

## Terms of Reference - National Regulatory Engagement Network

### 1. Background

The National Regulatory Engagement Network (NREN) replaces the former Regulatory Advisory Group (RAG) to provide a more effective national engagement mechanism. Registrars recognised the need to complement jurisdiction-level engagement with a structured forum that supports coordinated, system-wide regulatory outcomes and promotes clarity, focus and consistency in its operations.

### 2. Purpose

This forum provides a national platform for strategic engagement between Registrars from all states and territories, the Australian Government, and national peak bodies, focused on addressing priority national regulatory issues and strengthening the effectiveness and consistency of the national regulatory system.

### 3. Objectives

The forum operates as a disciplined, issue-led engagement mechanism designed to deliver practical outcomes, support national consistency and inform regulatory decision-making through structured collaboration.

The forum seeks to:

- Promote national alignment and consistency in regulatory approaches
- Support timely, issue-based engagement on matters within registrars' remit
- Reduce unnecessary regulatory burden for providers operating across jurisdictions
- Enable informed consultation on matters relevant to community housing regulation nationally.
- Maintain clear Terms of Reference and forward work program aligned to system priorities

### 4. Scope

The forum considers nationally significant regulatory issues, including:

- Emerging sector risks and regulatory impacts
- Consistency issues affecting multi-jurisdictional providers and Special Purpose Vehicles
- Data definitions, benchmarking and information-sharing
- Regulatory treatment of not-for-profit and emerging affordable housing providers
- Cultural safety and regulatory barriers affecting Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations.

Matters that are purely policy or funding-related are outside scope, except where they have a direct interface with regulatory practice.

## 5. Membership

Membership is open to housing Registrars from all Australian states and territories, relevant Australian Government representatives, and national peak bodies with a direct role in community housing regulation and nationally significant regulatory matters.

Membership is by invitation or endorsement of the forum and is limited to organisations that meet the criteria, to ensure the forum remains focused, strategic and effective. A list of current members is available at **Appendix A**.

## 6. Delegates

Members may nominate a delegate to attend meetings on their behalf where the primary member is unavailable.

Delegates must:

- be appropriately senior and authorised to represent their organisation or jurisdiction.
- have sufficient knowledge of national regulatory issues within scope of the forum; and
- be empowered to contribute to discussions and progress agreed outcomes.

Where a delegate attends in place of a member, the member remains responsible for ensuring continuity, including briefing the delegate in advance and receiving outcomes and actions following the meeting.

Delegation arrangements should be advised to the National Office prior to the meeting. Ongoing or standing delegation arrangements may be agreed where this supports continuity and effective participation.

The Chair may, where necessary to support balanced representation and effective engagement, request clarification of delegation arrangements or limit delegate participation to ensure the forum remains focused, strategic and outcome-oriented.

## 7. Governance

The forum will elect a chair to provide consistent leadership and support a clear focus on practical regulatory outcomes and supporting the effective operations of the forum.

The Chair is responsible for ensuring the forum maintains a strong focus on nationally significant regulatory issues and does not meet in the absence of substantive matters requiring collective consideration.

Secretariat services are provided by the NRSCH National Office, including coordination, record-keeping and action tracking.

## 8. Meetings

- a) The Network will meet three times per year, subject to a default-to-cancel approach, and may table and progress matters out of session where timely consideration is required.
- b) The Network operates under a default-to-cancel principle to ensure meetings are purposeful and outcome-focused. Where no substantive issues papers or questions are submitted by the required deadline, the scheduled meeting will be cancelled.
- c) The National Office will confirm whether a meeting will proceed or be cancelled following the submission deadline.
- d) Where meetings proceed, sessions will be structured, issue-focused and time-limited, aligned to regulatory priorities, consultation timelines and agreed objectives.
- e) The Network will meet with state-based peak bodies at least annually, where required to progress agenda items.

## 9. Agenda setting and submissions

- a) The forum operates on a disciplined, issue-led basis. Matters may only be placed on the agenda where they relate to nationally significant regulatory issues within the scope of the forum.
- b) Any member seeking to raise an issue must submit a formal issues paper or clearly articulated set of questions for consideration. Submissions must:
  - clearly describe the issue and its national significance;
  - outline the regulatory impact or consistency challenge being addressed; and
  - identify the specific decision, guidance or collective position sought from the forum.
- c) All issues papers or questions must be submitted to the National Office at least 14 calendar days prior to the scheduled meeting date. Late submissions will not be accepted except in exceptional circumstances, as agreed by the Chair.
- d) The Chair, supported by the National Office, will determine the final agenda based on the relevance, readiness and national significance of submitted matters.

## 10. Review

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed periodically to ensure continued relevance and effectiveness.

Appendix A – Members

Terence Green	Chairperson and QLD Registrar
Chris Valacos	NSW Registrar
Craig Thompson	SA Registrar
Louise Bassett	ACT Registrar
Pete Smith	TAS Registrar
TBC	NT Registrar
Justin Peysack	VIC Registrar
Lyn Anderson	WA Registrar
Mark Degotardi	Australia Community Housing
Emma Schumuck	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Association (NATSIHA)
Amanda Bailey	Faith Housing Australia
Jackson Hills	National Shelter
Anthony Smith	Assistant Secretary for Housing Finance Delivery Branch
Jessie Mitchell	A/g Director, Housing Finance and Delivery Branch