



Tony Rogers: Chairman's news from AFRDI

It gives me pleasure to present my first report as Chairman of the Australasian Furnishing Research and Development Institute.

The institute continues to adapt to an economic environment that remains volatile and challenging, and we continue to respond in a manner that reflects our qualities and experience.

We remain in a strong financial position. Total revenue is 20% up on last year and ahead of budget. A full breakdown of our performance can be found in our financial report, which can be provided on request.

We have continued supporting both our members and the industry in general through our strategic direction of updating ageing Standards and developing new Standards as required. The Institute has continued investing in new equipment which enables us to provide peace of mind to our members that the products they have tested are both safe and sustainable. Part of this includes many hours of work reviewing Standards for Standards Australia.

During the year the board conducted a focus group to evaluate the current and future strategy of the Institute, to ensure we remain competitive and provide the required support to our members.

A big thank you to Bob Panitzki, our CEO. Through his diligent and tireless work, Bob continues to lead the institute forward. And special thanks to all our staff who continue to support our members in a polite and professional manner.

I would like to thank my fellow Board members for their contribution over the past 12 months. During this period, we farewelled Mark Copperwaite and Vince Angelucci, and I take this opportunity to thank them both for their contributions during their tenure. Glenn Turnbull joined the Board in April and comes with a depth of skills and experience.

As special thanks to Peter McCutcheon for his service as Chairman during his 14 years in the position. Peter's leadership is an integral reason for the current success of the Institute. Peter's continuing contribution to the Board is vital to our functionality and his mentoring of myself as the current Chairman is greatly appreciated.

Finally, to our members, thank you for your ongoing support and in return we will continue to provide a quality service to you.

STANDARDS UPDATE

Commercial Furniture Standards

Review of standards AS/NZS 4442:1997 Office Desks and AS/NZS 4443:1997 Office panel systems - Workstations. The committee has met to consider a large number of public comments. The accepted comments are now being included in an updated committee draft.

Standards Australia has approved a proposal to review AS/NZS 4610:1999 Furniture - School and educational. The proposal is to review the chair requirements (which will remain part 2) and split the table and storage furniture requirements (which will become parts 1 and 3 respectively). Part 1 is at final committee draft stage, and part 2 is at the early draft stage.

Domestic Furniture Standards

Standards Australia has just approved a proposal to review AS/NZS 4935 Domestic furniture - Freestanding chests of drawers, wardrobes and bookshelves/bookcases - Determination of stability. A subcommittee will be formed in 2018. The stability of furniture items has received significant media coverage during 2017.

First plastic monobloc chairs to achieve AFRDI Certification to 2016 Standard

RNI Imports Pty Ltd have received AFRDI Blue tick Certification for their Specta Plastic Monobloc chair.

AFRDI CEO Bob Panitzki said 'the revised standard AS/NZS 3813:2016 incorporated two strength and durability duty cycles - normal and heavy – both for people up to 135kg'. The Specta chairs in 5 different colours achieved the heavy duty level.

Russell Crawford RNI Managing Director said 'he was very pleased to achieve the AFRDI Blue Tick certification for the Specta which will add to his range of AFRDI certified items and anticipates sales will grow as a result'.

We will be reopening on the 8th of January...



...all the best for 2018 from the Staff at AFRDI

