

WHS regulation and reform relating to psychosocial risks

As at 1 September 2023

Jurisdiction	Specific Regulations	Code of Practices (higher-order, essentially enforceable materials)	Guidance Notes
National These comprise 'Template' materials only - for adoption by State/Territory Governments	National commitment to reform of Model WHS laws Model Work Health and Safety Act as amended in April 2022. Model Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011 as amended in April 2022, requiring PCBUs to tackle psychosocial risks through a risk management process (amongst other changes).	National commitment to reform of Model WHS laws Model Code of Practice: Managing Psychosocial Hazards at Work as published in July 2022	Has not focussed on guidance materials <u>Mental health information page</u>
Commonwealth (Laws which only affect Commonwealth employers or those in the 'Comcare' system – most Australian employers are subject to safety laws in each State or Territory in which the employer has relevant operations) Has adopted the Model WHS Regulations with amendments	Has adopted the Model WHS laws and included an additional requirement that Commonwealth and Comcare duty holders must apply the hierarchy of controls to psychosocial risks, pursuant to clause 36 of the WHS Regulation. <u>Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011</u> which commenced 1 April 2023.	Has not adopted a Code of Practice but refers Model Code of Practice N/A	General intent to draw regulatory and investigative attention on this area <i>Psychosocial hazards information page</i>
New South Wales Has adopted Model WHS Regulations and has onerous code of practice	First state to adopt the Model WHS laws <u>Work Health and Safety Regulation 2017</u> which came into operation on 1 October 2022	Has adopted a Code of Practice in addition to changes to WHS Regulations <u>Code of Practice: Managing Psychosocial</u> <u>Hazards at Work</u> as published in May 2021	General intent to draw regulatory and investigative attention on this area <u>Mental health information page</u>

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Victoria Significant laws proposed, but unlikely to be introduced until 2024.	Reform proposed, but not yet introduced Occupational Health and Safety Amendment (Psychological Health) Regulations proposed to come into force in 2023	Has not adopted a Code of Practice (prefers to make changes to OHS Regulations) N/A	Significant guidance and policy materials published, evidencing a clear intent to draw regulatory and investigative attention on this area <i>Psychosocial hazard fact sheet:</i> <i>Workplace bullying</i> <i>Psychosocial Hazard Fact Sheet: Work-</i> <i>related stress</i> <i>Psychosocial hazard fact sheet: Work-</i> <i>related gendered violence including</i> <i>sexual harassment</i> <i>Psychosocial hazard fact sheet: Work-</i> <i>related fatigue</i> <i>Psychosocial hazard fact sheet: Work-</i> <i>related fatigue</i> <i>Psychosocial hazard fact sheet: Work-</i> <i>related fatigue</i> <i>Psychosocial hazard fact sheet: Work-</i> <i>related violence</i> <i>Mental Health information page</i>
Australian Capital Territory Intends to adopt the Model WHS Regulations with amendments	Has adopted the Model WHS laws and included an additional requirement that ACT duty holders must apply the hierarchy of controls to psychosocial risks, pursuant to clause 36 of the WHS Regulation. Work Health and Safety Amendment Regulation 2023 (No 1) due to commence on 27 November 2023. Previously amended the Work Health and Safety Act 2011 (ACT) to add "a	Has developed a Code of Practice <u>Managing Psychosocial Hazards at Work</u> <u>Code of Practice</u> due to commence on 27 November 2023	General intent to draw regulatory and investigative attention on this area <u>Strategy for Managing Work-Related</u> <u>Psychosocial Hazards 2021-2023</u> launched in October 2021

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	sexual assault incident" as a notifiable incident.		
Queensland Has adopted the Model WHS Regulations with amendments and placed emphasis on psychosocial risks in more general codes of practice	Has adopted the Model WHS laws and included an additional requirement that Queensland duty holders must apply the hierarchy of controls to psychosocial risks, pursuant to clause 36 of the WHS Regulation. <u>Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011</u> which commenced 1 April 2023	Specific Codes of Practice introduced (and generic Codes deal with psychosocial risk) Code of Practice: Managing the risk of psychosocial hazards at work 2022 commended 1 April 2023 Code of Practice: How to manage work health and safety risks 2021 Code of Practice: Work health and safety consultation, cooperation and coordination 2021 as amended in August 2022	Guidance and policy materials published, evidencing the intent to draw regulatory and investigative attention on this area <u>Psychosocial risk assessment tool</u> <u>Mental health information page</u>
Northern Territory Has adopted the Model WHS Regulations with amendments	Has adopted the Model WHS laws and included an additional requirement that Northern Territory duty holders must apply the hierarchy of controls to psychosocial risks, pursuant to clause 36 of the WHS Regulation. <u>Work Health and Safety (National Uniform</u> <u>Legislation) Regulations 2011</u> which commenced 1 July 2023	Generic Codes of Practice (deal with psychosocial risk) <u>Code of Practice: How to manage work</u> <u>health and safety risks</u> as updated in October 2020 In the process of adopting a Code of Practice: Managing psychosocial hazards at work	Has not focussed on guidance materials <u>Workplace mental health information</u> page
Western Australia Has onerous code of practice	Has adopted the Model WHS laws	Specific Codes of Practice introduced deal with psychosocial risk	General intent to draw regulatory and investigative attention on this area

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	<u>Work Health and Safety (General)</u> <u>Regulations 2022</u> which commenced 24 December 2022	<u>Code of Practice: Psychological hazards in</u> <u>the workplace</u> as published in February 2022 <u>Code of practice: Violence and aggression <u>at work</u> <u>Code of practice: Workplace behaviour</u></u>	<u>Mentally healthy workplaces audit -</u> <u>technical guide</u> <u>Mentally healthy workplaces - audit tool</u>
South Australia Intends to adopt the Model WHS Regulations with amendments	Has adopted the Model WHS laws and included an additional requirement that SA duty holders must apply the hierarchy of controls to psychosocial risks, pursuant to clause 36 of the WHS Regulation. <u>Work Health and Safety (Psychosocial</u> <u>Risks) Amendment Regulations 2023</u> due to commence in December 2023.	Intends to adopt a Code of Practice Intends to adopt a Code of Practice on Managing psychosocial hazards at work in December 2023.	General intent to draw regulatory and investigative attention on this area <i>Psychosocial hazards information page</i> <i>Psychosocial Hazards and Work-</i> <i>Related Stress Safety Scan</i>
Tasmania Has adopted Model WHS Regulations and has onerous code of practice	Has adopted the Model WHS laws <u>Work Health and Safety Regulations 2022</u> which came into effect on 22 December 2022.	Has adopted a Code of Practice <u>Model code of practice: Managing</u> <u>psychosocial hazards at work</u> as published in July 2022, effective in Tasmania on and from 4 Jan 2023	General intent to draw regulatory and investigative attention on this area <u>Mentally health workplaces information page</u>