



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Health and Ageing**  
NICNAS

**2009-10**

**NICNAS Proposal for Regulatory Reform of Industrial Nanomaterials:  
Consultation Process and Outcomes**

**Background**

In early November 2009, NICNAS published a discussion paper for a *Proposal for Regulatory Reform of Industrial Nanomaterials* accompanied by a questionnaire and a business impact survey. Expressions of interest in public consultation workshops were sought and notices and reminders for the consultation were regularly posted in *NICNAS Matters* and the *Chemical Gazette* to facilitate broad distribution.

Public consultation sessions were held in Sydney and Melbourne in the week of 16 November 2009. With the agreement of workshop participants NICNAS published comments from these discussions in a Table of Stakeholder Comments, together with a Nanotechnology FAQs Sheet on the NICNAS website to assist written feedback on the proposals.

NICNAS followed-up with interested individuals/groups that could not attend these workshops, and openly invited other stakeholders to make contact in order to organise one-on-one or group consultations by teleconference.

In response to requests from stakeholders, the closing date for written submissions was extended from 23<sup>rd</sup> of December 2009, to 12th of February 2010. Reminders were published in the *Chemical Gazette* in December, January and February and in the January 2010 *NICNAS Matters*. Targeted email reminders were also distributed through several NICNAS stakeholder databases.

NICNAS also sought the views of several international organisations on the proposed reforms.

NICNAS made presentations and invited discussion on the proposal in several forums; including, a Plastics and Chemicals Industry Association (PACIA) regional network meeting in Sydney in November 2009, a Safe Work Australia OHS Advisory Group teleconference on 4 February 2010. NICNAS also presented at the International Conference of Nanoscience and Nanotechnology (ICONN) 2010 held in Sydney. During the period of consultation, NICNAS made a concerted effort to encourage responses from the research sector via nano specific research networks such as the Australian Research Council Nanotechnology Network (ARCNN).

## **The process**

### *'Expressions of Interest' received for public consultations*

Seventy expressions of interest to attend public workshops around Australia were received by NICNAS.

Based on the numbers of workshop registrations received, it was decided that consultation sessions would be held in Melbourne (50% of registrants) and Sydney (42.5% of registrants).

The Sydney session was timed to permit the registrant from Perth and one of the registrants from Brisbane to attend. This meant that 95.7% of registrants could be accommodated.

NICNAS contacted the remaining registrants (4.3% of total registrants, comprising of 1x Brisbane, 2x Hobart individuals) to organise an alternative method of consultation.

### *Face-to-face meetings*

The Sydney session was held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November and the Melbourne session was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2009.

Attendance at both of the public consultations was lower than expected from the registrations, with 23 people attending the Sydney session and 12 participants at the Melbourne session.

Despite lower than expected numbers, the consultation was considered to be a valuable exercise, bringing different sectors together to talk and share the variety of views on the proposals. It also provided some early feedback on the acceptability of the various elements of the proposal across stakeholders.

## **Results**

### *Written Submissions*

Forty-one formal written submissions were received in total.

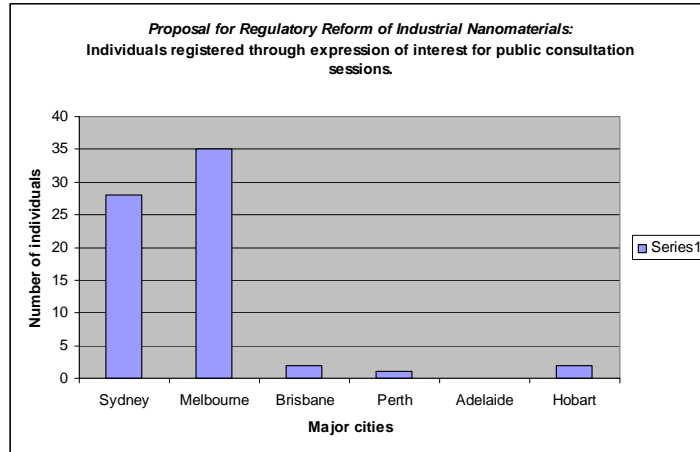
Fourteen submissions with general comments regarding nanotechnology regulation were also received by email.

### *International comment*

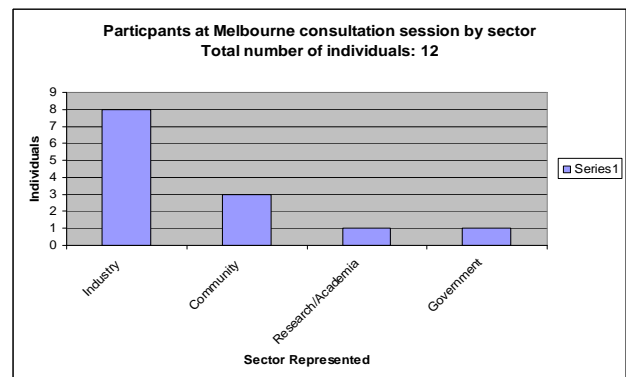
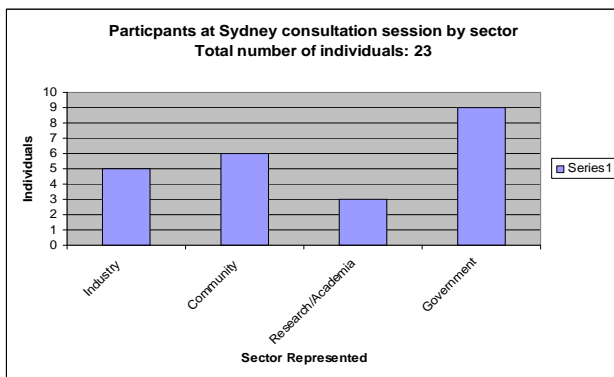
Four sets of specific comments were received from international governments or specific personnel within such organisations.

## Tables of Consultation Results:

*'Expressions of Interest' received for public consultations*



*Face-to-face meetings*



*Written Submissions*

