

# Corporate Plan

## 2026–30

Safe Work Australia was established under the *Safe Work Australia Act 2008* (Cth) (the SWA Act) and, as a non-corporate Commonwealth entity, operates in accordance with the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (Cth). However, where the requirements of the two Acts are inconsistent, the SWA Act prevails.

Our Corporate Plan covers a four-year period from 2026-2030 and, consistent with section 27(2) of the SWA Act, deals only with the outcome to be achieved and the strategies to be followed to achieve that outcome. Notwithstanding the four-year outlook of the Corporate Plan, the intended outcome and strategies are reviewed and updated annually.

### Safe Work Australia's outcome

Consistent with our 2026–27 Portfolio Budget Statements, the outcome intended from our Corporate Plan is *healthier, safer and more productive workplaces through improvements in Australian work health and safety and workers' compensation arrangements*.

### Strategies to achieve our outcome

The strategies we implement to achieve our outcome are developed in consultation with Safe Work Australia Members and agreed by work health and safety (WHS) ministers.

#### Our strategies for 2026–2030

Support a harmonised approach to the model WHS laws, including through completing the best practice review of the model WHS laws.

Respond to emerging WHS issues as work and workplaces continue to evolve.

Collaborate with the wider work, health and safety and workers' compensation ecosystem to ensure diverse perspectives inform the work we do.

Drive regulatory change and develop guidance and resources to protect workers from exposure to harmful substances, including respirable crystalline silica and asbestos.

Monitor the progress of and support actions in the Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2023–2033.

Monitor the progress of and support actions in the National Return to Work Strategy 2020–2030.

Support the collection, analysis and dissemination of national WHS and workers' compensation data to inform decision-making and strengthen WHS and workers' compensation outcomes across Australia.

Support our enhanced research capability through implementation of Safe Work Australia's Research and Evaluation Strategy to ensure our policy advice on WHS and workers' compensation remains current and can adapt to new technologies, industries, and ways of working.

Deliver national education and communication strategies and initiatives to increase awareness and support improvements in WHS outcomes and workers' compensation arrangements

### **The strategies we implement are designed to:**

- contribute to reductions in the incidence of work-related death, injury and illness
- improve outcomes for injured workers and their employers
- use our collective influence to increase knowledge and awareness of work health and safety and workers' compensation, and
- ensure robust and useful work health and safety and workers' compensation research, analysis and data.

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Section 27(1) of the SWA Act outlines the requirement for the CEO to prepare a Corporate Plan under s 35 of the PGPA Act. However, s 27(2) of the SWA Act says that, despite that section, the draft Corporate Plan must deal only with the outcomes to be achieved by Safe Work Australia and the strategies that are to be followed by Safe Work Australia to achieve those outcomes. It follows that the only requirements that may be dealt with in the corporate plan are those outlined in s 27(2) of the SWA Act.

# Corporate Plan 2026–30

## Our functions

In developing these strategies, we are guided by Safe Work Australia's functions conferred by the SWA Act.

### **These functions include:**

- developing, evaluating and, if necessary, revising national work health and safety and workers' compensation policies and strategies
- monitoring and improving the model work health and safety legislative framework and developing supportive work health and safety materials
- improving consistency in national workers' compensation arrangements
- collecting, analysing and publishing national data
- conducting and publishing research
- developing national education and communication strategies and initiatives
- working collaboratively with the Commonwealth, states and territories, and other national and international bodies, and
- advising WHS ministers on national work health and safety and workers' compensation policy matters.

In performing these functions, we also have regard to the objectives of the Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2023–2033 and the National Return to Work Strategy 2020–2030. In addition, we monitor and respond to new and emerging WHS risks as they arise.

In progressing these strategies, and in collaboration with our Members and stakeholders, we will continue to build awareness to encourage safe, healthy workplaces, ensure Australia's national work health and safety and workers' compensation frameworks are world-leading and drive improvements in Australian work health and safety and workers' compensation arrangements.

The Safe Work Australia 2026–27 Operational Plan provides further detail on the specific activities we will undertake in 2026–27 in support of these strategies.

Our performance in delivering on the strategies identified in this plan will be measured against the performance measures and planned performance results included in the 2026–27 Safe Work Australia Portfolio Budget Statements and reported in the Safe Work Australia Annual Report.