



Quarterly newsletter

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Share your experiences with us!

We value your opinion about our education program, and how we can help you and your registered organisation comply with the legislative requirements.



Our [annual education survey](#) is now open. Your responses will help influence and inform our education program over the next 12 months, including the design of the Education Strategy for 2022–2023. We want to hear about your experiences with the ROC's education resources, and any changes you would like to see or suggestions on the types of resources you need.

The survey will take you no longer than 10 minutes to complete and your responses are anonymous.



Welcome to the new year

Another busy year lies ahead of us and registered organisations, like the rest of the world, are dealing with ongoing issues as a result of the pandemic. This includes the important work you do on behalf of your members, and high covid infection rates over the past few months may also be affecting staffing and supply issues for many of you. The ROC



is committed to working proactively and pragmatically with registered organisations. If you're experiencing difficulties in complying with regulatory obligations, please reach out to us.

In 2022 the ROC will continue to focus on providing education resources to help organisations with compliance issues, and to also foster cultures of good governance and financial transparency. As you'll see in this newsletter, we're looking for your input into our next education strategy that will begin from July.

The pandemic has required the ROC to adjust its methods of engagement, and has fast-tracked digital transformation efforts within our agency. We have relied on technology to deliver online tools and resources that allow registered organisations to reduce red tape, save time and money, and achieve higher levels of compliance. We continue to drive this trend by examining options for other solutions that will make it easier to comply.

I look forward to the ROC continuing to add value to organisations in 2022.

Mark Bielecki
Registered Organisations Commissioner



Compliance reminder: Annual returns

Registered organisations must lodge an annual return with the ROC by **31 March 2022**. The annual return is lodged under s 233 of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* and contains information from specified records of the organisation and two declarations.

We've released two new resources to help your organisation prepare and lodge the annual return in compliance with the legislation:

- The annual return [e-learning module](#)
- December's episode of ROCpod – [The annual return: Compliance simplified](#).

Both resources are integrated into the annual return module in the [ROC Digital Classroom](#).

If you have any questions about the annual return requirement, please [get in touch with us](#) as soon as possible, and before the end of March.



Digital Classroom

In November we launched the [ROC Digital Classroom](#) – a virtual one-stop shop to learn about compliance in registered organisations. It has already been accessed nearly 1,500 times!

The online hub features 9 modules about topics, including:

- financial reporting
- elections
- officers' duties
- the disclosure obligations of registered organisations and officers.



Each module features the main resources relevant to the compliance topic, including fact sheets, podcasts, templates and hypothetical exercises.

So whether you are new to compliance or want to sharpen your understanding of a technical requirement, the Digital Classroom will help you find the information you need to achieve voluntary compliance.

Portal project update

A reminder that the ROC is actively working on implementing an online portal for the lodgement and updating of records, including next year's annual return. The project is part of our ongoing commitment to digital transformation, efficiency and customer service.



If you're interested in finding out more about the portal project please [reach out to us](#). We'll be engaging with registered organisations as part of the design phase, so watch this space!

Spotlight on our tools

Online discussion panels

Since 2020, we have hosted online discussion panels about various compliance topics, including.

- [the annual return](#)
- [officer financial training](#)
- [officer and related party disclosure statements](#)
- [elections](#)
- [transparency – what can your members see at the ROC?](#)

Did you miss a live event?

Click on a links above to listen to a recording at your convenience.



Get the ROC to come to you!

Start the year on the right foot with compliance by accessing our ROC to You program. Whether you need tailored assistance with a compliance topic, or general information about the legislative requirements for registered organisations, you'll benefit from the expertise of a subject matter expert in the ROC to You program.



[Complete our quick form](#) and we'll be in touch.

We've delivered virtual presentations and provided information packs to organisations who have joined the program. The program recognises the unique challenges of registered organisations and is intended to provide additional support with financial reporting, arranging elections, governance and other areas of compliance.



Regulator Statement of Intent

The ROC is a Commonwealth government regulator. A new requirement for regulators that has been introduced by the government this financial year is the publication of a Regulator Statement of Intent in response to the regulator's responsible Minister's Statement of Expectations, outlining what they expect the regulator to do.

The [Ministerial Statement of Expectations from the Attorney General](#), and a [statement setting out how the ROC intends to meet the expectations](#), can be accessed online.

Looking ahead

Later this month

E-learning module – elections

Podcast – Good governance in practice: Financial decision-making

March

Compliance update – Notifications of change

Podcast – A conversation with a registered auditor



Did you know?

Last year, 100% of annual returns were lodged with the ROC on time.

