

the AFRDI bulletin

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The AFRDI précis

Founded over 29 years ago, AFRDI was established to service the local furniture industry, and over time has grown in its scope of operation.

AFRDI is a NOT-FOR-PROFIT independent organisation, meaning that its 'mantra' is to maintain a fee structure that recoups the costs of the operation without profit. Its scope of operation is multifaceted.

AFRDI remains the benchmark furniture testing facility in the southern hemisphere, and is NATA accredited for Australian, International, European and US Standards across many types of furniture.

AFRDI support many Australian, and international clients with their furniture testing and certification requirements.

As some may not know, in addition to furniture testing, AFRDI donates substantial time and energy into the writing and development of National and International Furniture Standards.

Many of the existing Australian Furniture Standards were written and developed by AFRDI, all without direct cost to the industry. The investment of time to develop these critical standards is part of the not-for-profit scope of operation. It is part of the DNA of AFRDI.

AFRDI is the Chair of the Standards Australia Furniture Committee and much of the standards development for this committee is performed by AFRDI. We also represent Standards Australia on the International (ISO) Furniture Committee, contributing to global ISO Standards.

Our long term technical staff offer PhD and graduate levels of expertise in their fields and the Board of Directors all support the Institute in a voluntary capacity, providing support and guidance to the management group.

Our existence is maintained by the support of the industry it serves.

Furniture design and its performance requirements are constantly changing and at AFRDI, we remain focussed to ensure that Australian Standards, and our own AFRDI certifications, offer a realistic and effective way to promote safety, compliance and performance.



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Standards, Testing and Product Certification for Commercial, Domestic and Nursery Furniture in Australia and New Zealand

STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

The Institute remains busy leading the review of a number of Australian Standards:

➤ ***New Desk and Workstation Standard (AS/NZS 4442/4443)***

The committee balloting process is underway. A new Standard is expected to be published by Standards Australia in quarter 3 2018.

➤ ***Review and update of School and Educational Furniture Standard (AS/NZS 4610 parts 1, 2 and 3)***

Committee drafts of AS/NZS 4610.1 (tables and desks), 4610.2 (chairs) and 4610.3 (storage) have been prepared.

A meeting of the relevant Standards Australia CS-088 sub-committee is scheduled for July.

➤ ***Review of part 1 of Fixed Height Chair Standard - Ergonomics and General Requirements (AS 4688.1)***

A Draft has been sent out for public comment. Comments close on 19 July. You can view the draft and any incoming comments [here](#) after entering your Standards Hub login details.

➤ ***Review of Domestic furniture—Freestanding chests of drawers, wardrobes and bookshelves/bookcases—Determination of stability (AS/NZS 4935)***

The project application has been approved.

The project will commence with a scoping meeting in quarter 3 2018.

NEW AFRDI BOARD MEMBER

The AFRDI Board welcomed a new member recently. We thought we would share a little of Anna's background.

Anna Carrabs is the CEO of King Living who have celebrated 40 years of design, innovation and international success.

Anna has over 30 years' experience working with small to medium businesses, having been a tax specialist at Price Waterhouse then joining William Buck in 1994 as a Director. She later became a Director in the Business Advisory Division of the Firm.

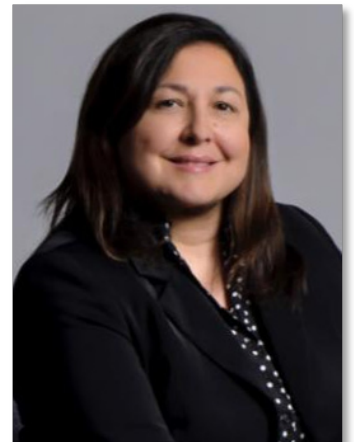
King Living was amongst her many clients. She was asked by the Founder of the company to consider being the company's first CEO.

Anna is a Chartered Accountant and a Chartered Tax Adviser and has presented at many events.

She has also been a director on the Board of the Institute of Chartered Accountants and has been their NSW chairperson.

Anna felt that she wanted to give back to the Industry she has been involved in for the last decade and decided that AFRDI is a very worthwhile not-for-profit body that she said fitted well with her beliefs.

Chairman Tony Rogers said 'he welcomed Anna to the AFRDI Board and her wealth of experience would be extremely useful and complement the skills of other Board members'.



AFRDI NEWS BRIEFS

AFRDI Green Tick increase

Applications for AFRDI Green Tick certification to our 150 sustainability standard have increased significantly during the last year.

Sustainability Team Leader, Dr Lee Bowkett, said 'interest in AFRDI Green Tick has been especially high and we have been very busy with clients and undertaking assessments. In addition to new clients beginning their sustainability assessments, we have noticed that existing clients are also wanting to expand their AFRDI Green Tick certified product portfolio'.

More information, including various publications, relevant to AFRDI Green Tick is available [here](#) on our website.



New product certifications

A significant number of new clients have submitted product(s) to us in recent times that, when regarded with our already established client base, covers a wide scope of our testing accreditation.

Visit our Website www.furntech.org.au to view indexed lists of all presently AFRDI certified products.

Recognition as Research Agency continues

AFRDI continues to be recognised as a Registered Research Agency.

AFRDI has the capability to give advice and preliminary testing of prototypes, where designs may be breaking new ground.

Strict confidentiality requirements are maintained when undertaking all work, but especially work of this nature.



The Australian Government Business website offers [this](#) information for using a Research Service Provider. The Australian Taxation Office also discusses research and development tax incentives [here](#).

We have a very wide range of NATA accreditations for Australian, International, European and US Standards across many types of furniture.

If you have an interest or a project where you consider we may be able to assist please contact us at admin@furntech.org.au or Technical Manager, Ian Burton, on ian@furntech.org.au