

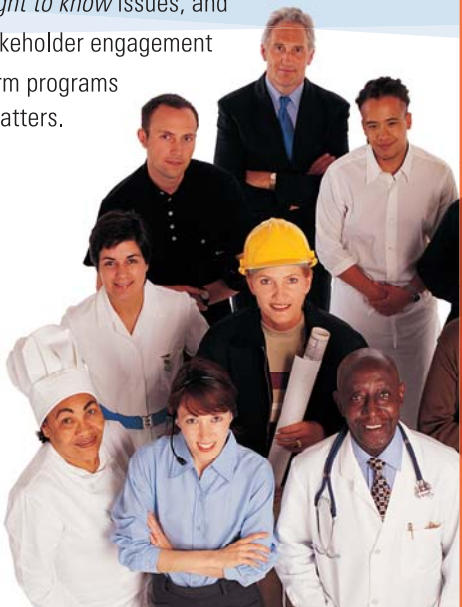
### Forum activities and responsibilities

The CEF meets twice a year, and takes an active ongoing role in NICNAS's review and treaties and rapid risk assessment (existing chemicals) and notification and assessment (new chemicals) programs.

Its members provide policy advice and participate in expert working and review groups.

The CEF has supported NICNAS in a wide range of initiatives including:

- improving public access to chemical safety information by developing the *NICNAS Community Engagement Charter 2005-06*
- developing a communications strategy targeting the information needs of specific groups
- providing advice on ways to improve on-line services
- reviewing the Low Regulatory Concern Chemicals (LRCCs) and Existing Chemicals programs
- providing input into technical working groups for review programs, and
- providing advice on such things as:
  - new strategies to improve public access to NICNAS's chemical health, safety and environmental standards
  - community *right to know* issues, and
  - NICNAS's stakeholder engagement policies, reform programs and similar matters.



### NICNAS

Established in 1990, NICNAS regulates industrial chemicals for the protection of people at work, the public and the environment. It operates under the Australian Government *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989*.

For a copy of the brochure outlining the NICNAS Community Engagement Charter or more information about the CEF and its work we invite you to contact us on:

**Telephone** (02) 8577 8800  
**Freecall** 1800 638 528  
**Fax** (02) 8577 8888  
**Email** CEF@nicnas.gov.au

**Or write to us at:**  
CEF, NICNAS, GPO Box 58, Sydney, NSW 2001, Australia

All NICNAS documents and brochures are available on our website: [www.nicnas.gov.au](http://www.nicnas.gov.au)

NICNAS *Regulating chemicals for your protection*  
[www.nicnas.gov.au](http://www.nicnas.gov.au)

## NICNAS Community Engagement Forum

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS NOTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT SCHEME



Australian Government  
Department of Health and Ageing  
NICNAS

### NICNAS Community Engagement Forum

The CEF – NICNAS's consultative community-based forum – arose as part of a wider initiative to reform the management of low regulatory concern chemicals (LRCC) in Australia. It recognises the importance of effective engagement in formulating regulatory policies and practices that operate well and best meet the needs of all stakeholders.

In civil society, people with shared interests, purposes and values participate in dialogue about issues that concern them, and together seek to address, change or resolve them, either in their neighbourhood or as part of a unified initiative across the whole society.

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As the Australian Government regulator for industrial chemicals, NICNAS has developed a formal process that enables people to engage and enter into dialogue about chemical safety issues.

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## NICNAS Community Engagement Charter

Developed by the CEF, the Charter outlines the principles and protocols used in all NICNAS's stakeholder engagements and explains the role of planning in optimising outcomes.

You will find the CEF's principles and protocol in the brochure *NICNAS Community Engagement Charter 2005-06*. A copy can be obtained by calling 1800 638 528, contacting NICNAS (*see back cover*), or by downloading it from [www.nicnas.gov.au/Community](http://www.nicnas.gov.au/Community)



## NICNAS Community Engagement Forum

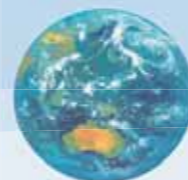
### About the Community Engagement Forum

**Aims** – to enable NICNAS to:

- improve public access to chemical safety information
- address aspects of the community's *right to know* in relation to the control and use of industrial chemicals, and
- enable interested people, organisations and key stakeholders to have input into policy and decision-making processes.

### Benefits

- CEF members – drawn from civil society and representing the interests of community, environmental protection, public and worker health and safety – provide input into NICNAS's work, playing an important, equitable role in decision-making, identifying community concerns and addressing them.
- Good communication between key stakeholders concerned with the safe regulation of chemicals in Australia.
- Access to the widest possible range of views when making policy decisions, for Government decision-makers and advisory bodies.
- Development of robust policies that are more likely to be accepted, because the broader society's informed views are represented in Government decision-making and advisory bodies.



### About the Forum membership

**Chair:** The Director, NICNAS

**Members:** Six external members – two from each peak national body, recognised and appointed by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing – represent the interests of:

- Worker health and safety – Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) – see [www.actu.asn.au](http://www.actu.asn.au)
- Public health – Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) – see [www.phaa.net.au](http://www.phaa.net.au) and Australian Consumers Association (ACA) – see [www.choice.com.au](http://www.choice.com.au), and
- Environmental standards and interests – National Environment Consultative Forum (NECF) – see [www.environment.org.au/issues/NECF.html](http://www.environment.org.au/issues/NECF.html)

### Other ways NICNAS engages

As well as the CEF, NICNAS welcomes input through the Industry Government Consultative Committee (IGCC) which oversees the utilisation of NICNAS's resources and its operational performance.

Members of both the CEF and IGCC are appointed by the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health and Ageing.

### The Forum members' skills set

CEF members are appointed because they have:

- Expertise and knowledge of industrial chemicals in a regulatory context, including knowledge of Australian Government processes involving the regulation of industrial chemicals
- An understanding of community concerns about chemicals regulation
- The ability to represent a broad cross-section of viewpoints, interests and concerns held by key stakeholders in the broader community/civil society (not limited to the interests of their nominating or originating organisations)
- The confidence of the community and non-government organisations whose interests they represent, and
- Other relevant skills beyond their own personal experiences, that enhance their ability to serve the Forum.

### Contacting the Forum

As well as raising matters brought to them by members of their respective organisations, CEF members welcome individual and community input.

*CEF contact details are given on the back cover of this brochure.*

### Need to know more?

If there are other things you would like to know about the CEF or NICNAS, please contact us (*details on back cover*).



## **NICNAS Community Engagement Forum Membership 2005-06**

### **External representatives**

Six members from peak national bodies recognised and appointed by the Department of Health and Ageing as representing:

#### ***Environmental interests***

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The following members were nominated by National Environment Consultative Forum ([www.environment.org.au/issues/NECF](http://www.environment.org.au/issues/NECF)).

#### **Ms Jane Bremmer**

Coordinator, Alliance for a Clean Environment

#### **Dr Bro Sheffield-Brotherton**

Technical Advisor, National Toxics Network

#### ***Public health interests***

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The following members were nominated by Public Health Association of Australia ([www.phaa.net.au](http://www.phaa.net.au)) and Australian Consumers Association ([www.choice.com.au](http://www.choice.com.au)).

#### **Dr Liz Hanna**

School of Public Health, La Trobe University

#### **Assoc Prof Christopher Winder**

Associate Professor in Chemical Safety and Applied Toxicology, University of NSW

## ***Worker health and safety***

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The following members were nominated by Australian Council of Trade Unions ([www.actu.asn.au](http://www.actu.asn.au)).

### **Ms Pamela Grassick**

OHS Advisor, Queensland Council of Unions

### **Ms Renata Musolino**

OHS Information Officer, Victorian Trades Hall Council

## ***Representing NICNAS***

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**Dr Margaret Hartley** (Director, NICNAS and CEF Chair)

## ***Secretariat:***

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**Mr Griffin D'Costa** (NICNAS staff-member)



*Ms Jane Bremmer*



*Dr Bro Sheffield-Brotherton*



*Dr Liz Hanna*



*Assoc Prof  
Christopher Winder*



*Ms Pamela Grassick*



*Ms Renata Musolino*



*Dr Margaret Hartley*



*Mr Griffin D'Costa*