

## Outdoor Cafes

This *Hazard Alert* is to inform proprietors of outdoor cafes about potential serious incidents involving outdoor umbrellas that have occurred in Canberra and preventive measures that can be used.

### Background

Incidents have occurred where outdoor umbrellas have been blown from their stands resulting in the umbrellas becoming projectiles. There have also been incidents of open outdoor umbrellas protruding into walkways which have resulted in pedestrians hitting their heads on the corners of umbrellas.

These incidents have the potential to inflict serious injury to people struck by an umbrella.

### Preventative Measures

All outdoor umbrellas should be anchored to the ground in such a way that will prevent them from falling over or becoming air borne in windy conditions. The umbrella needs to be fixed in place by placing the shaft into a base that will not move in windy conditions and fastening at an anchor point, such as a split pin. One method of achieving this is to place a permanent heavy base on the ground, such as a planter box, then fixing the umbrella shaft in place.

Opened umbrellas should not protrude into walk ways and pedestrians should be prevented from walking under the umbrellas. This can be achieved by placing a barrier around the boundaries of the out door area to prevent pedestrian access to underneath the umbrellas.

### Duties under the ACT *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1989*

The ACT *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1989*, (*the Act*) imposes a duty of care on all parties to ensure, so far as is practicable, the health and safety of everyone (public and employees) who may be at or near the workplace. Substantial penalties exist for breaches of *the Act*.

