergonomic issues and Tool Torque provides the opportunity to see, use and compare a range of tools to help us work smarter, not harder," Rebecca said.

Vendors at Tool Torque include: RAD Torque Solutions, Enerpac, ErgoEnterprises, AtlasCopco, Tools R Us, Hofmann Engineering, Technofast Industries, Manual Handling Australia, OnSite Health Solutions, Cooper Fluid Systems, Makita, Specialised Force, Tyco Flow Control, Coates Hire/Bosch, Corporate Express and PBA Safety.

Tool Torque will be take place at QAL's Bob Druiitt Training Centre today until 4pm and tomorrow, 7am to 3pm. Food and drinks are available for purchase, with all proceeds going to Capricorn Helicopter Rescue Service.



Steff Stokes from OnSite Health Solutions has attendees completing a stretch warm-up at the beginning of the presentations.



QAL Mechanical Engineer, Fabian Murray is interested in the tools offered by Hi-Force tools representative Mick.



Danny Mitchell from Atlas Copco demonstrates one of the pneumatic tools on offer designed to reduce ergonomic injuries.

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 second tool trade show of its kind held in Gladstone, with the last held by QAL in 2009. It is dedicated to showcasing tools used within the heavy industrial sector with a focus on reducing manual handling and ergonomic issues. Twice the number of vendors are attending this year's Tool Torque and it is just one of the many initiatives to make QAL a Safer. Cleaner. Better. workplace every day.

Photo opportunities throughout the day.

For further information, contact:

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