

Our priorities

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

On this page:

- [Priority sectors and issues](#)
- [Focus matters](#)
- [Compliance and enforcement priorities](#)
- [Related information](#)

Priority sectors and issues

For 2021-22 our main priority remains supporting workplaces as they recover from the impacts of COVID-19. We will also prioritise the following sectors and issues:

- Fast Food, Cafes and Restaurants
- 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 and vulnerable workers, and we will continue to focus on matters that:

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

Focus matters

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.

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.

Download our [2021-22 Compliance and Enforcement Priorities \(PDF 164.6KB\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/710/wo-priorities-and-approach-2021-22.pdf.aspx) (www.fairwork.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/710/wo-priorities-and-approach-2021-22.pdf.aspx)

Related information

- [Coronavirus and Australian workplace laws \(https://coronavirus.fairwork.gov.au/\)](https://coronavirus.fairwork.gov.au/)
- [Fast food, restaurants & cafes \(www.fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/fast-food-restaurants-cafes\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/fast-food-restaurants-cafes)
- [Horticulture \(www.fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/horticulture\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/horticulture)
- [Franchises \(www.fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/franchises\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/franchises)
- [Independent contractors \(www.fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/independent-contractors\)](http://www.fairwork.gov.au/find-help-for/independent-contractors)

Page reference No: 10147

Contact us

Fair Work Online: www.fairwork.gov.au

Fair Work Infoline: 13 13 94

Need language help?

Contact the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) on 13 14 50

Hearing & speech assistance

Call through the National Relay Service (NRS):

For TTY: 13 36 77. Ask for the Fair Work Infoline 13 13 94

Speak & Listen: 1300 555 727. Ask for the Fair Work Infoline 13 13 94

The Fair Work Ombudsman is committed to providing advice that you can rely on. The information contained on this website is general in nature. If you are unsure about how it applies to your situation you can call our Infoline on 13 13 94 or speak with a union, industry association or workplace relations professional. Visitors are warned that this site may inadvertently contain names or pictures of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have recently died.