

FEDERAL SAFETY COMMISSIONER

REGULATOR STATEMENT OF INTENT – 2026

This statement of intent outlines how I will undertake my role as the Federal Safety Commissioner (FSC). It responds to the Ministerial Statement of Expectations of August 2025 from the Hon Amanda Rishworth, Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations.

Role of the Federal Safety Commissioner

The FSC is a statutory role established by the *Federal Safety Commissioner Act 2022* (the FSC Act). As the FSC, I am committed to promoting work health and safety in relation to building work being performed by builders funded by the Australian Government. I will exercise my legislative functions, listed in section 38 of the FSC Act, in good faith and to the best of my ability. I will maximise opportunities for the Government to use its influence as a major funder of building work to drive work health and safety improvements.

The Government's policy priorities

In undertaking my legislative functions as the FSC, I will support delivery of the Government's policy priorities as set out in the Statement of Expectations. I will:

- Focus my Office's efforts on improving the safety performance of accredited builders. I will apply finite resources in a risk-based and data-informed approach to monitoring of the Scheme's safety requirements.
- Ensure enforcement action is proportionate, uses all available compliance and enforcement powers and promotes voluntary compliance where possible.
- Support the Government's social and affordable housing commitments through a fast-track accreditation process for residential builders. To deliver on the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, I have made this fast-track accreditation process available to First Nations-owned businesses.
- Deepen engagement with the National Construction Industry Forum to support a tripartite approach to the delivery of my functions.
- Take proactive steps to ensure Commonwealth agencies understand and comply with the requirement to use accredited builders under the FSC Act.
- Promote transparency in my Office's operations through publication of key policies, decisions and performance results as permitted by the FSC Act. I will regularly review my Office's policies and operating procedures to ensure they respond to the changing social, technological and commercial context (for example, AI adoption).

Consistent with RMG 128 and the Regulatory Policy, Practice and Performance Framework, I will also:

- Embed continuous improvement across my Office and support the ongoing regulatory professional development of staff.
- Ensure administration of the Scheme appropriately balances the mitigation of safety risks with efficiency and the Government's productivity objectives.

Relationship with stakeholders

I will support strong relationships with stakeholders by:

- Ensuring my actions are consistent with government policies and my obligations under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act).
- Engaging key stakeholders about the changing context of the regulatory environment, the way I deliver my functions and options for legislative reform.
- Working collaboratively with the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (the Department) to strengthen compliance with the FSC Act.

I will continue to provide clear and accessible guidance to support compliance with Scheme requirements. I will communicate regulatory processes transparently and fairly. I will also enhance guidance to help government agencies understand FSC Act requirements and take proactive steps to ensure compliance.

Where legislation permits, I will minimise regulatory burden by:

- Coordinating my activities with other regulatory agencies to avoid duplication.
- Sharing information and undertaking joint activities with other regulators.

I will report on the performance of my Office through the Department's Corporate Plan and Annual Report, supplemented by an Annual Data Report.

I will maintain a constructive and transparent relationship with the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations. I will provide timely advice on significant issues affecting the operation of the FSC Act and the Scheme.

Organisational matters

I will work with my staff and the Department to ensure all organisational matters outlined in the Statement of Expectations are addressed. I will focus on protecting information and complying with the PGPA Act and the Australian Public Service Values and Code of Conduct.



David Denney

Federal Safety Commissioner

22 September 2026