



## Australian Government

### Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

#### Office of Best Practice Regulation

Reference: 17183  
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Sandra Parker  
Deputy Secretary  
Department of Employment

Dear Ms Parker

### **Final Regulation Impact Statement – Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Amendments (Improving the Comcare Scheme) Bill 2015**

Thank you for forwarding the Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) for the above Bill for final assessment on 11 March 2015. I note that you have formally certified the RIS as required by the best practice regulation requirements.

The Bill seeks to make amendments to the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988* in relation to the operation and provisions of the Comcare Scheme. Some of the more significant changes include:

- changes to the income replacement rates;
- requiring medical treatment to be supported by a stronger evidence base;
- introduction of fee schedules for medical and legal services; and
- introduction of a tiered system of support for household and attendant care services.

The changes are intended to improve the return to work performance of the Comcare scheme, and reduce scheme costs for both licensees and premium paying organisations.

The Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) assesses RISs for consistency and adequacy – consistency relates to following the prescribed process and adequacy relates to the quality of the analysis.

I note the agency has been consistent with the RIS guidelines, having twice provided a certified RIS (addressing all seven elements) to the OBPR for final assessment before the decision-maker considers the RIS.

I also note that the RIS is adequate as it does not contain obvious errors and has a degree of detail and depth of analysis that is commensurate with the magnitude of the problem and the size of the potential impact of the proposal. In addition, the regulatory cost estimates have been agreed with the OBPR.

Accordingly, I am satisfied that the RIS meets best practice consistent with the *Australian Government Guide to Regulation*.

For legislation which is tabled in the Parliament, a copy of the RIS must be included in the explanatory memorandum (for primary legislation) or the explanatory statement (for legislative instruments). Please ensure that your officers provide the OBPR with a copy of (or link to) the explanatory memorandum or explanatory statement when these are made public.

Additionally, the OBPR maintains a RIS website and RISs are published as soon as practicable following a regulatory decision being publicly announced. We would appreciate you advising us when a decision on this proposal is announced, and forwarding a final copy of the RIS in *Microsoft Word .doc* format in a form meeting the Australian Government's *Web Content Accessibility Guidelines*. We suggest liaising with your web services team to ensure these guidelines are met. The OBPR should be consulted if the RIS is amended. It is the agency preparing the RIS, not the OBPR, which is responsible for the content of the published RIS.

The website provides a public comment facility on RISs posted on the site. The OBPR moderates this facility for offensive content but does not moderate debate.

Please retain this letter as a record of the OBPR's advice. Our reference number for this issue is 17183. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Simovski', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tony Simovski  
A/g Deputy Executive Director  
17 March 2015