



Fair Work  
Commission



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## The Fair Work Commission is now the regulator of federally registered organisations

The Registered Organisations Commission (ROC) was abolished on 3 March 2023. The functions and staff of the ROC have successfully transferred to the General Manager of the Fair Work Commission. These are our updated contact details:

- 1300 341 665 (has not changed)
- [regorgs@fwc.gov.au](mailto:regorgs@fwc.gov.au)
- [www.fwc.gov.au](http://www.fwc.gov.au)

If you are sending us documents by post, our new postal address is GPO Box 1994 Melbourne, VIC 3001.

If you have people saved in your emails address book with a former roc.gov.au address, please delete these as they will not be received.

## Consultant review of registered organisations regulation



An independent review of the regulation of registered organisations has commenced following our move to the Commission. The General Manager has appointed two former Members of the Commission to conduct the review to identify how we can improve our service delivery for registered organisations. Our reviewers will be consulting with every registered organisation, so if your organisation has not already been contacted, it will be contacted very soon.

## Publication of interim Compliance and Enforcement policy



### May 2023 issue:

- The Fair Work Commission is now the regulator of federally registered organisations
- Consultant review of registered organisations regulation
- Publication of interim Compliance and Enforcement policy
- New model financial statements
- 100% of annual returns lodged on time
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View our past newsletters

We have published an interim [Compliance and Enforcement Policy](#) setting out the General Manager's approach to promoting and monitoring compliance and the use of enforcement tools and activities. It aims to provide an overview of how we perform our compliance and enforcement functions under the RO Act.

In consultation with stakeholders, a contemporary and best practice compliance and enforcement policy is being developed. This policy will establish criteria around the Commission's new enforcement powers such as enforceable undertakings and infringement notices.

## New model financial statements

The [2022–2023 model financial statements](#) are now available to help registered organisations and branches prepare their financial report. We have also published a [fact sheet](#) outlining the new and amended accounting standards. These apply to reporting periods beginning **on or after 1 July 2022**.

## 100% of annual returns lodged on time

Congratulations to all 95 registered organisations for lodging their annual return on time. This is the third year in a row that this has been achieved. You can view your registered organisations' annual return [online](#).

## Podcast releases

Our podcast has been re-named 'RO pod – Talking about the governance of registered organisations' following the transfer of the regulatory functions to the Commission. Most previous episodes are still available on Spotify and Apple as well as on our [website](#). Since our last newsletter, we have released the following four episodes:



### [Current issues in the elections space](#)

Refresh your knowledge of elections and tune in to hear a discussion about the latest issues in this area. We focus on elections that have been delayed or have had their timelines altered.

### [Compliance update with the Executive Director](#)

Get up to date with the effects of our transfer to the Commission on registered organisations. We explore other current compliance and regulatory issues, including the independent review into the regulation of registered organisations.

### [New officer essentials](#)

In this episode we look at the duties and obligations of new officers and discuss some of the common issues they face. We also explore what information we provide to assist new officers.

### [Effective minute-taking](#)

We talk about the importance of being clear, concise and accurate when recording the minutes of a meeting. Listen for a discussion of the benefits of effective minute-taking, and how they can protect your registered organisation.

## Compliance with disclosure obligations

We have recently received some whistleblower disclosures about the conduct of officers and their disclosure obligations. These have involved officers being ambiguous or misleading regarding conflicts of interest and receiving non-cash benefits, or not providing enough information about these to enable properly informed decisions to be made.



Personal interests have the potential to conflict with the interests of the registered organisation but they can also be managed with good governance. This can include actions such as promoting transparency in disclosures or documenting all decisions that involve a possible or perceived conflict of interest by recording in the minutes of meetings where officers have removed themselves from discussions and the decision-making process for particular issues.

You can learn more about the disclosure obligations of officers on our [website](#).

## Book a Governance to You session!

Our dedicated outreach program for registered organisations is still available – now known as Governance to You. These sessions can be tailored to your organisation's needs to learn more about different compliance issues. We recently visited a registered organisation's Committee of Management meeting following an election where they had a number of new officers who hadn't been officers before. We ran an information session letting them know about what they need to know as new officers in a registered organisation. You can book a Governance to You session by emailing us at [regorgs@fwc.gov.au](mailto:regorgs@fwc.gov.au).



## Information for new officers

Our [officer induction kit](#) has been updated and we have recently published an [Introduction to compliance](#) e-Learning module aimed at new officers. Our [good governance](#) guide also contains a wide range of materials for new officers to assist in understanding their obligations in their new role.



**Fair Work Commission**

**Registered Organisations Governance and Advice Branch**

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