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Research Plan

Towards 2026

The work landscape continues to change, and quickly

Research provides a crucial evidence-base and growing knowledge to support employers, workers, and other stakeholders in promoting and enabling safe and healthy work.

The Research Plan Towards 2026 provides a framework to guide our activities, including key themes that were identified through stakeholder engagement, as areas of national importance.

Our partnership approach leverages industry and academic expertise, supports the inclusion of co-design and lived experience, and ensures outcomes are translated for the jurisdiction.

Opportunities

- Exploring new perspectives on what constitutes good work and an employer of choice is critical, with multi-generational and diverse workforces driving individual and collective change.
- Building manager capability in addressing workplace demands and resources, is key to prioritising worker physical and psychosocial safety and wellbeing.
- Leveraging new technology and embracing human-centric work design are foundational enablers of inclusive work practices that spearhead effective prevention, early intervention, recovery at and return to work.





Our research is guided by four themes



Enabling Safe and Healthy Work

Preventing workplace harm in all forms is the cornerstone of enabling safe and healthy workplaces. A feature of safe and healthy workplaces is when leaders and workers understand their duties and obligations, including responding to physical and psychosocial hazards and risks.



Facilitating Mentally Healthy Workplaces

Thriving organisations support worker mental health and wellbeing. Psychological safety is fostered when leaders drive positive workplace cultures that protect workers from harm, support and respond to mental ill health or distress, and promote the positive aspects of work.



Fostering Work Participation

Good work supports worker health, wellbeing, engagement and productivity. Providing good work that is person-centric and tailored to match the current capability and capacity of workers; maximises retention, recovery at and return to work.



Adapting to the Future of Work

Responding to evolving work practices and environments requires ongoing curiosity, agility, and responsibility by organisations and workers. Sustainable organisations will foresee and mitigate future risks and seize opportunities to innovate, whilst keeping worker needs front-of-mind.

Getting involved

Please contact research@comcare.gov.au if you would like to discuss potential research that supports our themes, or if you are interested in learning more about our [initiatives](#).



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