Safe Work Australia

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# Safe Work Australia

## Section 1: Agency overview and resources

### 1.1 Strategic direction statement

Safe Work Australia was established as a Statutory Agency on 1 November 2009 under the *Safe Work Australia Act 2008* (the Act). The agency operates under the Commonwealth Government's accountability and governance frameworks.

Safe Work Australia is the principal national body leading the development of policy to improve work health and safety and workers’ compensation arrangements across Australia. It is responsible for developing and coordinating national policy and strategies, assisting with the implementation of model work health and safety legislation and reforming the legislative framework, undertaking and publishing research, and collecting, analysing and reporting data. In doing this Safe Work Australia works collaboratively with regulators, industry and worker associations and the community, to realise the national vision of healthy, safe and productive working lives.

The establishment of Safe Work Australia was provided for in the *Intergovernmental Agreement for Regulatory and Operational Reform in Occupational Health and Safety*, agreed by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) on 3 July 2008.

The agency is jointly funded by the Commonwealth, state and territory governments. This funding arrangement promotes collaboration with jurisdictions on policy development, implementation, compliance and enforcement, and communication activities.

Safe Work Australia has 15 Members, including an independent Chair, nine Members representing the Commonwealth and each state and territory, two Members representing the interests of workers, two representing the interests of employers and the Chief Executive Officer of Safe Work Australia (CEO).

The CEO manages the agency under section 45 of the Act and in accordance with the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*.

Together, the Safe Work Australia Members and the agency work to achieve:

* significant and continual reductions in the incidence of work-related death, injury and illness through
  + reduced exposure to work-related hazards causing injury and illness
  + improved quality of workplace controls
  + an improved work health and safety infrastructure including legislative reform, increased work health and safety knowledge and skills, and an evidence base which informs policy and practice.
* improved outcomes for injured workers and their employers through more equitable, effective, efficient, clearly understood and sustainable workers’ compensation arrangements.

The focus of Safe Work Australia during 2013–14 will be on:

* continuing to support the implementation of the Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012–2022
* completing Codes of Practice and guidance material to support the model work health and safety laws
* monitoring, reviewing and evaluating the implementation of the model work health and safety laws across Australia
* working with and supporting those states yet to adopt the model work health and safety laws
* supporting ongoing work health and safety reform to promote continuous improvements in performance
* undertaking a program of work to improve workers’ compensation arrangements including in the areas of Return to Work, deemed diseases, permanent impairment and developing minimum benchmarks for the National Injury Insurance Scheme
* implementing the Research, Evaluation and Data Strategy 2013–2017.

The challenge for Safe Work Australia will be in achieving these outcomes in a changing operational environment.

### 1.2 Agency resource statement

Table 1.1 shows the total resources from all sources. The table summarises how resources will be applied by outcome and by departmental classification.

Table 1.1: Safe Work Australia resource statement—Budget estimates for 2013–14 as at Budget May 2013



### 1.3 Budget measures

Safe Work Australia does not have any new measures since the 2012–13 Budget apart from the savings sought by Government. These are outlined in Table 1.2 Part 2.

Table 1.2 Agency 2013–14 Budget measures

Part 2: MYEFO measures not previously reported in a portfolio statement

Prepared on a Government Finance Statistics (fiscal) basis

## Section 2: Outcomes and planned performance

### 2.1 Outcomes and performance information

Government outcomes are the intended results, impacts or consequences of actions by the Government on the Australian community. Commonwealth programs are the primary vehicle by which government agencies achieve the intended results of their outcome statements. Agencies are required to identify the programs which contribute to Government outcomes over the Budget and forward years.

Each outcome is described below together with its related programs, specifying the performance indicators and targets used to assess and monitor the performance of Safe Work Australia in achieving Government outcomes.

|  |
| --- |
| Outcome 1 Healthier, safer and more productive workplaces through improvements to Australian work health and safety and workers’ compensation arrangements |

#### Outcome 1 strategy

Safe Work Australia works with representatives of the Commonwealth, state and territory governments, employees and employers so that:

* national work health and safety policy and practice is supported by the implementation of the Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012‑2022
* Australia has harmonised and improved work health and safety laws providing a consistent, equitable and high level of protection to all workers
* the national work health and safety research, evaluation and data programs support evidence informed policy, programs and practice
* community awareness and knowledge of work health and safety is increased
* assistance is provided to other agencies to promote consistent and improved approaches to managing health and safety hazards and risks
* opportunities for improvements in workers’ compensation arrangements are identified and proposals developed.

#### Outcome 1 expense statement

Table 2.1 Budgeted expenses for Outcome 1



#### Contributions to Outcome 1

|  |
| --- |
| Program 1: Reform of and improvements to Australian work health and safety and workers’ compensation arrangements |

##### Program 1 objective

The objective of Safe Work Australia is to implement, monitor, review and evaluate model work health and safety laws, coordinate and develop national policy and strategies, undertake research and collect, analyse and report data to improve work health and safety and workers’ compensation arrangements in Australia.

To be able to meet its objectives Safe Work Australia works collaboratively with regulators, industry and worker associations and the community to achieve healthy, safe and productive working lives.

The Act prescribes that Safe Work Australia performs its functions in accordance with its Strategic and Operational plans. These plans are approved by Safe Work Australia Members and the Select Council on Workplace Relations.

##### Program 1 expenses

The work of the agency continues to focus on the objectives of Program 1 and as prescribed by legislation. The agency has not identified any significant trends or variances over the forward years.

##### Table 2.2 Budgeted expenses for Program 1

Table 2.1.1 Program 1 expenses



##### Program 1 deliverables

The deliverables for Safe Work Australia are highlighted in its operational plan and include:

* implementation of the Australian Work Health and Safety Strategy 2012‑2022
* completion of Codes of Practice and the development of guidance material to support the model work health and safety laws
* implementation, review and evaluation of the model work health and safety laws
* implementation of the Research, Evaluation and Data Strategy 2013–2017
* proposals to support reform of the work health and safety legislative framework, and
* proposals to improve outcomes for injured workers and their employers.

##### Program 1 key performance indicators

The key performance indicators are framed around the strategies the agency has put in place to achieve its outcome and the key deliverables in the Safe Work Australia Operational Plan 2013–14.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Key performance indicators | |
| Quality | 2013–14 target |
| The work health and safety legislative framework continues to be developed, implemented and reviewed in accordance with COAG requirements.[[1]](#footnote-1) | COAG requirements are met. |
| Level of satisfaction of the Chair of Safe Work Australia with how the agency is achieving the deliverables of its operational plan.[[2]](#footnote-2) | Chair rates the performance of the agency as very good or above. |
| Level of satisfaction of the Members of Safe Work Australia with how the agency is achieving the deliverables of its operational plan.[[3]](#footnote-3) | 80% of Members agree the agency is achieving the deliverables of its operational plan. |

## Section 3: Explanatory tables and budgeted financial statements

Section 3 presents explanatory tables and budgeted financial statements which provide a comprehensive snapshot of agency finances for the 2013–14 budget year. It explains how budget plans are incorporated into the financial statements and provides further details of the reconciliation between appropriations and program expenses, movements in administered funds, special accounts and government Indigenous expenditure.

### 3.1 Explanatory tables

#### 3.1.1 Movement of administered funds between years

Safe Work Australia has no administered funds. For this reason Table 3.1.1 is not presented.

#### 3.1.2 Special Accounts

Special Accounts provide a means to set aside and record amounts used for specified purposes. Special Accounts can be created by a Finance Minister’s Determination under the FMA Act or under separate enabling legislation. Table 3.1.2 shows the expected additions (receipts) and reductions (payments) for each account used by Safe Work Australia.

Table 3.1.2 Estimates of Special Account flows and balances

#### 3.1.3 Australian Government Indigenous Expenditure

The 2013–14 Australian Government Indigenous Statement is not applicable because Safe Work Australia has no Indigenous-specific expenses.

### budgeted financial statements

#### 3.2.1 Differences in agency resourcing and financial statements

The agency receives funds from states and territories and matched appropriations funding from the Commonwealth as provided for in the Intergovernmental Agreement.

Table 3.2.1 Comprehensive income statement (showing net cost of services) for the period ended 30 June



Prepared on an Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.2.1 Comprehensive income statement (showing net cost of services) for the period ended 30 June (continued)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Note: Impact of Net Cash Appropriation Arrangements** | | |  |  |  |
|  | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
|  | $'000 | $'000 | $'000 | $'000 | $'000 |
| **Total Comprehensive Income** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **(loss) excluding depreciation/amortisation** | |  |  |  |  |
| **expenses previously funded through** | |  |  |  |  |
| **revenue appropriations.** | **(1,200)** | **-** | **-** | **-** | **-** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| less depreciation/amortisation expenses |  |  |  |  |  |
| previously funded through revenue | (492) | (539) | (484) | (162) | (83) |
| appropriations1 |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Total Comprehensive Income** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **(loss) - as per the Statement of** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Comprehensive Income** | **(1,692)** | **(539)** | **(484)** | **(162)** | **(83)** |
| 1 From 2010-11, the Government introduced net cash appropriation arrangements where Bill 1 revenue appropriations for the depreciation/amortisation expenses of FMA Act agencies were replaced with a separate capital budget (the Departmental Capital Budget, or DCB) provided through Bill 1 equity appropriations. For information regarding DCBs, please refer to Table 3.2.5 Departmental Capital Budget Statement.  Prepared on an Australian Accounting Standards basis. | | | | | |

Table 3.2.2 Budgeted departmental balance sheet (as at 30 June)



Prepared on an Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.2.3 Departmental statement of changes in equity—summary of movement (Budget year 2013–14)



Prepared on an Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.2.4 Budgeted departmental statement of cash flows (for the period ended 30 June)



Prepared on an Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.2.5 Departmental capital budget statement



Prepared on an Australian Accounting Standards basis.

Table 3.2.6 Statement of asset movements (2013–14)



Prepared on an Australian Accounting Standards basis.

#### Notes to the financial statements

Other gains represented in the Comprehensive Income Statement are resources received free of charge from other Commonwealth agencies.

1. This indicator has been altered to reflect the original timeframe set by COAG for the development of model work health and safety laws has passed. Safe Work Australia met the previous indicator. All model work health and safety laws apart from the mining component were approved for implementation on 1 January 2012. COAG timeframes were extended for completion of the mining regulations. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This indicator has been altered to align with the revised structure of Safe Work Australia’s strategic and operational plans and to test the performance of the agency in achieving its deliverables rather than the outcomes of the plans. The previous indicator was met in 2011–12 with the Chair satisfied the services of the agency were appropriately directed at achieving the outcomes to a very good to excellent levels in all areas. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. This indicator has been altered to align with the revised structure of Safe Work Australia’s strategic and operational plans and to test the performance of the agency in achieving its deliverables rather than the outcomes of the plans. The previous indicator was met in 2011–12 with 90% of Safe Work Australia Members agreeing the services of the agency were appropriately directed at achieving the outcomes. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)