

Standards Australia Bulletin

Feedback on our New Business Model

We continue to work with the Standards community to review our business model, with particular focus on the changes announced in June this year regarding Standards Australia funded Standards development. Some Members have raised concerns about these changes to funding arrangements.

While returning to the old way of doing business is not realistic, we are listening to our stakeholders and looking at a range of alternative approaches that aim to address these concerns.

At a constructive meeting with the Commonwealth on 25 September 2009, the Commonwealth indicated the need for Standards development pathways to remain available where projects are principally funded by Standards Australia with in-kind support from contributors.

During October and November we will be contacting Council Members and other interest groups to further discuss potential changes in detail.

We will be discussing various topics including:

- ~ the future of Standards Australia Driven and Committee Driven Pathways;
- ~ a commitment to complete all viable and ongoing 'Active' and 'On Hold' Projects on an affordable and prioritised basis;
- ~ the long-term sustainability of the organisation and the need to operate within our means; and
- ~ meeting the challenge of prioritising competing demands on our limited resources, with better sectoral engagement.

Subject to Commonwealth and broad Member support for a revised approach, we will be working towards earliest finalisation, implementation and to outlining these changes at our Annual Council Meeting in November.

Our Number One Priority

Standards development is, and will continue to be, our number one priority.

This month, we completed 23 projects and are currently working with stakeholders on some 345 active projects, 239 of which are fully funded by Standards Australia. The remainder are progressing through one of the new development pathways introduced in October 2008.

The first Australian Standard for the protection of trees on development sites has recently been published, recognising the environmental and social benefits trees offer our urban communities. Local councils across the country have indicated an interest in referencing requirements outlined in the Standard.

Revision to the Wiring Rules Standard has also recently been completed, further improving safety requirements for our electrical industry.

The revised Standard for Bunk Beds is currently open for Public Comment, and Australia's first Standard for high chairs is now available, providing greater assurance to parents concerned for the safety of their children.

Many of the Standards currently under development are covered in the next issue of Up Magazine which will be distributed in early October 2009.

Upcoming Events

Better Regulation Choices?

What comes after the COAG 'hotspots' agenda? Is black-letter law the only regulatory option? What role for codes and Standards? Can better regulation choices be made? A one-day conference is being held in November to explore the regulatory spectrum - from self-regulation, to codes, Standards, black-letter law and everything in between. To register, visit www.standards.org.au/better-reg09



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