We administer a number of laws and regulations that govern Australia’s workplaces.

**Fair Work Legislation**

The Fair Work Act 2009 (FW Act) and the Fair Work Regulations 2009 are the main legislation we deal with. They govern the employee / employer relationship in Australia. They provide a safety net of minimum entitlements, enable flexible working arrangements and fairness at work and prevent discrimination against employees.


The Fair Work (State Referral and Consequential and Other Amendments) Act 2009 and the Fair Work Amendment (State Referrals and Other Measures) Act 2009 changes the FW Act to allow states to refer matters to the Australian federal government to form a national workplace relations system. Before this, workplace laws were set and administered by most individual states. States kept their workplace relations powers over state and local government employees.

Access the legislation:


**Amendment Acts**

Sometimes Parliament make changes to existing Acts by passing amendments known as Amendment Acts. Recent Amendment Acts that made changes to the FW Act include:


**Other relevant legislation**

**Corporations Act 2001**

The Corporations Act 2001 is the main legislation regulating companies in Australia. It covers companies and other entities, such as partnerships.
The Corporations Act regulates matters including how to register a company and how businesses should behave during insolvency. We may take action to enforce a limited number of sections of the Corporations Act.

Access the legislation:

**Amendment Act**
A recent Amendment Act made changes to the Corporations Act that affects the process for restructuring and liquidating eligible small businesses.

Access the legislation:

**Independent Contractors Act 2006**
The Independent Contractors Act 2006 protects the rights of genuine independent contractors to enter into a contract for services and prevents interference by any other party.

Access the legislation:

**Freedom of Information Act 1982**
The Freedom of Information Act 1982 gives members of the public the right to access official documents of the Australian Government and its agencies.

Access the legislation:

**Privacy Act 1988**
The Privacy Act 1988 regulates how the Australian Government and its agencies use and distribute information they collect about individuals.

Access the legislation:

**Competition and Consumer Act 2010**
The Competition and Consumer Act 2010 covers most areas of the market: the relationships between suppliers, wholesalers, retailers, and consumers. Its purpose is to enhance the welfare of Australians by promoting fair trading and competition, and through the provision of consumer protections. The Competition and Consumer Act 2010 is enforced by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (https://www.accc.gov.au/).

Access the legislation:

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**Help for small business**

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**You might also be interested in**
- Our role (www.fairwork.gov.au/About-us/Our-role/default)

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Contact us

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