

NCIF Pulse Check

22 Sep 2025 – 14 Jun 2026

1 NCIF Meetings	4 Workshops	7 Sessions	7/9 priority recommendations commenced
--------------------	----------------	---------------	---

PRIORITY RECOMMENDATIONS

1.1	Enhancing the NCIF's role	The NCIF endorsed and published its Forward Workplan in May 2026. Since the NCIF Blueprint was endorsed in September 2025, the NCIF has held 4 facilitated workshops to progress implementation of priority recommendations and develop advice for government. The department will continue to support the NCIF in implementing the Blueprint.	Ongoing
2.1	Joint Construction Industry Charter	A draft Joint Construction Industry Charter has been developed for agreement by NCIF members. Wider industry engagement on the Charter is expected in the second half of 2026. Consultation would be guided by the Charter Engagement Plan, subject to agreement by members. The Charter is anticipated to be finalised and endorsed at the second NCIF meeting of the year.	Phase 4 of 5
3.1	Procurement frameworks and settings	<p>The Australasian Procurement and Construction Council (APCC) has been commissioned to support this recommendation. The APCC has defined scope and problem statements with NCIF members. The APCC is now gathering information, including an industry survey, which it will assess with a view to developing findings/recommendations for the NCIF's consideration.</p> <p>The government will also consult on potential standards for the construction industry aimed at ensuring government financial arrangements drive quality, productivity, and mutually beneficial and lawful behaviour, and deliver safe, secure, well-paid jobs. Consultation is expected to occur in the second half of 2026.</p>	Phase 2 of 4
4.1	Developing advice on safe, secure, well-paid jobs	Consultation on the Secure Australian Jobs Code (SAJC) has concluded. Consultation outcomes from SAJC and the upcoming consultation on potential standards for the construction industry will inform scoping of the recommendation.	Consult *
4.3	Advice on pathways and strategies to address structural barriers to entry	Initial engagement with members was undertaken to define and agree scope. Research is now underway to support the development of advice, including analysis of existing pathways, barriers and targeted strategies.	Phase 3 of 5
4.4	Explore structural barriers to women's participation	Initial engagement with members was undertaken to define and agree scope. Research is now underway to support the development of advice, including analysis of existing pathways, barriers and targeted strategies.	Phase 3 of 5
4.6	National skills accreditation, licensing and regulation	Being progressed by Treasury in cooperation with the states and territories through National Competition Policy (NCP) and the Council of Federal Financial Relations (CFFR). NCIF members have been invited to contribute to consultation processes, including Treasury's issues paper on national licensing for electrical occupations and the National Competition Council's call for submissions and consultation paper to support CFFR's Review of Australia's mutual recognition schemes for workers.	Phase 3 of 4
5.2	Advice on security of payment arrangements	Scoping phase expected to commence in July 2026, informed by findings from the research and consult phase for recommendation 7.3.	Not commenced
7.3	Develop risk management/ allocation guidelines	NCIF members are developing problem statements ahead of work to map how risk is transferred between parties in the construction industry, to support development of risk management and allocation guidelines.	Phase 2 of 5

* Initial consultation through Secure Australian Jobs Code, with scoping of recommendation 4.1 to commence in 2027.

NCIF Pulse Check

22 Sep 2025 – 14 Jun 2026

ONGOING AND ENABLING RECOMMENDATIONS

1.2 Strengthen and develop the role of the NCIF as an authoritative industry voice	The department has facilitated consultation sessions for NCIF members to provide advice on critical issues including the Australia Apprenticeships Priority List and Advanced Entry Trades Training Program.	ONGOING
1.5 Recognising the importance of the states and territories, NCIF to engage on relevant challenges and opportunities	Government has briefed states and territories on development of the Blueprint and Forward Workplan and invited feedback on which priority recommendations states and territories would like to be involved in supporting the NCIF to deliver.	ENABLING
1.7 NCIF to maintain oversight of existing reforms/initiatives	Commenced further maturation and development of the system map diagram and reforms/initiative mapping.	ENABLING
8.1 Develop performance indicators across the four Blueprint threads	Commenced development of indicators to measure the construction industry's performance against the four Blueprint threads of safety, culture, productivity and sustainability to support ongoing monitoring and benchmarking of the industry. Initial concepts will be discussed at the July/August workshop.	ONGOING

OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

2.2	Recommend regulators take a more joined-up, proactive and visible approach Commonwealth agencies are working to drive a more joined-up Commonwealth regulatory approach through greater intelligence sharing, risk monitoring and cross-agency action (refer rec 2.6). An NCIF Roundtable was held with the Fair Work Commission and Fair Work Ombudsman in May discussing current insights and experiences relating to unlawful behaviour and action taken by regulators.
2.6	Recommend identifying opportunities for greater information sharing and cooperation between regulators and agencies including project funding/data The department has established a Commonwealth Senior Officials (CSO) cross-agency forum to share information and work collaboratively to address challenges relating to corruption, criminality and violence, and breaches of workplace laws in the construction sector. Following the establishment of the CSO, regulators and agencies have begun identifying opportunities for greater information sharing and cooperation including in relation to funding and data.
5.3	Engage with Phoenix Taskforce, Australian Taxation Office (ATO) to provide advice on changing behaviours that lead to phoenixing An ATO roundtable session was held with NCIF members in February 2026. It presented its Brisbane 2032 Games engagement strategy working across government and industry to influence ethical decision making in the tendering process and reinforce a level playing field.

The department will continue to monitor for progress against recommendations ahead of the next pulse check, alongside engagement with members, agencies and other stakeholders.

INDUSTRY DATA UPDATES

	As of 21 April 2026	Compared to the Blueprint Industry Snapshot*
SAFETY	17,609 'serious claims for workers' compensation (those resulting in a week or more off work) in the construction industry during 2023-24 (12% of all claims) <i>(Safe Work Australia, 2025)</i>	↑ Up from 17,156 serious claims for workers during 2022-23 (11.8% of all claims)
	37 fatalities in the construction industry in 2024 (20% of all workplace fatalities) <i>(Safe Work Australia)</i>	↓ Down from 46 fatalities in 2023 (23% of all workplace fatalities)
CULTURE	In February 2026, 18.1 per cent of construction workers reported working 50 hours or more per week compared to 11 per cent across all industries <i>(ABS, Labour Force Survey, February 2026 original term)</i>	↑ Up from 17.9 per cent of construction workers in November 2024
	13.9 per cent of those employed in the construction industry are women <i>(ABS, February 2026)</i>	↑ Up from 12.3 per cent in May 2025 quarter report
PRODUCTIVITY	110,300 houses and 61,800 units or apartments built per year <i>(ABS, Building Activity, December quarter 2025, Seasonally adjusted estimates)</i>	↓ Down from the average of 113,000 houses built per year since December 2022, and ↑ Up from the average of 61,700 units or apartments built per year since December 2022.
	Over the year to December 2025, 27.4 working days lost per 1000 employees (WDL/000E) in the construction industry (12.4 WDL/000E) in other industries <i>(ABS, Industrial Disputes, Australia, December 2025 original terms)</i>	↓ Down from 43.2 working days lost over the year to December 2024
SUSTAINABILITY	109,870 apprentices and trainees in the construction industry including as at September 2025 <i>(NCVER, September 2025)</i>	↓ Down from 112,205 as at 31 December 2024
	1.38 million people (or 9.3 per cent of all employed) are employed in the building and construction industry <i>(ABS, February 2026)</i>	↑ Up from 1.32 million as at the March 2025 quarter

*Safe Work Australia data on frequency of serious claims for workers' compensation was not included in the Blueprint Industry Snapshot and is a new indicator for the purpose of the Blueprint Pulse Check.