



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing
NICNAS

Dear Colleague

I am writing to you as an active participant in NICNAS's 2006 Existing Chemicals Program Review (ECR).

There have been key developments in NICNAS in the promotion of safer chemical use through the ECR since the public engagement forums in May and June 2006: the review was completed and the final report published in December 2006. An implementation strategy was published in July 2007 and circulated to stakeholders. Implementation of the recommendations is well underway.

NICNAS is pleased to provide an update of recent and future activities. The developments in the NICNAS Existing Chemicals Program Reform are detailed at Attachment 1. The recommendations from the final report are included at Attachment 2. To assist in providing an outline of NICNAS's future directions the *NICNAS Strategic Plan 2009-12* is at Attachment 3. Further information will be placed on the website during the next several months.

If you would like to receive regular updates on the progress of the NICNAS Existing Chemicals Program Review implementation please contact NICNAS by:

Phone – Justin Roberts (02) 8577 8833 or free call 1800 638 528

[Email – info@nicnas.gov.au](mailto:info@nicnas.gov.au)

Fax – (02) 8577 8888

We thank you for previous inputs to these important improvements to NICNAS and hope you will continue to be engaged in developments.

Yours sincerely

Marion Healy
Director, NICNAS

February 2010

UPDATE: EXISTING CHEMICALS PROGRAM REVIEW (EC REVIEW)**FEBRUARY 2010**

The NICNAS EC Review arose because:

- most chemicals on the national inventory (the Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances – AICS) were “grandfathered” onto the inventory and have not been formally assessed for their effects on human health and the environment, and
- the Priority Existing Chemical (PEC) assessment program – due to its complexity – was not flexible enough to respond adequately or in a more resource efficient manner, to the variety of chemical concerns of stakeholders.

The Review aimed to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of the current Existing Chemicals Program with a view to positioning it to be more cost effective as well as more responsive to stakeholder needs.

The EC Review was an independent review conducted from May 2003 to December 2006. The report contains 23 recommendations (21 substantive and two mechanistic) that aim to introduce flexibility into the current ECP and enhance the responsiveness of the program to stakeholder needs.

The Implementation Strategy for the recommendations from the EC Review divided the recommendations into six implementation streams with associated timeframes.

Stream	Area of recommendations
<i>Short term recommendations that NICNAS will implement</i>	
1	Communications
4	Improved consultations
6	On-going improvements
<i>Medium term recommendations</i>	
2	<p>Screening & Prioritisation of Chemicals of Concern & development of New Assessment Products</p> <p>4.1 Develop an overall framework for screening of chemicals of concern</p> <p>4.2 Screen AICS listed chemicals for hazard and/or risk indicator elements</p> <p>4.4 Develop a framework to identify the circumstances under which down-stream use information is sought as being necessary for prioritisation</p> <p>5.2 Develop scientifically based criteria for prioritisation of chemicals for assessment</p> <p>5.3 Publish the prioritisation process and decisions</p>
3	Scoping a monitoring system for adverse effects
<i>Long term recommendations that impact national chemical regulation reforms¹</i>	
5	Addressing barriers to the effective implementation of NICNAS assessment recommendations, and on new powers to ban, restrict and control certain chemicals

For more details and information, please see Attachment 2

¹ These recommendations are outside NICNAS's mandate and will be referred to the COAG Ministerial Taskforce on Chemicals and Plastics Regulation Reform

Scorecard / progress report on implementation of recommendations

This scorecard / progress report (published in the June 2009 edition of *NICNAS Matters*) provided an overview of the implementation status (as at 30 June 2009) of each of the EC Review recommendations.

Each recommendation is categorised and its status (as at 30 June 2009) indicated by shading:

Green shading: completed in 2007-08 **Blue shading:** completed in 2009
Yellow shading: in progress **Pink shading:** not yet begun (as at 30 June 09)

There has been considerable progress in the implementation of several of these recommendations since this Scorecard was prepared in June 2009.

See pages 7&8	Communications	Consultation
	 3.1 Promote community awareness / education/ participation in Existing Chemicals Assessment Program	5.5 Explore with States and Territories improved processes for coordination & cooperation including under its MOU group
	 3.2 Publish <i>Who's Who Guide</i> for industrial chemicals safety assessment & management	5.7 Explore an extension of the Bilateral Agreement with Canada to include existing chemicals.
	3.3 Develop current awareness bulletin on international chemical safety information & issues relevant to program	5.8 Explore the development of similar arrangements with other major trading countries.
For details, see pages 4 to 7	5.1 Develop, modify and publish process to filter out and re-direct non-NICNAS matters and determine level of response and/or assessment required	Refer to COAG Ministerial Taskforce
	Screening, Prioritisation & Assessment Products	5.11 Refer the proposal to investigate the barriers to effective implementation of NICNAS recommendations to Ministerial Taskforce on Chemicals and Plastics [Regulation Reform] for their consideration.
	 4.1 Develop an overall framework for screening of chemicals of concern	7.0 Refer the range of issues related to the ban, severe restriction and/or the control of certain chemicals to Ministerial Taskforce on Chemicals and Plastics [Regulation Reform]
	 4.2 Screen AICS listed chemicals for hazard and/or risk indicators elements	Currently improving practice
	 4.4 Develop a framework to identify the circumstances under which down-stream use information is sought as being necessary for prioritisation	5.6 Continue to participate in chemicals management forums to ensure harmonised & streamlined regulation of industrial chemicals at national level
	 5.2 Develop scientifically based criteria for prioritisation of chemicals for assessment	5.9 Increase and broaden consultation with stakeholders during assessment process & before recommendations are finalised
	 5.3 Publish the prioritisation process and decisions	5.10 Recommendations are action statements that are evidence based, specific to the needs identified, achievable, and practical and be directed to the most appropriate body for implementation
	 5.4 Streamline the secondary notification process for existing chemicals originally assessed as new chemicals	
	 6.1 Develop new types of assessment products based on intended output and purposes	
	6.2 Develop information requirements for each new assessment type	
Monitoring		
4.3 Examine the feasibility of a nationally co-ordinated system of surveillance monitoring and post market reporting		

ADVISORY BODIES SET UP TO ASSIST NICNAS IMPLEMENT THE EC REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

The Implementation Steering Group (ISG) – comprised of government, industry and community representatives – provides guidance to NICNAS on strategies to implement the recommendations in the *Final Report of the Existing Chemicals Program Review*, including:

- input into prioritisation of projects necessary to implement the recommendations in a coordinated manner
- input into the various strategies necessary for implementation, including use of technical working parties and to consider outputs of the technical working parties
- guidance on consultation with governments, industry and the community, and
- review progress and provide advice to support the implementation.

Technical Working Parties (TWPs) implement recommendations by providing advice on the more technical/complex recommendations by:

- developing a program of activities, in accordance with the detailed recommendations of the Review and guided by the NICNAS Implementation Strategy, for consideration by the ISG, and
- reporting to the ISG on progress.

Currently a TWP has been established to progress the Stream 2 recommendations.

Advisory bodies

Group	Role
Implementation Steering Group (ISG)	Guides NICNAS in implementing EC Review recommendations
Technical Working Party (TWP)	Addresses the various recommendations that deal with the screening and prioritisation of chemicals of concern and the development of new assessment products (due to their technical nature)
Environmental Expert Working Group (EEWG)	Provides expert advice on environmental hazard indicators or elements of risk Advises on robustness of scientific criteria that address these (this will then form part of an overall framework for screening chemicals on the Inventory)
Human Health Expert Working Group (HHEWG)	Provides expert advice on human health hazard indicators and criteria Advises on robustness of scientific criteria that address these (this will then form part of an overall framework for screening chemicals on the Inventory)

RECENT PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTING EC REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 6.1 NEW ASSESSMENT PRODUCTS

Currently, Priority Existing Chemicals (PEC) are the only legislated assessment category for existing chemicals. NICNAS's *Industrial Chemicals (Notification and Assessment) Act 1989* (the NICNAS Act) permits mandatory information gathering by NICNAS for PECs and penalties apply for non-compliance. The ability to obtain assessment information through a mandatory call enables NICNAS to make more accurate risk determinations in chemical assessments.

The processes identified for new assessment products propose a legislative base for all assessment types with mandatory information-gathering powers which are not linked to the type of assessment product, and which can be invoked under specified circumstances. This provides more certainty for industry yet enables NICNAS to make more comprehensive and accurate risk determinations, where they are warranted on health, safety and environmental grounds.

Implementation

To begin implementing the recommendation, NICNAS proposes that three general Assessment Activity Types (Information, Advisory and Regulatory that NICNAS currently utilises) be formalised. These different assessment activity types give rise to particular assessment products, which may be supplemented with new products as circumstances require. Each assessment product involves specific consultation mechanisms and appeals processes, and a mandatory call for information (if warranted) precedes the decision about which assessment product is most suitable.

The Regulatory activity type includes current PEC assessment reports, and includes two new types of assessment products that provide for more streamlined assessment processes than those provided for by the current PEC process:

- Existing Chemical Risk Assessment, and
- Selective Assessment.

The Stream 2 Technical Working Party, in implementing recommendations given first priority by the ISG, has developed a range of new assessment products categorised as Information, Advisory and Regulatory. Use of one product does not preclude using the information obtained in a second product as circumstances require. Information could be obtained via a mandatory call, although the details are yet to be worked out.

In the event of a dispute, various procedures are envisaged for resolution and again the details are to be worked out. The priority recommendations also include streamlined secondary notification procedures. Legislative changes to the NICNAS Act will be needed to implement the new assessment products and streamlined secondary notification procedures.

RECOMMENDATIONS NICNAS PRIORITISATION PROJECT

4.1, 4.2, 4.4, 5.2 & 5.3

A major outcome of the Existing Chemicals Program Review is the refocusing of efforts in the NICNAS Existing Chemicals Program to undertake the screening of chemicals on the Australian Inventory of Chemical Substances (AICS / the national inventory) in order to identify the chemicals that warrant further assessment. This is in line with Stream 2 of the Implementation Strategy.

At the time of the review, other countries were also moving towards revised regulatory processes for existing chemicals:

- Canada completed streamlining the screening of 23 000 chemicals on the Domestic Substances List (DSL – for more information see: http://www.ec.gc.ca/CEPARegistry/Subs_list/Domestic.cfm), and

- the EU moved to screening mechanisms for existing chemicals in use in the EU under the REACH legislation² introduced in 2007 (for more details see: http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/reach/reach_intro.htm).

One recommendation in the EC Review was that NICNAS build on overseas programs and incorporate the use of the Canadian screening tools and experiences – as appropriate – to avoid duplication of effort and unnecessary costs. Advice and expertise obtained was utilised to understand, adapt and expand on the Canadian experience during the screening process.

Implementation

Due to the large number of chemicals on AICS (approximately 38 000), this prioritisation project is expected to remain the major focus of the Existing Chemicals Program for some years. In 2008-09 and throughout 2009-10, the tools and expertise required are being developed.

In 2008-09, profiling the AICS and determining what proportion of chemicals on AICS had available data on human and environmental hazard was undertaken.

The profiling involved two major activities:

- The whole of AICS was compared with other international chemical inventories to understand how many of the chemicals available for use in Australia are also used overseas. Profiles of types of chemicals (eg. organic, inorganic, polymeric) were also compared across these inventories. This was fundamental for determining if approaches used elsewhere were relevant for Australia.

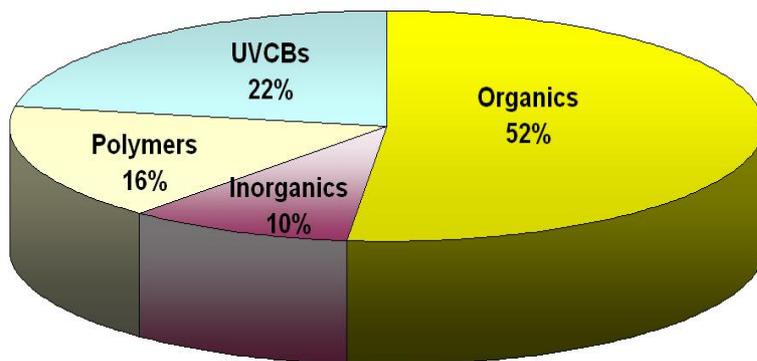
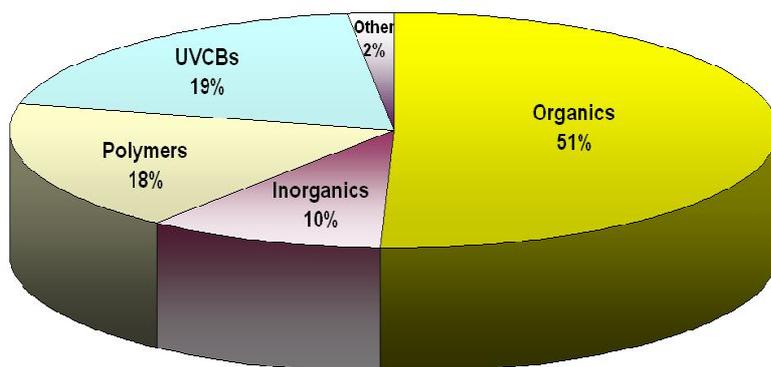


Figure A: Chemical Classification of AICS by type of chemical (~38,000 chemicals in total)



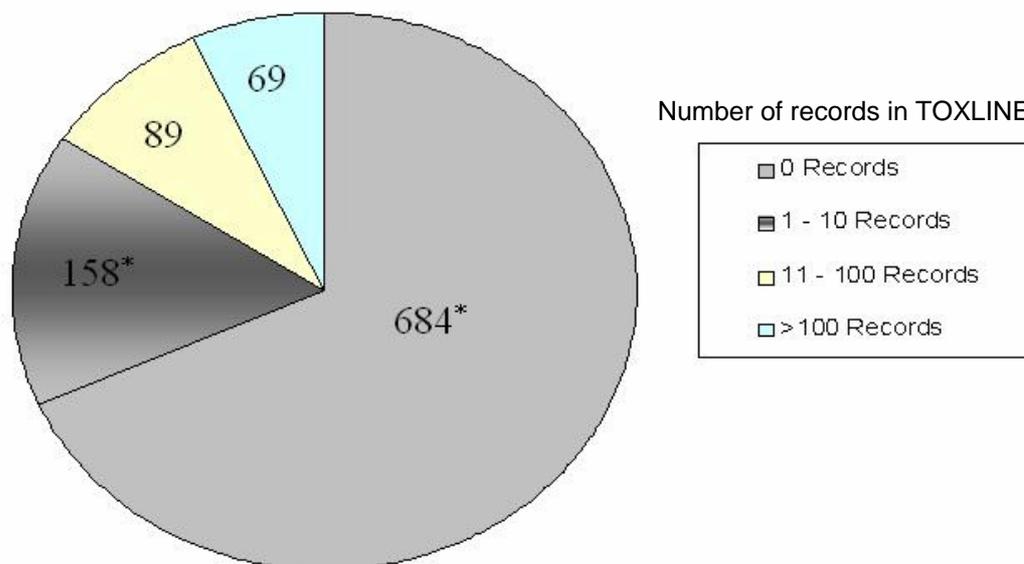
NB: UVCB means a chemical of unknown or variable composition, a complex product of a chemical reaction, or biological material other than a whole animal or whole plant.

Figure B: Chemical Classification of DSL – the Canadian Inventory (~23,000 chemicals in total)

² Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency

2. Sources of data on the toxicity of specific chemicals, and uses of the chemicals were identified. A random sub-sample of chemicals from the inventory were analysed against the available sources of data.

The analysis indicated that a high proportion of the chemicals on the AICS inventory lack sufficient readily available data to characterise their hazards. A large majority of chemicals on the inventory do not have even a single record within TOXLINE³, which is one of the most comprehensive sources of publicly available human health hazard information available. It is anticipated that approximately 85% of substances on the inventory will not have sufficient information available to allow for prioritisation on the basis of human health hazard.



* denotes results from TOXLINE considered indicative of data poor chemicals

The lack of sufficient readily available data on a high proportion of the chemicals on the inventory indicates the necessity for use of predictive methodologies such as Quantitative Structure Activity Relationship (QSAR) programs to address the data gaps⁴.

Following the initial planning a number of priorities were identified for 2009-10:

- Developing expertise with QSAR modelling
- Developing a framework to obtain exposure data, and
- Developing scientific criteria to be used to make an initial determination of hazard based on the available data sources.

Recent Prioritisation activity: Exposure Data workshop

A workshop on issues associated with industry provision of data required for the NICNAS Prioritisation Project was held in Sydney on 27 October 2009. NICNAS sought ideas and suggestions from Industry to facilitate developing a framework for collecting data needed for prioritisation.

³ See <http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/sis/htmlgen?TOXLINE>

⁴ QSARs are "methods for estimating properties of a chemical from its molecular structure and have the potential to provide information on the hazards of chemicals" (OECD QSAR Toolbox Manual) and their predictive computational models can help address the scarcity of data for some chemicals. They use mathematical methods to predict toxicity of chemicals and can be used to screening large chemical inventories.

The Workshop was attended by representatives of around 20 individual small to large companies and two major industry associations (ACCORD and PACIA). Sectors covered ranged from companies which supply formulated products (including consumer products such as cosmetics) to those which use chemicals industrially.

The afternoon sessions addressed specific technical issues about the availability of data from individual chemical companies. The workshop addressed specific questions:

Availability of exposure information				
Questions:	<i>Is it feasible within your inventory management system to track your import and/or manufacture of individual chemicals?</i>	<i>What type of inventory management system do you use? Electronic or some other system?</i>	<i>Are you able to supply some or all of the information items a, b and c with your existing inventory management system?</i>	<i>What issues make it difficult to supply some or all of this information?</i>
Options for data collection				
Options given:	<i>Publishing lists of chemicals and asking industry to provide the requested information on the chemicals on the list that they introduce⁵</i>		<i>Asking each company to provide the requested information on all industrial chemicals that they introduce</i>	
Questions:	<i>Are either of the options above more compatible with your inventory management systems?</i>	<i>Do either of these options raise specific difficulties for your company? If yes, what are these?</i>	<i>Are there other specific options for collecting the information that could be considered?</i>	
Threshold quantity				
Questions:	<i>Would the creation of a quantity threshold, below which reporting is not required, assist you in limiting the work involved in supplying information?</i>		<i>Would it be more consistent with your inventory management system if the threshold was optional, i.e. you could report chemicals at lower quantities if it was more efficient to do so?</i>	
Reporting period				
Questions:	<i>What time period would best represent your turnaround time for stock of all individual chemicals or chemical products that you introduce?</i>	<i>Are you able to provide appropriate retrospective data for all chemicals over this time period?</i>	<i>If not, are you able to commence collecting data once a NICNAS request is foreshadowed or published?</i>	

Information obtained from the Workshop participants will be used in the development of a proposal for data collection which addresses the technical impediments faced by industry.

RECOMMENDATIONS 3.1 & 3.2 COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGIES

Implementation Stream 1 includes a recommendation to include a plain English guide to the existing chemicals program (which includes the review) on the NICNAS web site. This is in progress to be completed early in 2010. This will include a section on frequently asked questions being developed by NICNAS and the Community Engagement Forum.

⁵ Technical impediments to the compilation of this information were also addressed. In particular, the key issue discussed was whether there was any advantage to industry in supplying a limited amount of data on all of the chemicals that a company uses, compared with only supplying information on chemicals as they were named as "of interest" by NICNAS.

Development of a *Who's Who* guide for industrial chemical safety and management

Another finding of the Existing Chemicals Program review was the need to provide improved information on the various roles and responsibilities of each of the government agencies involved in the management of industrial chemicals in Australia.

NICNAS is preparing a *Who's Who* guide of the various government agencies involved in occupational health and safety (OHS), public health and environmental aspects of industrial chemicals safety assessment and management within Australia. This is expected to be included on the NICNAS website in the near future.

In the future, NICNAS intends to devote a specific section of the NICNAS website to the EC Program that includes regular updates on EC Program activities in general and updates to reports on chemical assessments.

MORE INFORMATION

For an overview of NICNAS's Review of the Existing Chemicals Program, see:

www.nicnas.gov.au/About_NICNAS/Reforms/Review_Of_The_Existing_Chemicals_Program.asp

Articles concerning progress in the EC Review program are provided in *NICNAS Matters* (published quarterly), available at: www.nicnas.gov.au/Publications/NICNAS_Matters.asp

For more information about NICNAS and its work see the NICNAS website at: www.nicnas.gov.au

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXISTING CHEMICALS PROGRAM REVIEW AND ASSOCIATED IMPLEMENTATION STREAMS

from DECEMBER 2006

Implementation Stream 1: Communications

Recommendation 3: Better engagement and communication

3.1	<p>That NICNAS promote community awareness of, education about, and participation in, the Existing Chemicals Assessment Program (EC Program) through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development and publication of a layperson's guide to the EC Program (including an information flow and process diagram of the program) • The development of a specific section on the NICNAS website on the EC Program, written in plain English, that includes regular updates on NICNAS's EC Program activities and update reports on chemical assessments • The examination of the current seminar/training programs associated with the EC Program with a view to better identify target audiences, objectives and appropriate outcomes. This should be done within the framework of the NICNAS Community Engagement Charter, and • The introduction of a systematic process for the public call for nominations to the EC Program with a scheduled call occurring, as a guide, at least every two years.
3.2	<p>That NICNAS develop and publish on their website (with appropriate links) a Who's Who (and what do they do) Guide, covering the roles and responsibilities of the various government agencies involved in OHS, public health and environmental aspects of industrial chemicals safety assessment and management.</p>
3.3	<p>That NICNAS develop a current awareness bulletin for publication on the website which focuses on international chemical safety information and issues relevant to the EC Program.</p>

Recommendation 5: Improving Efficiency – Part A Redesigning internal processes

5.1	<p>That NICNAS develop, modify and publish processes to filter out and redirect non-NICNAS matters and determine the level of response and/or assessment required.</p>
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Implementation Stream 2: Screening, Prioritisation, Assessment Products

Recommendation 4: Enhancing mechanisms to identify chemicals of concern: new screening processes

4.1	<p>That NICNAS develop an overall framework for the screening of chemicals of concern, including the weighting of data elements (hazard, risk indicators, adverse incidents), public nomination processes and other scientific-based criteria in consultation with stakeholders and using the principles and protocol of the NICNAS Community Engagement Charter</p>
4.2	<p>That NICNAS undertakes screening of AICS-listed chemicals for hazard and/or risk indicator elements with a focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • chemicals that are on the HVICL (risk indicator element) • unassessed chemicals on the HSIS (hazard element) • chemicals classified as hazardous to the environment (eg. under GHS when introduced) (hazard element) • chemicals that are carcinogens, mutagens, and/or reproductive toxicants (CMR) (hazard element) • chemicals that are persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) (risk indicator), and • chemicals in use with other agreed health and/or environmental effects, eg. sensitisation and neurotoxicity (hazard element).

4.4	<p>That NICNAS develop a framework to identify the circumstances under which downstream use information is sought as being necessary for prioritisation. A key element of the framework is that downstream use needs to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specific • transparent • meet a demonstrated need, and • explore voluntary and/or co-regulatory pathways. <p>Note: It is noted that downstream use information is also part of information that may be required for the risk assessment process itself, and the above principles should also be taken into account (see <i>Recommendation 6.2</i>).</p>
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Recommendation 5: Improving Efficiency – Part A Redesigning internal processes

5.2	That NICNAS establish a working party to develop scientifically-based criteria for the prioritisation of chemicals for assessment, including priority existing chemicals.
5.3	That NICNAS publish the prioritisation process and decisions on the NICNAS website.
5.4	<p>That NICNAS streamline the secondary notification process for existing chemicals originally assessed as new chemicals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • using the new chemicals assessment process with its shorter timeframes, or • using the range of assessment types as developed as options for greater flexibility.

Recommendation 6: Broadening Assessment Options

6.1	<p>That NICNAS develop new types of assessment product based on intended output and purpose.</p> <p>The following framework is provided to guide this work:</p> <p>A. Consultation processes should follow the principles and protocols of the NICNAS Community Engagement Charter, with open and transparent processes</p> <p>B. Each assessment type needs to be fit for purpose and the level of resource input commensurate with the risks posed and the need for, and type of, regulatory underpinning</p> <p>C. The regulatory status of each assessment type should be clearly articulated including in relation to data gathering powers, legislative underpinning, comment periods and appealable matters, and any other regulatory 'relationship' with the relevant national regulatory control framework. For example, it may be that information products providing advice would need legislative support only for the collection of information</p> <p>D. The administrative processes for the various assessment types should be clearly articulated and designed to enhanced flexibility and efficiency (eg duration of assessment and its comment phases, extended comment phase for the more comprehensive assessments, the need for Ministerial or Director initiated declaration for assessment, chemicals to be assessed under the 'limited' or targeted approach or where a rapid response is required.</p> <p>E. Assessment types should include (but not necessarily be limited to) certain categories.⁶</p>
6.2	Consequential to Recommendation 6.1, that NICNAS should develop the information requirements for each new assessment type including any legislative amendment to current data gathering provisions associated with the EC Program

⁶ (1) Assessment aimed at providing health, safety and environmental safety and other related information

(2) Information/Assessment product aimed at providing technical advice or guidance

(3) Assessment aimed at providing a range of regulatory recommendations.

Full details are provided on page 27 of the Final Report (*Promoting safer chemical use: towards better regulation of chemicals in Australia*) available at: http://www.nicnas.gov.au/About_NICNAS/Reforms/Review_Of_The_Existing_Chemicals_Program/EC_Review_FINAL_REPORT.pdf

Implementation Stream 3: Monitoring

Recommendation 4: Enhancing mechanisms to identify chemicals of concern: new screening processes

4.3	<p>That NICNAS examine the feasibility of a nationally coordinated system of surveillance, monitoring and post market reporting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In carrying out this work, the following guidance is provided:• The feasibility study to be conducted in partnership with community, industry and government using the principles and protocols of the NICNAS Community Engagement Charter with open and transparent processes• The study identify current data holdings, reporting systems, and any gaps and opportunities to further harmonise and/or streamline these activities• Consider a 'warehousing system' that collates use experience information covering health, safety and environmental effects relevant to determining which chemicals are of national concern• Any system be consistent with the objectives of NICNAS as defined in its legislation and include the need to protect the Australian people and the environment from the harmful effects of chemicals as well as to collect statistics in relation to chemicals• Any system not duplicate incidence investigation/response that is already carried out by other authorities but seek to access the findings of these activities within a framework of screening for chemicals of concern• Any system consider voluntary and/or co-regulatory mechanisms• The type, source (eg industry government, public), purpose, protection, (confidentiality/disclosure) and use of the information be clearly articulated, and• Use of cost effective IT solutions for information provision and storage be considered.
4.4	<p>That NICNAS develop a framework to identify the circumstances under which downstream use information is sought as being necessary for prioritisation. A key element of the framework is that downstream use needs to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• specific• transparent• meet a demonstrated need, and• explore voluntary and/or co-regulatory pathways. <p>Note: It is noted that downstream use information is also part of information that may be required for the risk assessment process itself, and the above principles should also be taken into account (see <i>Recommendation 6.2</i>).</p>

Implementation Stream 4: Consultation

Recommendation 5: Improving Efficiency – Part B Broadening the bond with governments

5.5	That NICNAS explore with states and territories improved processes for coordination and cooperation including under its MOU group.
5.7	That NICNAS explore the extension of the Bilateral Arrangement with Canada to include existing chemicals.
5.8	That NICNAS explore the development of similar arrangements with other major trading countries.

Implementation Stream 5: Refer to COAG Ministerial Taskforce

Recommendation 5: Improving Efficiency – Part B Broadening the bond with governments

5.11	That NICNAS refer the proposal to investigate the barriers to effective implementation of NICNAS's recommendations in a streamlined and harmonised manner and the effectiveness of co-regulatory and voluntary industry compliance programs to the Ministerial Taskforce on Chemicals and Plastics for their consideration.
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Recommendation 7: Increasing the legislative reach: enhanced control powers

7	Consistent with Recommendation 1 of this Report, that NICNAS refer the range of issues raised in relation to the suggestion for NICNAS to be able to ban, severely restrict, and/or control certain chemicals, to the COAG Ministerial Taskforce on Chemicals and Plastics.
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Implementation Stream 6: Currently Improving Practice / On-going improvements

Recommendation 5: Improving Efficiency – Part B Broadening the bond with governments

5.6	That NICNAS continue to participate in chemicals management forums to ensure harmonised and streamlined regulation of industrial chemicals at the national level.
5.9	That NICNAS increase and broaden its consultation with stakeholders during the assessment process and before recommendations are finalised to ensure that recommendations can be implemented.
5.10	That NICNAS use action statements that are evidence-based, specific to the needs identified, achievable, and practical and be directed to the most appropriate body for implementation.



Strategic Plan 2009-12

Attachment 3

Our vision

NICNAS is a World Leading Regulator of Industrial Chemicals.

Our key priorities

We will help to protect human health and the environment through regulating to promote the safe and sustainable use of industrial chemicals, including information provision, and implementation of further reforms to the industrial chemicals regulatory scheme.

Our top priorities for 2009-12 are:

- contribute to the chemicals regulatory framework through a more effective system to help innovation and timely entry to market, without compromising the health of the community and with as transparent decision-making as possible
- integrate NICNAS's role and responsibilities into an agreed national chemicals management framework
- leverage international linkages and developments to reduce duplication of effort to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of NICNAS's functions
- encourage introduction of safer chemicals notably through promoting new categories established with the low regulatory concern chemicals reforms
- progress existing chemicals program review implementation with a focus on recommendations to screen and prioritise for further action chemicals on the national inventory
- consolidate community engagement through an agreed process
- improve NICNAS's capacity to engage effectively with the community, and
- review, and amend as necessary, the notification and assessment framework to facilitate the safe introduction of nanomaterials.

Our goals

Our key goals for 2009-12 are:

- 1 high quality scientific assessments that represent best practice and that are produced to time, to quality and meet stakeholder needs
 - 2 rigorous and proactive compliance program
 - 3 rigorous and transparent financial and business management
 - 4 well informed and actively engaged stakeholders, and
 - 5 foster an environment of quality, high performing and innovative individuals and teams.
- These strategies and activities to achieve these goals, together with performance measures, are detailed in the annual NICNAS Business Plan.

Our values

Scientific excellence, Quality, Integrity, Service, Responsiveness and Credibility.

Key strategies are set out annually in the Health and Ageing Portfolio Budget Statements.