

Compliance and Enforcement Priorities 2021-22



Supporting workplaces through COVID-19

For 2021-22 our main priority remains supporting workplaces as they recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

Priority sectors and issues



Fast food, restaurants
and cafés



Horticulture



Sham
contracting



Large corporate
underpayments



Franchise
arrangements



Contract cleaning

In 2021-22, we confirm our enduring commitment to prioritise



small business employers
and employees



vulnerable
workers

We continue to focus on matters that:

- are of significant public interest
- demonstrate a blatant disregard for the law
- are of significant scale, impact on workers or the community, or
- can provide guidance on the application of the law.

▲ FWO's 2021 – 22 Compliance and Enforcement Priorities

The Fair Work Ombudsman's purpose is to promote harmonious, productive, cooperative and compliant workplace relations in Australia. Our functions include:

- providing advice and assistance
- promoting and monitoring compliance with workplace laws
- investigating breaches of the law
- taking appropriate enforcement action.

We perform these functions in a variety of ways, including:

- undertaking targeted proactive compliance and education work
- responding to requests for assistance, emerging issues reported through the media (or other external sources) and self-reported non-compliance
- implementing new funding measures (for example, the Employer Advisory Service) or adapting to legislative changes to our powers and available enforcement outcomes (for example, the Protecting Vulnerable Workers Act).

There is an element of discretion in how we allocate resources to undertake our proactive and responsive activities. Our annual Compliance and Enforcement Priorities provides a framework through which we prioritise this resource allocation.

Our Compliance and Enforcement Priorities focus on industries that are at significant risk of non-compliance and emerging issues that are of considerable public interest and concern. We also prioritise cohorts who, for a variety of reasons, are identified as requiring additional assistance or are vulnerable.

The previous page contains FWO's Compliance and Enforcement Priorities for 2021-22.