



# Latest news for registered organisations

---

## Registered Organisations Education and Support Program

The Registered Organisations Services Branch (ROSB) of the Fair Work Commission is hosting in-person information sessions in 2024 as part of our new Registered Organisations Education and Support Program. The first of these free program events will be held in:

**Melbourne** – Tuesday 16 April 2024, Savoy Hotel on Little Collins, 9.15am–1.00pm

**Parramatta** – Monday 6 May 2024, Novotel Sydney Parramatta, 9.15am–1.00pm

On the day you will have the opportunity to directly engage with subject matter experts from the education, compliance and finance teams of the ROSB. Morning tea and a light lunch will be provided.

The program for each day is still being finalised and will be circulated to participants closer to the date, however we will be covering topics of interest including what's new in the compliance space and financial reports.

If you would like to attend, please RSVP by 5:00pm Tuesday 2 April 2024 to [regorgs@fwc.gov.au](mailto:regorgs@fwc.gov.au) with the following details:

- Name
- Organisation/business
- Role/job title
- Email
- Phone number
- The city of the program event you want to attend
- Any dietary requirements

If you are not based in these locations, we will be delivering further program events in each state and territory of Australia by the end of the calendar year.



## Listen and Learn Program

Since the Listen and Learn program was launched in December last year, the General Manager of the Commission, Murray Furlong, has visited several registered organisations to meet with their compliance officers. We received valuable feedback from the participating organisations on how we can make the jobs of those who work with us on a daily basis easier and we will continue to develop and release education materials to assist registered organisations to voluntarily comply with their obligations under the RO Act.

If you are interested in participating in the program, you can nominate your organisation by emailing [regorgs@fwc.gov.au](mailto:regorgs@fwc.gov.au).



## Thinking about altering your rules? How you can ensure a smooth process

ROSB provides advice on draft rules and declarations. This can help you achieve the alterations to your rules that you want as smoothly as possible. The key is to contact us as soon as you start thinking about altering your rules.

We can provide advice and assistance about:

1. the draft rules – we make sure they:
  - achieve what you want; and
  - meet legislative requirements.
2. your declaration and the process you must follow to alter your rules, and
3. how and when you must lodge the alterations with us.



## The process to alter your rules – tailored checklists

Every organisation has its own individual processes to alter rules. Your processes are set out in your rulebook. We have checklists tailored to every organisation, setting out the steps we believe must be taken to alter rules.

We are happy to share our rule altering checklist with you. You can see what your action officer will be looking for in your declaration. We can discuss the checklist and change it as necessary, ensuring that we agree on the required steps.

We intend to make the checklists available on our website alongside your rules, so you can download it any time you plan to change your rules.

Before you alter your rules, contact us at [regorgs@fwc.gov.au](mailto:regorgs@fwc.gov.au) and we can help you with draft alterations, a draft declaration and the process to alter your rules. You can also listen to our [podcast about altering your rules](#).



## The Model Rules Project

The ROSB is working with stakeholders to draft a set of annotated Model Rules. The recent Registered Organisations Governance and Compliance External Review (RO Review) suggested this would be a valuable tool to assist organisations when making rule alterations.

The Model Rules will:

- provide best practice examples of individual rules
- explain the importance of particular rules and the law around them
- give organisations a place to start their research when they want to introduce a new rule for example online meetings.

There is a working group of interested volunteers that have already started to consider the structure and content of the Model Rules. If you want to be added to the working group for consultation later in the year, please contact us at [regorgs@fwc.gov.au](mailto:regorgs@fwc.gov.au).



## 12 month review of registered organisations functions

To mark one year since the functions of the former Registered Organisations Commissioner transferred to the General Manager of the Commission, the General Manager published a [12 month review](#) of our achievements since re-joining the Commission. The review highlights the extensive work undertaken in this time and discusses our upcoming engagements and future developments.



## Our 2024-2025 Education and Engagement Strategy

Our [Registered Organisations Education and Engagement Strategy](#) for 2024–25 has been released. The strategy outlines the General Manager's approach to providing education, assistance and advice to registered organisations and their members, and includes a calendar of deliverable resources that will be produced in 2024. A calendar of deliverables for 2025 will be published towards the end of 2024.



## The Commission's first enforceable undertaking

The General Manager has entered into the Commission's first enforceable undertaking since the Secure Jobs, Better Pay Act, which commenced last year, granted him additional enforcement powers.

The [enforceable undertaking](#) was entered into with the Community and Public Sector Union's State Public Services Federation after it admitted non-compliance by its Western Australia Prison Officer's Union Branch. This voluntary but binding agreement aims at addressing non-compliance that has occurred as well as preventing future non-compliance.

To learn more about the General Manager's expanded powers, see our guidance notes on [enforceable undertakings](#) and [infringement notices](#).

---

## Podcast episodes released

Our podcast series 'RO pod – talking about the governance of registered organisations' is now produced every second month. Since our last newsletter, we have released two new episodes:



### Podcast: Changes to right of entry permit applications

The Commission has streamlined the process of applying for a right of entry permit following a recommendation made by the RO Review. In this episode, we discuss the changes we have introduced and how they will affect registered organisations and right of entry permit applicants.

[Listen to episode 50 here.](#)



### Podcast: New enforcement tools

In this episode we talk about the expanded powers conferred on the General Manager in the form of enforceable undertakings and infringement notices. You'll hear about the types of conduct they apply to and their interaction with other enforcement actions.

[Listen to episode 51 here.](#)

New episodes, and most of our previous episodes are available on [Spotify](#), [Google](#) and [Apple](#), as well as on our [podcast page](#).

## Annual returns are due

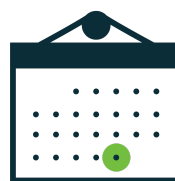
A reminder to all registered organisations that your annual return of information is due by 31 March 2024.

If you are having issues lodging your annual return, we have a range of [resources](#), including templates, available to help you comply with the requirements.



### Watch this space

We will soon be releasing our new Compliance and Enforcement Policy, and will advise you when it has been published.



### Easter closure

The Commission offices will be closed on March 29 and April 2. We wish you a safe and happy Easter.

---

## Related links

[Tools and templates](#) [Regulatory education and engagement](#)

---

You are receiving this email because you subscribed to updates from the Fair Work Commission.

You can unsubscribe. You will continue to receive other FWC emails you have subscribed to. You can update your preferences (add or remove multiple subscriptions or change your contact details).

Fair Work Commission: Australia's national workplace relations tribunal

[www.fwc.gov.au](http://www.fwc.gov.au)