

Maximising opportunities for effective engagement about industrial chemicals

NICNAS carefully plans each community engagement to ensure benefits can be optimised.

This involves:

- identifying key stakeholders
- defining of the aim, objectives and rationale of the engagement
- reviewing past examples and experiences
- developing guiding principles and protocols
- defining the scope and delivering intended outcomes
- identifying and providing resources to the engagement
- outlining information requirements and flows as well as capacity-building needs
- organising the engagement process into achievable, measurable units
- establishing realistic timeframes, and
- developing and confirming processes for review, monitoring and feedback.

effective input into policy and decision-making processes regarding the safe use of chemicals.

We work with representatives of civil society, seeking to:

- draw on their expertise and local knowledge of industrial chemicals (including hazards, exposure, controls and use), and
- ensure their equitable involvement in chemical decisions that affect them.

NICNAS is committed to the protocol and principles outlined in this Charter. We invite engagement and ask that those who engage and work with us on issues of industrial chemical safety respect these principles.

NICNAS Community Engagement Charter

NICNAS

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

NICNAS is accountable to the people and Parliament of Australia for implementing this Charter. The NICNAS CEF endorses the Charter which its members developed and co-authored with NICNAS staff.

A companion brochure profiling the Community Engagement Forum is available.

NICNAS welcomes your input

If you wish to comment on this charter, please 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:

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NICNAS *Regulating chemicals for your protection*

www.nicnas.gov.au

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS NOTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT SCHEME



Community engagement

Community engagement is a means by which – in a civil society* – people participate in issues that concern them.

Today, when industrial chemicals adversely affect workers, the general public and/or the environment, news spreads quickly. The safe use of chemicals has become one of our community's greatest concerns.

The National Industrial Chemicals Notification and Assessment Scheme (NICNAS) – the Australian Government regulator for industrial chemicals – acknowledges these concerns and established the Community Engagement Forum (CEF) to provide a means for receiving input about them.

The CEF works effectively. It successfully supported NICNAS in a range of initiatives when amendments to legislation concerning chemicals of low regulatory concern were proposed, and it provides expertise to the Existing Chemicals Program review implementation and Nanotechnology advisory groups.

* Society in which collective action around shared interests, purposes and values is viable and commonly occurs.

Supporting the community's right to know about industrial chemicals

NICNAS upholds the principles of community *right to know* identified in the *Bahia Declaration 2000* of the Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety.

We are committed to:

- improving public access to chemical safety information
- addressing aspects of the community's *right to know* in relation to the control and use of industrial chemicals, and
- enabling representatives of civil society – interested persons, organisations and key stakeholders – to have



Australian Government

Department of Health and Ageing
NICNAS

