



Australian Government

Department of Employment and Workplace Relations
Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner



Accelerated accreditation pathways and tailored support for builders applying for Housing Australia funding

To support its commitment to urgently build more social and affordable dwellings, the Australian Government has funded the Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner (OFSC) to prioritise Work Health and Safety (WHS) Accreditation Scheme applications from head contractor builders that have tendered for Housing Australia funding.

The Australian Government has also funded two sources of tailored support for residential builders seeking WHS Accreditation:

- 1) Three industry associations have been funded to provide advisory services to residential builders seeking WHS Accreditation. The following associations are available to provide support:
 - Australian Industry Group
 - Housing Industry Association
 - Master Builders Association
- 2) Head contractor builders will be allocated a dedicated Federal Safety Officer (FSO) to provide up to 40 hours of free assistance throughout the accreditation process.

See the following pages for more information.

Industry Association support

What assistance will I get?

Grant funded industry associations can provide tailored advisory services to support your business develop its WHS systems and process to the level required to obtain accreditation. Support may include information or training about accreditation requirements, advice on WHS processes and systems, and support preparing for audits.

How can I access this support?

You can contact any of the industry associations funded through the WHS Accreditation grant program. You do not need to be a member of the association to access Accreditation support. This support is currently available until November 2025.

Australian Industry Group (Ai Group)

Ai Group has been acting on behalf of Australian businesses for over 150 years and is a leading voice in WHS matters and regulator policy. Ai Group Consultants are highly experienced and qualified to assist your business in preparing for FSC accreditation, whether it's assisting you to develop and implement your WHS systems, to providing you with resources to sustainably do this on our own.

Website: www.safeready.com.au

Contact: safety.services@aigroup.com.au

Housing Industry Association (HIA)

HIA is Australia's only national industry association representing the interests of the residential building industry. HIA is offering free information, advice and support, including assistance updating your safety systems and providing one-on-one mentoring, to those interested in securing federal WHS Accreditation.

Website: <https://hia.com.au/business-support/safety-solutions/federal-whs-accreditation-scheme>

Contact: enquiry@hia.com.au

Master Builders Association (MBA)

Master Builders Australia is the nation's peak building and construction industry association and the only industry association that represents all three sectors of the industry – residential, commercial and engineering/civil construction. Master Builders is offering free webinars, one-on-one bespoke advice and support to assist builders in obtaining OFSC WHS Accreditation to allow them to be able to tender for work on Housing Australia Future Fund projects.

Website: www.mbasafetyhelp.com.au

Contact: haffsafetyhelp@masterbuilders.com.au

Office of the Federal Safety Commissioner support

What assistance will I get?

Head contractor builders that have tendered for Housing Australia funding will be allocated a dedicated FSO. The FSO will undertake all required audits of the builder's Work Health and Safety Management Systems (WHSMS) and on-site safety practices, as well as being on hand to provide reassessments and closure of any non-conformances with the [FSC Audit Criteria](#).

The allocated FSO can support the builder through:

- in-person/virtual debriefing following audits to ensure clarity on the nature of any identified gaps between an applicant's WHSMS and the FSC's Audit Criteria
- providing general examples on what steps other (unnamed) accredited builders have put in place to meet FSC Audit Criteria requirements
- directing applicants to relevant available resources (such as regulatory publications including Codes of Practice, relevant Australian Standards or other industry guidance and tools)
- reviewing updates made to WHSMS and processes and confirming if the updates now meet the FSC's Audit Criteria
- directing applicants to the OFSC for further assistance and information on accreditation.

FSOs can provide up to 40 hours of free support to builders as outlined above. The 40 hours is the time spent by the FSO to prepare, support the builder and undertake follow-up administration. It does not include time spent at audits. This support is not a consulting service and FSOs are unable to advise on, or draft, WHSMS revisions.

How do I access the free FSO assistance?

First, you will need to apply for accreditation online using [FSC Online](#). See the home page of FSC Online for information on how to register for an account. Once your completed application has been submitted, an FSO will be allocated to you by the OFSC and you will start the accreditation process.

Need more information?

Contact the OFSC at ofscresidential@dewr.gov.au or 02 6121 9175.