

Latest news for registered organisations

New Compliance and Enforcement Policy

The General Manager of the Fair Work Commission (the Commission), Murray Furlong, has published a new [Compliance and Enforcement Policy](#) for registered organisations.

The policy sets out our commitment to providing a positive regulatory culture through a focus on assistance, education and collaboration. It also outlines how the new enforcement powers will be used.

The need for a new policy was identified as part of the [Registered Organisations Governance and Compliance External Review](#) (the RO Review), and we thank the registered organisations who provided feedback as part of the process. It's because of this feedback that we can continue to improve our services and recognise the need for change, such as the development of this new policy.



Registered Organisations Education and Support Program Events

We have now hosted two in-person information sessions in Melbourne and Sydney as part of our Registered Organisations Education and Support Program. These events were well attended and received feedback that the event was 'very interesting and informative' and '...'

excellent...I thought it's one of the best government based presentations I've ever been to'.

Our next event will be held between **9.15am–1.15pm Thursday 1 August 2024** at the [Rydges South Bank Brisbane](#) (9 Glenelg Street, South Brisbane).

If you would like to attend, please RSVP by 5:00pm Tuesday, 16 July 2024 to regorgs@fwc.gov.au with the following details:

- Name
- Organisation/business
- Role/job title
- Email
- Phone number
- Dietary requirements

For those not based in Brisbane, we plan to deliver events in Adelaide and Perth later in the year.



General Manager's Reporting Guidelines and new financial reporting checklists

The General Manager of the Commission has issued new editions of the reporting guidelines required under subsection 255(1) of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009*.

These new guidelines are almost identical to the previous versions, however references to the Registered Organisations Commissioner have been replaced with the General Manager. There are also some numbering changes. The new guidelines can be found here:

[Reporting guidelines for the purposes of section 253 – sixth edition](#)

[Reporting guidelines for the purposes of section 270 – fourth edition](#)

We have also released updated financial reporting checklists to help organisations comply with their 2024 financial reporting obligations. The [advanced assessment checklist](#) and the [primary assessment checklist](#) for 2024 are now available to view online. These incorporate the numbering changes introduced by the new reporting guidelines. Publishing the checklists enables organisations to see the criteria we use to assess the financial reports lodged with us and forms part of our commitment to transparency and assisting organisations with their compliance obligations.

We encourage you to refer to these documents for guidance when dealing with financial reporting.



2023–2024 Model Financial Statements released

The [2023–2024 model financial statements](#) have been released to help registered organisations and branches prepare their financial reports.

Continuing on from the improvements made last year, the model financial statements have been further streamlined to reflect the most common disclosures we see among registered organisations relating to financial instruments.

The model financial statements include sample disclosures that may be sufficient for reporting units with relatively simple financial instruments to meet their requirements under the Australian Accounting Standards. Reporting units with significant and complex financial disclosures should consider if other disclosures are required – and a link to these more detailed disclosures has been provided in the model statements.

We have released a [fact sheet that specifies the new accounting standards](#), amendments to accounting standards and new interpretations that are effective for reporting periods ending 30 June 2024, which reporting units need to consider when preparing their financial statements.

Our [Compliance Calculator](#) is also available to assist registered organisations to understand and meet their financial reporting timeframes.



100% of annual returns lodged on time

Congratulations and thank you to all registered organisations for successfully lodging their annual returns by 31 March. This represents 100% compliance for four consecutive years. All [annual returns of registered organisations](#) are available to view on our website.

Publishing this information ensures that the more than 2 million members of registered organisations have access to timely information, promotes transparency, and assists in the democratic functioning of organisations.



Governance to You Program

The RO Act is a complex piece of legislation. If you require any assistance in complying with it and are in need of guidance, we are able to provide expert advice about its requirements.

Our Governance to You Program is designed to provide you with specific in-depth advice and assistance tailored to your

organisation's needs. This can include providing you with materials or arranging an information session for individuals or small groups.

These presentations can be held in person or online, covering any topics you would like help with. Simply state your main areas of concern when making your [Governance to You booking](#) and an experienced ROSB staff member will contact you to discuss your request and arrange a suitable date and time if required.



Speeding up processing your rule change decisions

Did you know that you can obtain advice and assistance from our expert rules specialists about your proposed rule changes, before you go through your complex internal approvals processes?

As a result of early engagement with the Commission's rules experts, several organisations have recently had their urgent rules changes processed within a week of lodgement. This has been achieved following a great deal of preparation and cooperation between the registered organisation and the Commission to ensure that the decision could be issued within the organisation's required timeframes. The organisations worked very closely with our experts to cover all the details of their changes across several drafts, as well as the steps required to alter the rules, before lodgement of the alternations.

Our rules team can work with you to help design functional and effective rules that meet your objectives, and comply with legislative requirements. We can assist with ensuring that the internal processes you intend to take to change your rules comply with your own, sometimes complex, procedures. Working with us before you finalise your rule amendments and internal processes will give you confidence that once lodged, your alteration can proceed swiftly and with fewer complications. It can also avoid the need for an organisation to repeat internal approval processes to fix uncertifiable rule changes or to correct procedural errors.

We encourage all organisations considering a rule change to engage with our expert rules specialists and to work with us when you consider changing your rules, which may save you time and ensure you achieve your desired outcome.



Model Rules project update

Since March 2024, ROSB has been working with stakeholders and expert consultant Peter Punch of Carroll & O'Dea Lawyers, to draft a set of annotated Model Rules. These rules will be a valuable tool to assist organisations to understand the complex legal concepts underpinning rules in a practical way.

We are excited to announce the development of two rulebooks:

- For employee and employer organisations (with Branches); and
- For employee and employer organisations (without Branches).

Next month we will commence the next round of stakeholder engagement. Our working group of interested volunteers will have several weeks to provide their feedback. If you are interested in joining, please contact us at regorgs@fwc.gov.au.

Podcast episodes released

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



Podcast episode 52: Our education resources

The Commission has many educational resources available. This episode looks at where to find them on our website and how to make the best use of them. We discuss our reminder letters, using our [Compliance Calculator](#) and how your organisation's rules affect due dates for financial reporting. We also talk about using the [RO Flower](#) to access materials and current templates, as well as the best way to contact us for support and information.

[Listen to episode 52 here](#)



Podcast episode 53: How we regulate

In our latest podcast episode, 'RO pod - How we regulate' you will hear from our Executive Director, Chris Enright, who talks about the recently released [Compliance and Enforcement Policy](#). Also discussed is our approach to potential instances of non-compliance, the benefits and obligations of being a registered organisation, and the importance of education, assistance and advice.

[Listen to episode 53 here](#)

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

Watch this space

- Changes to right of entry exemptions come into effect on 1 July 2024 as part of the *Fair Work Legislation Amendment (Closing Loopholes No. 2) Act 2024*. This amendment to the *Fair Work Act 2009* relates to being able to seek an exemption certificate on the new grounds of investigating suspected underpayment. Further information will be provided in the coming weeks.
 - Following the recommendations made in the [RO Review](#), we will soon be releasing a new Compliance Practitioners Induction Kit, specifically designed to help guide compliance practitioners within registered organisations.
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Related links

[Registered organisations](#) [Tools and templates](#) [Regulatory education](#)

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