



Australian Government

Comcare

# Comcare Regulatory Contributions Statement 2025–26

## Purpose of the Regulatory Contributions Statement

The regulatory contributions statement (RCS) describes how we charge for the regulatory functions of the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission (SRCC) and Comcare under the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* (SRC Act) and *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (WHS Act). We refer to these charges as regulatory contributions.

Comcare utilises the same methodology for calculating regulatory contributions as it does for cost-recovered licence fees for self-insured licensees under the SRC Act. More information about licence fees can be found in the [Cost Recovery Implementation Statement](#).

## Who we are

Comcare is established under the SRC Act. Comcare has regulatory functions and responsibilities under the SRC Act and WHS Act. Comcare also has non-regulatory responsibilities under the *Asbestos-related Claims (Management of Commonwealth Liabilities) Act 2005*, *Parliamentary Injury Compensation Scheme Instrument 2016* and the *Seafarers Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1992*.

Comcare is the Commonwealth work health and safety regulator, a workers' compensation scheme administrator and an insurer and claims manager. It works with employees and employers to minimise the incidence and impact of harm in the workplace, improve recovery and return to work outcomes, and support engagement and better practice approaches to health and safety across the Comcare scheme. Comcare also provides support through expert advice and services to the SRCC and the Seafarers Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Authority (Seacare Authority).

## Our priorities

Comcare's purpose is to promote and enable safe and healthy work. Comcare focuses its efforts and investments to deliver against, and make an impact towards, two strategic priorities to achieve its purpose:

- prevent work related injuries
- deliver better return to work outcomes.

These strategic priorities reflect the different functions of Comcare and how we approach the prevention – early intervention – injury management – compensation and rehabilitation continuum. In delivering on the priorities, Comcare has a focus on psychological injury, to respond to the rise in work-related notifications and claims, and to recognise that the nature of work and workplaces is evolving.

Comcare's enabling priorities are drivers to building capability and ensure the agency can effectively deliver its strategic priorities:

- making data driven decisions
- uplifting leadership, effectiveness and efficiency
- delivering client-centric services.

## Our authority to charge

Comcare determines regulatory contributions under Sections 97D and 97DA of the SRC Act, and in accordance with the Guidelines set by the SRCC. Comcare reports to the SRCC annually on its compliance with the Guidelines.

## The charging model

The charging model allocates costs to regulatory contributions through three main cost pools:

- SRCC costs,
- Comcare WHS Act functions and activities costs; and
- Comcare SRC Act functions and activities costs.

These activities are further categorised as variable and ongoing costs.

### Variable costs

Variable costs are allocated to specific entities or Commonwealth authorities, based on the demand for a particular regulatory activity or function. The main component of variable costs is the direct labour effort spent on an activity.

The direct labour effort is calculated using hourly rates based on Comcare's enterprise agreement. It includes the full direct employee cost together with a proportional allocation of Comcare's overhead costs.

### Ongoing costs

Ongoing costs are those that cannot be directly attributed to an individual entity or Commonwealth authority. Ongoing costs are typically those that relate to everyone equally. They are related to overall program management or are shared equally across participants. In some cases, the data required to attribute costs individually is not available, or it is inefficient and costly to develop and maintain a model that allows precise attribution to occur.

## Activities covered by regulatory contributions

### SRCC Activities

- Activities relating to the Commission's role in setting Guidelines for the determination of premiums and regulatory contributions and reviewing Comcare's compliance with these guidelines
- Reviewing premiums and regulatory contributions under Section 97K of the SRC Act
- Advising the Minister on anything relating to the operation of the SRC Act or the SRCC's functions or powers
- Comcare's support for these activities.

## SRC Act Activities

### Ongoing activities

- Research, information and statistics management
- Policy and regulatory practice advice and support
- Participate in multi-jurisdiction forums
- Education, forums, presentations
- Oversight of rehabilitation providers
- Reporting – SRCC, Ministerial, Safe Work Australia
- Legal costs including scheme significant litigation management and legal advice.

### Variable activities

- This item includes services provided under the New Access program.

## WHS Act Activities

### Ongoing activities

- Notifications management
- Regulatory operational support activities
- Collect, analyse, report, and publish statistics
- Participating in multi-jurisdiction forums
- Advice and support in relation to work health and safety
- Legal costs (excluding prosecutions).

### Variable activities

Item	Per unit cost
Investigation	\$29,502
Inspection	\$8,822
Responding to Provisional Improvement Notice disputes	\$3,619
Responding to entry permit holder disputes	\$2,343
Responding to work group and WHS Committee disputes	\$2,343
WHS Undertakings	Actual costs of delivering activity
Regulatory Programs	Actual costs of delivering activity

## Corporate costs and overheads

Comcare recovers corporate costs and overheads and related expenses associated with the management and administration of the agency. It includes, but is not limited to, human resource management, property, information and communication technology, learning and development, and finance.

## Costs breakdown for regulatory activities in 2025–26

SRCC	Total
Ongoing costs	\$403,233
Support costs (Secretariat)	\$57,877

Reporting and data costs	\$42,210
Legal costs	\$25,004
Corporate costs and overheads	\$253,644
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$781,968</b>

<b>SRC Act</b>	<b>Total</b>
Ongoing costs	\$3,074,874
Legal costs	\$394,146
Corporate costs and overheads	\$1,564,809
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,033,829</b>

<b>WHS Act</b>	<b>Total</b>
Ongoing costs	\$13,435,435
Legal costs	\$1,030,917
Corporate costs and overheads	\$8,759,350
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$23,225,702</b>

<b>NewAccess</b>	<b>Total</b>
Variable costs	\$182,080
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$182,080</b>

## Financial estimates

The table below estimates the expenses and revenue for Comcare's regulatory activities and functions for 2025-26 and three forward years.

	2025-26	2026-27 <sup>#</sup>	2027-28 <sup>#</sup>	2028-29 <sup>#</sup>
Expenses	\$31,556,000	\$32,454,000	\$33,331,000	\$33,979,000
Revenue	\$31,556,000	\$32,454,000	\$33,331,000	\$33,979,000
Balance	-	-	-	-

<sup>#</sup> Portfolio Budget Statement forward year estimates are based on an indicative increase in wage and supplier costs. These figures are subject to change, and do not reflect any efficiencies or reduction in costs achieved by Comcare in relation to regulatory activities.

Note: In 2025-26 and the forward estimates, Comcare's regulatory contributions are based on the amount required to recover Comcare's expected business as usual and project costs.

## Financial performance

The table below sets out prior year revenue collected from Commonwealth entities.

	Actual 2021-22	Actual 2022-23	Actual 2023-24	Actual 2024-25
Regulatory contributions	\$20,836,000	\$21,182,000	\$20,417,000	\$30,199,000
Expenses	\$19,549,000	\$19,344,000	\$24,099,558	\$29,123,699
Balance	\$1,287,000	\$1,838,000	-\$3,682,558	\$1,075,301

The balance amounts of 2021-22 to 2023-24 shown in the table above were due to surplus and deficits in business-as-usual operations. The estimated balance amount of 2024-25 shown in the table above was due to surplus in business-as-usual operations and projects expenses.

In 2023-24, revenue decreased due to the change in accounting treatment of regulatory contributions. Under the new accounting method, Comcare recognises revenue from regulatory contributions when invoiced, whereas previously, revenue was recognized when services were performed.

## Non-financial performance

Comcare strives to uphold a positive reputation as an effective regulator and service delivery agency. As the national work health and safety regulator, we play a leading role in supporting safe and healthy workplaces.

Our [Compliance and Enforcement policy](#) sets out Comcare's approach to its regulatory functions and powers under the WHS Act and SRC Act.

Our [Corporate Plan](#) describes our role as a regulator, and provides information on the performance measures against our strategic priorities.

Our [Annual Report](#) details our performance against the targets set in our Corporate Plan, including our performance as a regulator. It also provides links between our Corporate Plan and our Portfolio Budget Statements.