



Australian Government

Comcare

Comcare Regulatory Contributions Statement 2024–25

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 (Commission) 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 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

The Commission is established under the SRC Act and carries out functions in relation to the Comcare scheme under the SRC Act. The Commission is an 11-member body, with members (other than the Chief Executive Officer of Safe Work Australia) appointed by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations. Members have experience relevant to the Commission's functions and can represent views of stakeholders in the Comcare Scheme.

The Commission has issued the *Regulatory Contributions Determination Guidelines 2012* (Guidelines) to guide Comcare on the determination and charging of regulatory contributions.

Comcare is established under the SRC Act and is a Corporate Commonwealth entity under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act). Comcare is the national work health and safety and workers' compensation authority and provides support to the Commission under the SRC Act.

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 Commission. Comcare reports to the Commission annually on its compliance with the Guidelines.

Our priorities

Comcare's purpose is to promote and enable safe and healthy work. To achieve this purpose, Comcare focuses on two strategic priorities to deliver its purpose:

- Prevent work-related injuries
- Deliver better return to work outcomes

The strategic priorities will be enabled by:

- Making data-driven decisions
- Uplifting leadership, effectiveness and efficiency
- Delivering client-centric services

The charging model

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

- Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission 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

Commission 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 Commission's functions or powers; and
- 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 – Commission, Ministerial, Safe Work Australia; and
- 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; and
- 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 2024–25

Commission	Total
Ongoing costs	\$451,583
Support costs (Secretariat)	\$54,787
Reporting and data costs	\$40,675
Legal costs	\$23,569
Corporate costs and overheads	\$241,922
Total	\$812,536

SRC Act	Total
Ongoing costs	\$3,090,222
Legal costs	\$502,857
Corporate costs and overheads	\$1,414,811
Total	\$5,007,889

WHS Act	Total
Ongoing costs	\$12,613,586
Legal costs	\$1,069,309
Corporate costs and overheads	\$8,007,933
Total	\$21,690,888

NewAccess	Total
Variable costs	\$183,750
Total	\$183,750

Financial estimates

The table below estimates the expenses and revenue for Comcare's regulatory activities and functions for 2024-25 and three forward years.

	2024–25	2025–26[#]	2026–27[#]	2027–28[#]
Expenses	\$28,769,000	\$29,917,000	\$29,562,000	\$30,033,000
Revenue	\$28,769,000	\$29,917,000	\$29,562,000	\$30,033,000
Balance	-	-	-	-

[#] 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 2024-25 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. This is different to previous years when surplus¹ cost recovered funds were available to fund project costs.

Financial performance

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

	Actual 2020–21	Actual 2021–22	Actual 2022–23	Actual 2023–24
Regulatory contributions	\$18,651,000	\$20,836,000	\$21,182,000	\$22,634,000
Expenses	\$18,321,000	\$19,549,000	\$19,344,000	\$23,667,000
Balance	\$330,000	\$1,287,000	\$1,838,000	-\$1,033,000

Note: The balance amounts shown in the table above were due to surpluses and deficits in business-as-usual operations. As regulatory contributions were based on the amount required to recover Comcare's business as usual costs in these years, only business as usual expenses are included (i.e. project expenses are not included) in the table above.

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.