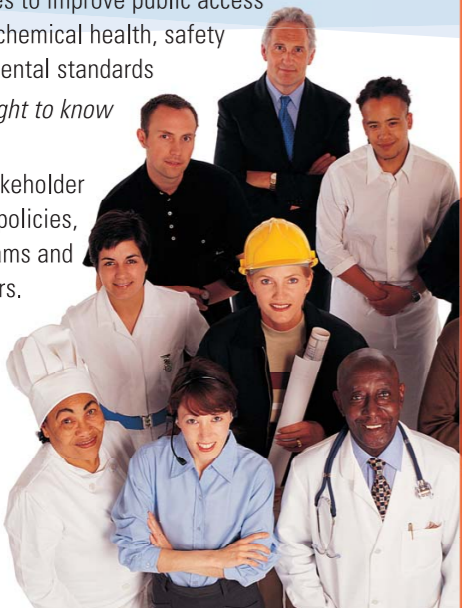


Forum activities and responsibilities

The CEF meets regularly, and has an active ongoing role in providing advice in NICNAS's regulatory and assessment programs. Its members provide policy advice and participate in expert working and review groups

The CEF has supported NICNAS in initiatives such as:

- improving public access to chemical safety information by developing the *NICNAS Community Engagement Charter*
- developing a communications strategy targeting information needs of specific groups
- providing advice on ways to improve on-line services
- reviewing the Low Regulatory Concern Chemicals (LRCC) and Existing Chemicals (EC) programs
- facilitating a national engagement program for the EC program review
- publishing the *Community Engagement Bulletin* each quarter (see: www.nicnas.gov.au/Community.asp)
- providing input into Technical Working Groups for NICNAS reform programs
 - coordinating public consultations, 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

NICNAS *Regulating chemicals for your protection*
www.nicnas.gov.au

Updated April 2008

NICNAS Community Engagement Forum

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS NOTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT SCHEME



Australian Government
Department of Health and Ageing
NICNAS

NICNAS Community Engagement Forum

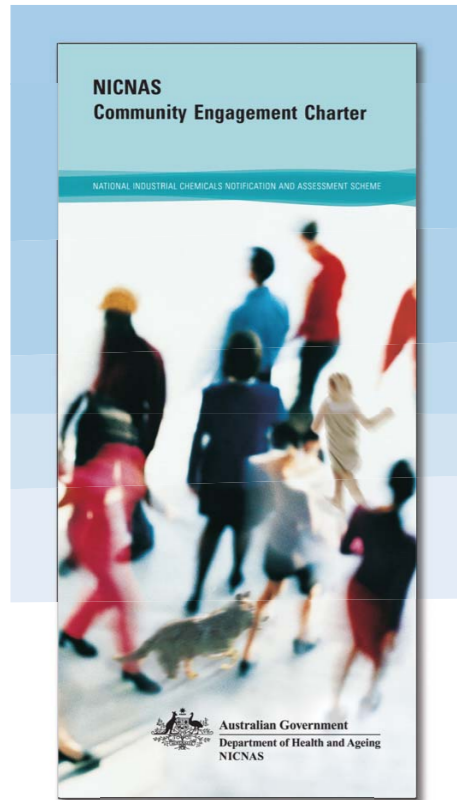
The CEF – NICNAS's consultative community-based forum – arose as part of a wider initiative to reform the management of low regulatory concern chemicals (LRCC) in Australia. It recognises the importance of effective engagement in formulating regulatory policies and practices that operate well and best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

“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.”

NICNAS Community Engagement Charter

www.nicnas.gov.au/Community/CEF_Charter_PDF.pdf



NICNAS Community Engagement Forum

tion 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 – nominated by recognised peak national bodies 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
- Public health – Public Health Association of Australia (PHAA) – see www.phaa.net.au and CHOICE (formerly Australian Consumers' Association) – see www.choice.com.au, and
- Environmental standards and interests – National Environment Consultative Forum (NECF)

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 visit

www.nicnas.gov.au/Community.asp or contact us (details on back cover).