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MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Students learn to spot the risks

Most local students may be able to cross the road safely, but are they aware of the everyday hazards that surround them?

Students are now able to take more responsibility for their safety with the introduction of Queensland Alumina Limited's (QAL) new Alumina Learning Partnership (ALP) module, 'What's the Risk.'

'What's the Risk' is one of seven free, practical ALP modules that complement primary school studies and are delivered by QAL's experienced scientists, environmental specialists and safety officers.

Targeted at grade four to five students, 'What's the Risk' comprises several activities which look at various situations familiar to children, as well as highlighting the controls that can be put in place to protect them from getting hurt. A qualified safety officer takes the students through scenarios, demonstrations and role plays to emphasise the importance of wearing protective equipment and how to recognise hazards.

Over the last fortnight, two QAL safety officers launched the module by presenting it to three classes at Kin Kora and Yarwun State Primary schools.

Presenter Darren MacLeod said it was great to see the children pausing to think about their actions and the everyday situations that could cause them harm.

"I took the students through basic risk assessments so they can recognise hazards that may be found around the home or school. We then looked around the outdoor play areas to identify hazards and their associated risks, along with how these could be controlled or eliminated," Mr MacLeod said.

"Safety as a learning topic is important because teaching children to be aware is also teaching them to use their best judgments, in addition to being responsible for the safety of themselves and their mates."

Mr MacLeod also said that 'What's the Risk' can be tailored to the class' requirements so the students gain the most out of their learning experience.

"One of the schools will soon to embark on a bike safety course and go on a canoeing excursion, so a lot of the discussions were based around these activities. The students are now more aware of the things they should do before and during these activities to avoid creating a risk for injury."

Health, Safety, Environment and Communities Manager Ross Greenhalgh said the addition of the safety module is another step towards improving the general wellbeing of local families.

"No matter what age, safety should be everyone's number one priority. We should all be armed with the knowledge of how to best protect ourselves from harm," Mr Greenhalgh said.

“We give our employees the knowledge required to work safely so it seems only fitting to provide our children with similar safety awareness methods to ensure they grow up valuing their personal safety, along with that of their mates.”

QAL’s ALP program has been running since 2001 and includes other exciting modules, such as: Our Coasts, Soil Science, Water and Air Quality, Solids, Liquids and Gases, What is a Scientist and How Alumina is Made from Bauxite.

For more information about the program or to make a booking, visit QAL’s website, www.qal.com.au or phone Courtney Brown on 4971 7049.

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One of the presenters of ‘What’s the Risk’, QAL Safety Officer Darren MacLeod, is ready to teach local students the importance of safety and identifying hazards.

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.

For further information, contact:

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