

# Latest news for registered organisations

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## Launching our Listen and Learn program

We are pleased to launch the Listen and Learn program. Each quarter, the General Manager will visit a different registered organisation to meet with compliance officers. It's a way for us to learn firsthand about the day-to-day experiences and challenges of compliance officers working in registered organisations.

Find out more about the [Listen and Learn program](#) and nominate your organisation to take part.

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## Financial reports are due soon

A reminder for reporting units with a financial year which ended on 30 June 2023, your financial reports are due with the Commission soon. There are a range of financial reporting resources available to help you, including [model financial statements](#), [reporting guidelines](#) and the Commission's internal compliance checklists. Use our [compliance calculator](#) to comply with the legislated timeframes.

If you are having trouble finalising your financial reporting process and require advice and assistance, please contact our Financial Analysis Team on 1300 341 665 or via email [regorgs@fwc.gov.au](mailto:regorgs@fwc.gov.au).



## Compliance Practitioner's Reference Group

The Compliance Practitioner's Reference Group (CPRG) has been established following a recommendation of the RO Review to establish a consultation and reference group to work with the Registered Organisations Services Branch (ROSB) of the Commission about regulatory issues and how they affect registered organisations and their members.

The CPRG will be comprised of subject matter experts from the ROSB and representatives from registered organisations who are best placed to provide feedback and advice on behalf of their organisations about compliance activities.

The group will be tasked with providing timely feedback on compliance-related issues affecting registered organisations, their members, branches, employees and officers. This includes sharing information and feedback about matters related to achieving voluntary compliance, emerging issues and trends related to compliance and the tools and resources provided by the Commission.

The first meeting of the CPRG was held on Wednesday 13 December, and it will meet quarterly moving forward, looking at issues identified by registered organisations and the Commission.



## Changes to right of entry permit applications

We are making changes to the steps involved in processing entry permit applications. The changes simplify the application process for registered organisations in two significant ways:

- If a permit holder has previously held an entry permit with a photograph, subsequent entry permit applications will require the permit holder to supply a photograph but won't require them to complete another separate identification verification interview conducted via Microsoft Teams.
- The F42 (entry permit application) and F42C (entry permit photo and signature) forms should be lodged together with the Commission via email. The committee of management officer **must** be copied into the email application to verify they are aware that the application has been lodged on their behalf. Doing this allows the permit application to be processed promptly.

We are continuing to make more improvements to the entry permit process, while ensuring that legal requirements are met, and we welcome any feedback from organisations and permit holders.



## Model rules tender

In response to feedback, the Commission has commenced a public tender process to prepare a set of model rules for registered organisations. This project aims to provide registered organisations with a user-friendly resource and guide to the legislative provisions, case law and practical requirements relating to rules and rule changes.

When completed, the model rules will benefit all organisations. We will be working with the Australian Electoral Commission, the Registered Organisations Advisory Committee and the Compliance Practitioners Reference Group, as well as a sample of other interested organisations, to achieve a practical guide to be used by registered organisations, as well as prospective registered organisations, to draft rulebooks and rule alterations.

The tender has been listed on the [Australian Government's AusTender site](#). Anyone interested in tendering for the project can do so until 4:30pm AEDT on 12 January 2024.



## CFMMEU de-amalgamation

The Mining and Energy Union has withdrawn from its amalgamation with the Construction, Forestry Maritime, Mining and Energy Union as of the 1st of December 2024. The Mining and Energy Union (MEU) is now a registered organisation in its own right. The organisation from which it separated is now known as the Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union (CFMEU).

The Commission has individually notified more than 22,000 affected members of their withdrawal from the CFMMEU and commencement of their membership of the MEU, as required under section 111(2) of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* (RO Act). During this time of transition, we will continue to provide advice and guidance to both the CFMEU and the MEU on their reporting and other regulatory compliance obligations.



## Enforceable undertakings and infringement notices

The *Secure Jobs, Better Pay Act*, that commenced earlier this year, conferred the General Manager with expanded powers. He can now add [enforceable undertakings](#) and [infringement notices](#) to his range of tools to use within his jurisdiction over registered organisations under the RO Act.

We have released guidance notes on these expanded powers – enforceable undertakings and infringement notices. These options provide new, more flexible, and appropriate levels of enforcement when dealing with breaches of the RO Act or its regulations. They encourage voluntary compliance and should be viewed alongside the Commission's [Compliance and Enforcement Interim policy](#) for clarity.

The Commission is committed to best practice regulation, which includes providing education, advice and assistance to registered organisations and their branches. These guidance notes form part of this commitment.

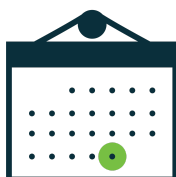


## Podcast episode released

We released a new episode of our podcast series 'RO pod – talking about the governance of registered organisations' in October, which featured a [conversation with the General Manager, Murray Furlong](#).

The regulation of registered organisations was affected by the transfer of the functions of the Registered Organisations Commissioner to the General Manager of the Fair Work Commission in March 2023. In this episode we discuss the changes, how they affect registered organisations and the future plans of the General Manager.

New episodes, and most of our previous episodes are available on [Spotify](#) and [Apple](#), as well as on our [podcast page](#).



## Watch this space

Before the end of the year we will be releasing:

- A podcast episode on the changes to right of entry permit applications
- Our 2024–2025 Education and Advice Strategy.

In early 2024 we will be releasing:

- Our new Compliance and Enforcement Policy



## Christmas Closure

The Commission offices will be closed on December 25, 26 and 27. We will also be closed for the public holiday on Monday, 1 January 2024.

We wish you a safe and happy festive season.

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### Related links

[Registered organisations](#) [Tools and templates](#) [Regulatory education and engagement](#)

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