Nominating Organisation Forums — 2019

About NOF 2019

Nominating Organisations are the lifeblood of Standards Australia, and we could not do what we do without this contribution and specialist knowledge.

Each year Standards Australia hosts open forums with Nominating Organisations and stakeholders to further embed knowledge, share learnings among peers and seek feedback on how we can work together more effectively.

Now in its seventh year, the 2019 forums were held:

- Sydney – 24 September 2019
- Melbourne – 26 September 2019

These forums are a valuable opportunity for Standards Australia to hear from Nominating Organisations. It is important for us to understand issues and challenges so that we can further support Nominating Organisation involvement in the standards development process.

This year the forums were split into:

- Standards Australia update and Q&A
- Nominating Organisation training and workshop (to coincide with the release of the updated Nominating Organisation Guide)

The feedback we get from these discussions is invaluable to us in helping to shape our agenda and focus on the priorities of our contributors.
Standards Australia Update

Richard Brooks, Chairman of Standards Australia’s Board, welcomed and thanked all contributors for their continued support in helping shape the future of the organisation. We are leading work in Australia and around the world to make our people safer and economy stronger, and we are doing this with the support of our Nominating Organisations and contributors.

Our 2019-2020 Action Plan sets out the work we are doing to make Standards Australia better for today, and equally to set us up for tomorrow. We have a very clear plan for our year ahead:

1. Helping industries and governments achieve real outcomes and connect internationally
2. Engaging stakeholders & delivering standards in smarter and more efficient ways
3. Embedding choice, value and reach in our product and distribution channels

Adrian O’Connell, CEO, provided an update about the work we’re doing to continue to support Nominating Organisations, and on the substantial program of work to make standards even better in Australia.

As Standards Australia nears the end of its five-year Strategic Plan, we are working through a once in a generation change to our distribution arrangements and going digital at the same time. To fulfil our mission and vision, the plan focuses our resources on four strategic pillars:

- Reputation and Brand
- Engagement and Performance
- Finance and Governance
- People and Culture
Kareen Riley-Takos, General Manager Operations, presented a status update on standards development statistics, production figures and the Technical Governance Review, including a snapshot of FY2019 initiatives and guidance on aims for FY2020. A copy of the Technical Governance Review final report and Standards Australia's response is available on our website, including Implementation Plans and quarterly Progress Reports.

A policy has recently been introduced that aims to enable greater engagement for Nominating Organisation primary contacts. Committee-In-Confidence documents will now be made available to the Nominating Organisation Primary Contact person for relevant committees. At this stage, access will need to be granted on individual request to Standards Australia, but we will be working on making the process more streamlined in the future.

Standards Australia is also working on a new Nominating Organisation agreement, formally setting out the arrangement between the organisation and Standards Australia as per our Standardisation Guides. The agreement will outline responsibilities as a Nominating Organisation, including maintaining a primary contact.
Adam Stingemore, General Manager Strategy and Engagement, presented on Standards Australia’s engagement and distribution arrangements. As part of the Technical Governance Review, Standards Australia’s focus is on more strategic engagement with sectors. New areas of work include:

- Hydrogen
- Industry 4.0
- Smart Cities
- Electric Vehicles
- Artificial Intelligence
- Automated Mining

Standards Australia is committed to a set of distribution arrangements aimed squarely at the public interest, with an intent to increase positive impact across all sectors of the economy and community. Our distribution principles remain the same, focused on:

- Relevance – That take standards in existing and new areas and make them tools that help people solve problems and empower decision making.
- Reach – Through broader market and community penetration and by making existing standards more accessible to different user groups
- Sustainability – That allows for continued investment in the standards setting system and allows for new products, systems and tools to be developed to meet community needs.
Standards Australia has been working towards opening up access to its content with the needs of our stakeholders and users front of mind. Our July 2019, Standards Australia released a Discussion Paper seeking feedback on a number of elements. Submissions have been received and the feedback is being used now as we set our Distribution and Licensing Policy Framework to go live in January 2020.

Our plan:

• A new multi-channel strategy driven by a range of Partners
• Content leveraged in new, exciting and relevant ways

What this creates:

• Empowered users at all levels
• A reinvigorated social license to operate
• Increased public benefit
• Increased connection of users to standards development
Nominating Organisation Training and Workshop

The focus of the training and workshop was introducing Standards Australia’s updated Nominating Organisations Guide. The updated guide can be found on our website, and includes some templates to assist primary contacts for Nominating Organisations, such as representative nomination forms and meeting reports.

As part of the training, participants worked in groups to create a marketing flyer that highlights the benefits of being a representative on a Technical Committee. Our graphic design team has turned these flyers into PDFs that can be used in promotional material to seek expressions of interest for potential committee representatives.

Common themes and outcomes carried across each forum and will be considered as part of Standards Australia’s Action Plan implementation:

**How could Standards Australia better promote and recognise the value of participation on Technical Committees?**

Formal recognition of committee member contributions was a key focus, whether it be via certificate, letter, professional recognition or more networking events. Participants were supportive of more ways to further promote the value proposition of contributing towards standards development as a way of professional development, improving ones technical knowledge via networking with other experts and improving Australian society. More profiling was wanted on how standards contribute towards a better Australia, including testimonials from committee members and explanation about
the impact that standards provide to an industry.

How can Standards Australia better support Nominating Organisations when it comes to managing your representatives?

Participants asked Standards Australia to provide more relevant and accessible information about the performance of their representatives, including meeting attendance, contribution during meetings and ballot responses. Training and induction was considered vitally important, and it was recognised that better communication was needed from Standards Australia about existing online tools and support for committee members via the Standards Academy.

What do we intend to do in response?

Standards Australia will:

- Provide a more relevant and interactive information pack for new Nominating Organisation primary contacts
- Provide an induction kit for new committee members, outlining expectations, time commitments, where to find information and how to enrol in further training
- Design and release a marketing flyer, outlining the benefits of committee participation, for use by all Nominating Organisations
- Communicate better with all stakeholders about Standards Australia tools available for committee members and nominating organisations, such as training material in the Academy, and the updated Nominating Organisation Guide
- Hold social/networking events throughout the year to thank contributors
Survey
For those that participated in our 2019 Nominating Organisations Forums, we have prepared a survey to learn more about how we can improve the events for next year. Thank you in advance for your insights.

What did you say?

“Engage younger technical experts to participate”

“Profile committee members through eNews”

“Hours spent on standards should go towards CPD”

“Create change for the better in your industry!”
“Use LinkedIn to promote that you are a proud Standards Australia committee member”

“Recognise by encouraging mentoring relationships with experienced technical experts”

“Provide individual case studies of how contributors / representatives have benefited from participation e.g. networking, professional development”

“Celebrate volunteers”

“Explain how our standards and committees have assisted in resolving global issues”

“Create change for the better in your industry!”

“Active social media campaigns to promote particular standards and committees”

“Information packs for committee rep requests (time commitments, project and plan, other details about what committees are/ their purpose)”