



Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission

STATEMENT OF INTENT – March 2025

This statement sets out my intentions as the Chairperson of the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (SRCC) of how the SRCC will meet the expectations outlined by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations (Minister) under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (SRC Act) in the Ministerial Statement of Expectations of 12 December 2024.

Overview

The SRCC is a statutory body that administers the regulatory functions of the SRC Act not attributed to Comcare and has a range of functions under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*. The SRCC plays an important role in the continued improvement of prevention, rehabilitation and workers' compensation performance outcomes in the Commonwealth jurisdiction.

The SRC Act allows certain Commonwealth authorities and eligible corporations to apply to the SRCC for a licence to self-insure their workers' compensation liabilities. As the regulator of self-insurance licences, the SRCC monitors compliance and sets performance standards and measures for the injury prevention, claims management and rehabilitation functions of licensees.

The SRCC does not have any staff of its own. Comcare provides the secretariat and administrative support and resources required for the SRCC to undertake its functions.

The SRCC will exercise its functions and powers in good faith and to the best of its ability.

Principles of regulator best practice

The SRCC commits to acting in accordance with the government's principles of regulator best practice in conducting its operations, as well as striving for continuous improvement against these principles. The SRCC has embedded the principles of regulator best practice, as set out in the Department of Finance's *Regulator Performance (RMG 128)*, within its regulatory framework: the Licence Compliance and Performance Model (LCPM).

1. Continuous improvement and building trust

The SRCC is committed to continuous improvement in its performance, capability and culture to build trust and confidence in Australia's regulatory settings. To achieve this the SRCC has committed to:

- staying informed, aware and responsive to the changing context and operating environment of regulated entities;
- actively sharing lessons learned and insights by engaging with other regulators and stakeholders to encourage best practice;
- building and maintaining collaborative relationships with other regulators to minimise regulatory burden and reduce duplication;



- holding itself to account through internal accountability processes that foster a culture of continuous improvement and reflection; and
- actively building the SRCC's capability, including ensuring the SRCC has relevant knowledge of the legislative framework to address stakeholder needs.

2. Risk-based and data driven

The SRCC will manage risks proportionally and maintain essential safeguards while minimising regulatory burden and leverage available data and appropriate digital technology to support those it regulates to comply. To achieve this, the SRCC has committed to:

- using intelligence and data to inform a risk-based and proportionate approach to compliance and enforcement activities;
- actively monitoring and planning for risks, taking a preventative approach to non-compliance by raising awareness of common misconceptions and through early identification and remediation of compliance issues;
- considering the risks, cost effectiveness and impact of regulatory action; and
- remaining flexible and responsive to changes by adopting reasonable, supportive and transparent processes to build and maintain trust, accountability and integrity within the regulatory system to encourage compliance.

3. Collaboration and engagement

The SRCC acknowledges that open, transparent and consistent engagement with stakeholders including regulated entities, unions, government and the broader community is crucial to maintaining competent and innovative regulatory practices.

To achieve this, the SRCC has committed to:

- engaging genuinely and regularly with stakeholders, and encouraging, promoting and facilitating meaningful engagement;
- working cooperatively with stakeholders to encourage voluntary compliance with the SRC Act among self-insured licensees;
- being receptive to feedback and diverse stakeholder views;
- being transparent in operations, policies and decision-making processes including by publishing formal regulatory decisions and performance results;
- providing up to date, clear and accessible guidance and information to stakeholders; and
- providing informative and practical tools to assist self-insured licensees to continuously improve their prevention, rehabilitation and claims management performance outcomes.



The government's policy priorities and objectives

The SRCC will contribute to the government's policy priorities and objectives by:

- seeking opportunities to remove duplication and streamline processes in order to improve efficiency and lift productivity;
- acting in accordance with regulator best practice in its decision making, policies, processes and communication practices, in order to maximise transparency and minimise compliance costs;
- incorporating observations on performance in reporting processes to support greater transparency and accountability of regulator performance; and
- increasing the use of digital technology and resources to meet stakeholder needs, reduce the cost of compliance and improve regulatory outcomes.

The SRCC will report on its regulatory performance through its Annual Report.

Relationship with Minister and portfolio

I acknowledge the role the SRCC has in assisting you, as the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, and the government to respond promptly to issues affecting Commonwealth workers' compensation and work health and safety arrangements. I undertake to provide you with accurate and timely advice on any significant issues that may arise.

The SRCC acknowledges the role of the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (Department) as the primary source of advice on policy development and the performance of the portfolio's regulatory systems. The SRCC will continue to work collaboratively with the Department on significant issues relating to strengthening Commonwealth workers' compensation arrangements. The SRCC will consistently implement best practice in line with the government's policy direction to support specific initiatives and strategies.

Innovation and regulatory change

In support of the government's objective of continual improvement and as a modern regulator, the SRCC will continue to monitor the environment in which it operates to ensure that the regulatory approaches keep pace with changes in technology, industry practices and community expectations. The SRCC will also continue to regularly review, and where necessary adjust policies, protocols and operating procedures, to ensure prompt and proportional responses to the changing social, technological and commercial context in which it operates.