

Fair Work
Commission

Latest news for registered organisations

Education and Engagement Strategy 2026–2027

The [Registered Organisations Education and Engagement Strategy for 2026–27](#) has been released, following feedback provided by registered organisations and their peak bodies. 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 2026. A calendar of deliverables for 2027 will be published towards the end of 2026.



Annual returns are now due!

A reminder to all registered organisations that your annual return of information is due by 31 March 2026. If you're having issues preparing and lodging your annual return, we have a range of [resources](#), including templates, available to help you comply with the requirements.



CFMEU withdrawal from amalgamation

The Federal Court has adjourned proceedings relating to the CFMEU Manufacturing Division's proposed withdrawal from amalgamation until April. A hearing will be held on 7 April 2026 at which time the Manufacturing Division will seek orders nominating a date for the withdrawal from amalgamation with the CFMEU. The Commission is working with the Manufacturing Division and the remaining

Divisions of the CFMEU to ensure a smooth transition with the registration of the new Timber, Furnishing and Textiles Union (TFTU) to occur on the date ordered by the Federal Court.



Publication of Statement of Intent

Fair Work Commission General Manager, Murray Furlong, has published a Statement of Intent. The statement sets out how he will meet the expectations of the Australian Government in relation to his functions as a regulator under the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* (the RO Act). These functions are delivered with the support of specialist staff in our Registered Organisations Support Branch.

This statement responds to the Australian Government's Statement of Expectations issued by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations. The Statement of Expectations provides clarity about government policies and objectives that are relevant to the functions of the General Manager and in line with statutory objectives. It includes the priorities the Minister expects to be observed while conducting operations.

Read the [Statement of Expectations](#) and the [Statement of Intent](#).



Feedback wanted on approved governance training

The Commission will soon be undertaking a review of the approved governance training packages currently provided to officers in accordance with the RO Act. The purpose of this review is to assess the effectiveness, relevance and accessibility of existing training programs and to identify opportunities for improvement to ensure compliance with legislative obligations and best practice governance standards.

We are looking for people who have completed this training to take part in interviews in coming months so we can gather feedback on the accessibility, clarity, usefulness and practical application of the training.

If you are interested in participating, please email Caroline Hamilton at caroline.hamilton@fwc.gov.au.



Invitation to Participate: Model Rules Working Group

The Commission has begun updating the Model Rules which were released last year, with a new version expected by the end of June. This process is an annual review to incorporate feedback.

The Commission is working closely with the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) and the Model Rules Working Group.

Organisations are invited to participate in the update process as part of the Model Rules Working Group. If you would like to be involved, please contact the Registered Organisations Services Branch by Tuesday 7 April via email at regorgs@fwc.gov.au.



Compliance and enforcement update

The Commission has undertaken several investigations into the Victoria No.1 Branch of the Health Services Union, with all now either completed or nearing completion. Those investigations have resulted in a range of enforcement actions, including civil penalty proceedings in the matter of [The General Manager of the Fair Work Commission v Diana Asmar and Others](#). That matter is listed for a liability trial commencing on 31 August in the Federal Court.

The Commission is also continuing a range of investigations and enforcement activities relating to the CFMEU's Construction and General Division. Two investigations remain open. One relates to allegations of misconduct in the South Australian Divisional Branch, and the other concerns financial governance issues in the New South Wales Divisional Branch. Both matters are progressing through the relevant investigation processes.

The Commission is continuing to work closely with the Administrators of the C&G Division and the HSU, Victoria

No.1 Branch, who are cooperating with the Commission's activities.



The Commission enters into its fifth enforceable undertaking

The General Manager has accepted the Commission's fifth enforceable undertaking with a registered organisation under the RO Act.

The enforceable undertaking was entered into with the Master Painters Australia – N.S.W. Association Inc. as a result of non-compliance relating to their obligations to lodge financial reports. This voluntary but binding agreement aims to address 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.

Easter shutdown

The Commission offices will be closed on Friday 3 April and Monday 6 April. We wish you a safe and happy Easter break.

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