

## HAZARD ALERT

### Fixed bladed knife injury



#### Incident

The University has recently had a serious injury involving a fixed bladed knife. This resulted in a person receiving numerous stitches to their hand. The person using the knife was exerting force toward themselves when the blade made contact with the hand holding the object being cut.

#### Issue

- A fixed bladed knife was used. The Budget Area risk assessment control required a retractable bladed knife be used with gloves, for the task.
- An un-protected knife has a fixed blade which remains exposed at all times.
- The risk assessment control was not applied prior to commencing work.
- The cutting technique used by the person was to cut towards their body.

#### Recommendations

To reduce the risks of similar incidents occurring it is recommended that:

The hazards and risks associated with any tasks are risk assessed and the correct tools and techniques considered:

- Always follow Area rules and work practices.
- Concentrate on what you're doing and wear gloves when using a knife,
- Keep your body and co-workers away from the path of the knife,
- Budget Areas are advised to substitute all fixed blade knives for safety re-tractable knives as shown below.

