



Australian Government

Comcare

Comcare Update 2009

Session 2

Matt Goldrick – General Manager

Prevention and Rehabilitation Branch

AUSTRALIA'S
SAFEST
WORKPLACES

www.comcare.gov.au

The Comcare scheme

- Comcare regulates OHS, rehabilitation and compensation for the Commonwealth jurisdiction
- Comcare's statutory functions focus on reducing the incidence and minimising the duration and severity of work-related injuries and diseases
- Is highly integrated – combines injury prevention, injury management and compensation, focussed on support during injury

Regulatory Approach

- a systems-based approach
- an integrated approach to OHS, rehabilitation and claims management
- effective and regular consultation
- a sound and effective legislative framework
- better practice regulation will lead to efficiencies for employers, other stakeholders and Comcare and maintain a safe jurisdiction, and
- regulatory decisions that are transparent, accountable, consistent and proportionate

Who is in the scheme?

- More than 200 employers and 410,000 employees covered nationally
- 28 licensees
- More than 95% of organisations in the scheme employ more than 100 people
- Diverse risk profiles, with substantial use of contractors and sub-contractors

Performance measures

- High proportion of workplaces with systems in place to manage safety risks
- Reduced incidence of workplace injuries and elimination of fatalities
- Reduced incidence of safety breaches
- High rate of durable return to work

HSR survey

- Survey conducted with HSRs in the Comcare scheme in July 2008
- Survey focused on challenges and issues HSRs face in the workplace
- 800 responses in five weeks

HSR survey – key findings

- High level of confidence to affect health and safety outcomes
- High level of confidence in Comcare
- Encouraged to undertake training by employers
- Accredited training is useful
- Comcare support satisfactory

HSR survey – next steps

- Comcare website made more user-friendly
- Opportunities for greater contact with HSRs will be developed
- Additional training opportunities for HSRs
- Comcare guidance material reviewed

Employer satisfaction survey

- Online survey underway with partners in the Comcare scheme
- Gauges satisfaction with Comcare's services and programs
- Conducted with case managers, HSRs, OHS managers
- Results available in May 2009

Two reviews

- The Comcare scheme review
 - to ensure that Comcare is a suitable OHS and workers' compensation system for licensees and their employees
 - report is yet to be released
- The National OHS review

National OHS review

- Harmonising national OHS laws
- As the Commonwealth's OHS regulator, Comcare would immediately adopt harmonised legislation
- This will require changes to our OHS regulatory regime and how we oversee it

The future

- Dependant on the outcome of the Comcare scheme review and the National OHS review
- Comcare will be an early adopter of any new legislative proposals
- Until then, Comcare continues to work to support Australia's safest workplaces