



WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY—OUR AREAS OF PREVENTION IN 2013–14

This fact sheet provides an overview of the areas of prevention for Comcare's regulatory effort during 2013–14.

TARGETED CAMPAIGNS

These campaigns deliver on Comcare's efforts to prevent harm and improve return to work outcomes as set out in Comcare's Strategic Plan 2010–2015. The Comcare Regulation Policy guides our approach to escalate our response according to the level of workplace health and safety compliance observed in each workplace.

Comcare will deliver the following regulatory campaigns for 2013–2014:

1. **Machinery of government**—we will work to reduce the psychosocial and health risks emanating from the machinery of government changes. We will do this by providing review of change management systems and if necessary targeted compliance activities to affected agencies.
2. **Strengthening the regulation of return to work**—two streams of work to ensure better return to work outcomes by:
 - i) testing how we can improve the services of rehabilitation service providers
 - ii) piloting reactive and proactive regulatory responses to improve the performance of rehabilitation authorities.
3. **Strengthening systems supporting workers in federal workplaces**—we will:
 - i) work to enhance prevention management systems of person's conducting a business of undertaking (PCBU's) through the assessment of Federal employers against Australian Standard 4801
 - ii) continue to target and improve Federal employers' rehabilitation management systems to achieve best practice.



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4. **Procurement**—we will work to influence employers in the Comcare scheme to incorporate work health and safety risk assessment into their organisation’s procurement processes and procedures. We will do this by assisting employers to improve their contractor management processes and providing a forum for discussion of current issues and best practice.
5. **Health and Safety Representatives (HSRs)**—we will work to identify and implement ways to enable HSRs to fulfil their duties and strengthen Comcare’s regulatory processes for engaging with HSRs. We will do this by providing an opportunity for HSRs to come together and share experiences as well as assisting in understanding roles and responsibilities. Our Inspectors aim to engage with HSRs at every opportunity when onsite.
6. **Road transport**—we will work to improve the prevention systems of employers within the road freight transport sector to reduce injury and improve wellness. We will do this by collaborating with industry leaders in the jurisdiction to jointly develop better practice approaches for the improvement of controls relating to falls, hazardous manual tasks and onsite traffic management systems.
7. **People at work**—we will work with employers to develop effective risk reduction strategies through the ‘people at work psychosocial risk assessment tool’. We will do this by encouraging employers to improve their psychosocial environment through the adoption of the people at work tool.
8. **Agriculture**—we will work to reduce the risk of death and injury associated with work in the agricultural sector by improving the capability of employers to manage prevention effectively. We will do this by assisting employers, where necessary, to improve worker and contractor induction, controls associated with the use of farm machinery and the development of health and safety management plans.
9. **Quad bikes**—we will work with other regulatory agencies at a Federal and State level to assist in eliminating or effectively controlling risks associated with quad bike use in the workplace. We will do this by assisting employers improve risk mitigation through appropriate vehicle selection, engineering and others controls in combination.

ASBESTOS PIT REMEDIATION

We have allocated staff to respond to and prevent asbestos related concerns resulting from telecommunications pits. We do this by ensuring PCBU’s, contractors and sub-contractors are compliant in standards set for removing asbestos.

EVALUATION OF REGULATORY INTERVENTIONS

We will measure the effect on behaviour change within agencies that have had interventions conducted by Comcare. We will do this by reviewing and analysing the impact of past campaigns, enforcement measures, educational and awareness activities.

SERVICE OFFERINGS

We will continue to maintain our service offerings including:

- > guidance and advice through inspectorate engagement
- > investigations into workplace incidents
- > audits on management systems and compliance
- > approval of HSR training courses and providers
- > approval of entry permit holder training courses and providers
- > authorise the use of restricted carcinogens
- > registration of high risk plant
- > licensing and oversight of major hazard facilities
- > issuance of construction induction cards and high risk work license
- > national WHS help desk
- > take notification of hazardous chemicals, lead risk work and asbestos removal

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you would like additional information about any of these campaigns please contact us at Regulatory.Support@comcare.gov.au