# Safe Work Australia

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# Safe Work Australia

## Section 1: Agency overview and resources

### Strategic Direction Statement

Safe Work Australia was initially established as an Executive Agency on 1 July 2009 under section 65 of the *Public Service Act 1999* and was transferred from the Portfolio Department. The Executive Agency was abolished and Safe Work Australia was established as a Statutory Agency on 1 November 2009 under the *Safe Work Australia Act 2008* (the Act). The agency operates under the Commonwealth Government's accountability and governance frameworks.

Safe Work Australia is the principal national body leading the development of policy to improve work health and safety and workers’ compensation arrangements across Australia. It is responsible for coordinating and developing national policy and strategies, assisting with the implementation of model work health and safety legislation and reforming the legislative framework, undertaking research, and collecting, analysing and reporting data. In doing this, Safe Work Australia works collaboratively with the community, industry and worker associations and regulators to realise the national vision of healthier, safer and more productive workplaces.

The establishment of Safe Work Australia was provided for in the *Intergovernmental Agreement for Regulatory and Operational Reform in Occupational Health and Safety*, agreed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) on 3 July 2008. Safe Work Australia replaced the Australian Safety and Compensation Council which operated within the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. The Australian Government retains the functions specific to implementation of harmonised work health and safety practices within its jurisdiction.

The agency is jointly funded by the Commonwealth, state and territory governments. This funding arrangement promotes collaboration with jurisdictions on policy development, implementation, compliance and enforcement, and communication activities.

Safe Work Australia has 15 members, including an independent Chair, nine members representing the Commonwealth and each state and territory, two members representing the interests of workers, two representing the interests of employers and the Chief Executive Officer of Safe Work Australia (CEO).

The CEO manages the agency under section 45 of the Act and in accordance with the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

Together, the Safe Work Australia Members and the agency work to achieve:

* significant and continual reductions in the incidence of work-related death, injury and illness through
  + reduced exposure to work-related hazards causing injury and illness
  + improved quality of workplace controls, and
  + an improved work health and safety infrastructure including legislative reform, increased work health and safety knowledge and skills, and an evidence base which informs policy and practice
* improved outcomes for injured workers and their employers through more equitable, effective, efficient, clearly understood and sustainable workers’ compensation arrangements.

The focus of Safe Work Australia during 2012-2013 will be on:

* completing Codes of Practice to support the model work health and safety laws
* monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the model work health and safety laws across Australia
* supporting ongoing work health and safety reform to promote continuous improvements in performance and reductions in red tape
* commencing implementation of the Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012-2022
* continuing to implement the National Workers’ Compensation Action Plan 2010 – 2013, and
* developing and implementing the National Research, Evaluation and Data Strategy.

The challenge for Safe Work Australia will be in achieving these outcomes in a changing operational environment.

### 1.2 Agency resource statement

Table 1.1 shows the total resources from all sources. The table summarises how resources will be applied by outcome and by departmental classification.

Table 1.1: Safe Work Australia Resource Statement — Budget  
Estimates for 2012‑13 as at Budget May 2012



### 1.3 Budget measures

Safe Work Australia does not have any new measures since the 2011-12 Budget. For this reason Table 1.2 is not presented.

## Section 2: Outcomes and planned performance

### 2.1 Outcomes and performance information

Government outcomes are the intended results, impacts or consequences of actions by the Government on the Australian community. Commonwealth programs are the primary vehicle by which government agencies achieve the intended results of their outcome statements. Agencies are required to identify the programs which contribute to Government outcomes over the Budget and forward years.

Each outcome is described below together with its related programs, specifying the performance indicators and targets used to assess and monitor the performance of Safe Work Australia in achieving Government outcomes.

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| Outcome 1: Safer and more productive Australian workplaces through harmonising national occupational health and safety and workers’ compensation arrangements. |

#### Outcome 1 Strategy

Safe Work Australia works in partnership with representatives of the Commonwealth, state and territory governments, employees and employers so that:

* strategic national work health and safety policy and practice is supported by the activities of the Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012-2022
* Australia has harmonised and improved work health and safety laws that provide a consistent, equitable and high level of protection to all workers
* the national work health and safety research and data program supports evidence informed policy, programs and practice
* community awareness and knowledge of work health and safety is increased
* assistance is provided to other policy agencies to promote consistent and improved approaches to managing health and safety hazards and risks, and
* opportunities for improvements in workers’ compensation arrangements are identified and assessed particularly for employers with workers in more than one jurisdiction.

#### Outcome 1 Expense Statement

Table 2.1 provides an overview of the total expenses for Outcome 1.

Table 2.1: Budgeted Expenses for Outcome 1





#### Contributions to Outcome 1

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| Program 1: Reform of and improvements to Australian work health and safety and workers’ compensation arrangements. |

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| Program 1 Objective  The objective of Safe Work Australia is to monitor and evaluate harmonised laws, coordinate and develop national policy and strategies, undertake research and collect, analyse and report data to improve work health and safety and workers’ compensation arrangements in Australia.  To be able to meet its objectives, Safe Work Australia works collaboratively with regulators, industry and worker associations and the community to achieve healthier, safer and more productive workplaces.  The Act prescribes that Safe Work Australia performs its functions in accordance with its Strategic and Operational plans. These plans are approved by Safe Work Australia Members and the Select Council on Workplace Relations. |

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| Program 1 Expenses  The work of the agency continues to focus on the objectives of Program 1 and as prescribed by legislation. The agency has not identified any significant trends or variances over the forward years. |

Table 2.2 Budgeted Expenses for Program 1



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| --- |
| Program 1 Deliverables  The deliverables for Safe Work Australia are highlighted in its operational plan and include:   * completion of the Codes of Practice to support the model work health and safety laws * assistance with the implementation and evaluation of the model work health and safety laws * policy proposals to support reform of the work health and safety legislative framework * implementation of the Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012 -2022 * implementation of the National Workers’ Compensation Action Plan 2010 – 2013, and * development and implementation of the National Research, Evaluation and Data Strategy. |

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| Program 1 Key Performance Indicators  The Key Performance Indicators are framed around how the agency works to achieve the key deliverables in the Safe Work Australia Strategic and Operational Plans. |

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| --- | --- |
| **Key Performance Indicators** | |
| Quality | 2012-13 Estimate |
| Model legislation continues to be developed in accordance with COAG timelines | COAG agreed timelines are met |
| Level of satisfaction of the Chair of Safe Work Australia with how the services of the Agency are directed at achieving the outcomes of its Strategic and Operational Plans. | Very good or above |
| Level of satisfaction of the members of Safe Work Australia with how the services of the Agency are directed at achieving the outcomes of its Strategic and Operational Plans. | 80% of members agree the services of the Agency are appropriately directed at achieving the outcomes. |

## Section 3: Explanatory tables and budgeted financial statements

Section 3 presents explanatory tables and budgeted financial statements which provide a comprehensive snapshot of agency finances for the 2012‑13 budget year. It explains how budget plans are incorporated into the financial statements and provides further details of the reconciliation between appropriations and program expenses, movements in administered funds, special accounts and government indigenous expenditure.

### 3.1 Explanatory tables

#### 3.1.1 Special Accounts

Special Accounts provide a means to set aside and record amounts used for specified purposes. Special Accounts can be created by a Finance Minister’s Determination under the FMA Actor under separate enabling legislation. Table 3.1.2 shows the expected additions (receipts) and reductions (payments) for each account used by Safe Work Australia.

Table 3.1.1: Estimates of Special Account Flows and Balances



(D) = Departmental

#### 3.1.2 Australian Government Indigenous Expenditure

The 2012-13 Australian Government Indigenous Statement is not applicable because Safe Work Australia has no Indigenous specific expenses.

### 3.2 Budgeted financial statements

#### 3.2.1 Differences in agency resourcing and financial statements

The agency receives funds from states and territories and matched appropriation funding from the Commonwealth as provided for in the Intergovernmental Agreement

#### 3.2.2 Budgeted Departmental Financial Statements Tables

Table 3.2.1 Comprehensive Income Statement (Showing Net Cost of Services)  
(for the period ended 30 June)



Table 3.2.2: Budgeted Balance Sheet (as at 30 June)



Table 3.2.3: Statement of Changes in Equity — Summary of Movement

(Budget Year 2012‑13)



Table 3.2.4: Budgeted Statement of Cash Flows  
(for the period ended 30 June)



Table 3.2.5: Departmental Capital Budget Statement

 

Table 3.2.6: Statement of Asset Movements (2012‑13)





#### 3.2.3 Notes to the financial statements

Other gains represented in the Comprehensive Income Statement are resources received free of charge from other Commonwealth agencies.