

Report from the AFRDI Annual Meeting

This year the AGM was held via Zoom.

The Executive of Tony Rogers (chair), Dane Walsh (deputy) and Ben Wortley were re-elected. Also re-elected was retiring Board member Ken Payne.

In his report the Chair said on behalf of the Board 'our hearts go out to all members, clients and their families who have been affected by the events in 2020'.

He said the launch of the AFRDI Certification guide was a major step in promoting the Institute.

Tony also said the Institute had adapted well and worked through the challenges. There are likely more challenges ahead and the Board was confident that these would be overcome.

The Chair thanked the GM and Staff for their contribution.

General Manager Ian Burton reported that overall results for the year were good. The Institute recorded growth in rated load seating, sustainability, desking and school and education areas.

The main standards work involved the standards for school and education seating, tables and storage items.

The Institute has commenced a review of AFRDI 150 Sustainability Standard with a view to having it completed by Q2 2021. The Institute also plans to have a new Website next year.

Ian also mentioned a variety of equipment that was commissioned to improve testing capability, productivity and safety.

Ian closed by expressing the Institute's appreciation to our members, clients and Staff for their continued support

Chair Tony Rogers and General Manager Ian Burton paid special tribute to retiring Board member Peter McCutcheon after 19 years of service, 14 of which he was chair.

NEW AFRDI BOARD MEMBER

Steve Dimotakis was elected as a new Board member at the AGM.

Steve has been the GM of Reed Furniture for the last 10 years and said 'he is keen to further the agenda of AFRDI and is looking forward to contributing after being part of the Standards Australia school and education furniture standards working group'.

The Chair welcomed Steve and said 'his experience in management and operational roles within manufacturing environments would be a great asset to the AFRDI Board'.



FURNITURE RECALLS IN 2020

The list of recalled furniture items published this year by the ACCC on the Product Safety Australia site cover a range of product types including;

- High chairs x2
- USB adaptor on bed frame
- Bunk beds x7
- Healthcare chairs x2
- Bean bag chair liners x2
- Dining chair
- Bean bags x5
- Bean bag covers x2
- Bedside table

To find details of recalls visit Product Safety Australia website [here](#).

If you need your products tested and certified or wish to discuss the options please give us a call on (03) 6326 6155 or email us at admin@furntech.org.au

PRODUCT SAFETY

The ACCC recently published a release headed 'E-commerce businesses pledge to strengthen product safety online'.

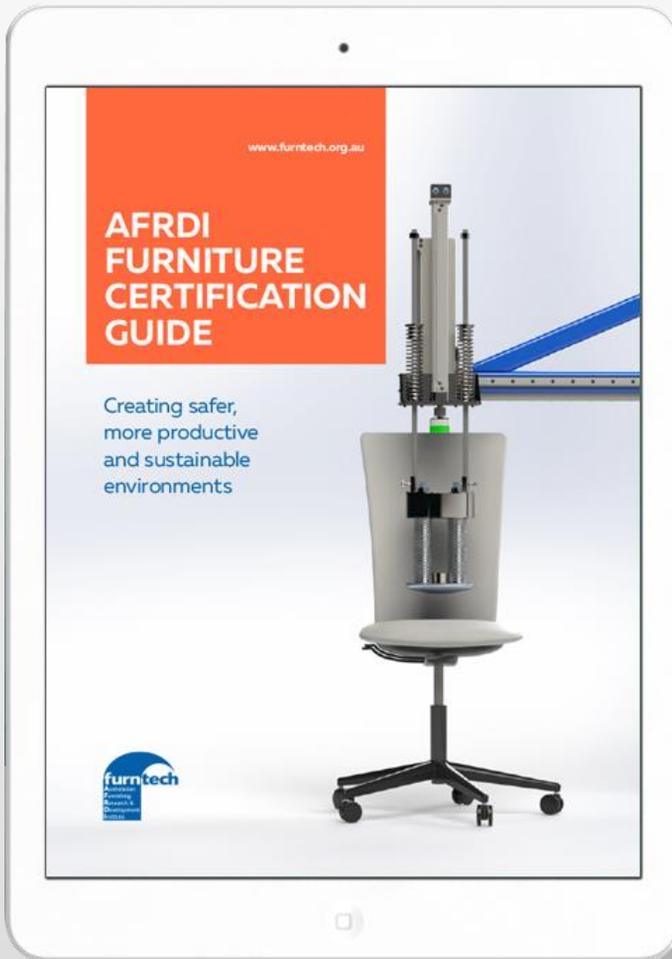
A link to the article can be found [here](#).

CHRISTMAS HOURS

The Institute will close on Tuesday 22 December and re-open Monday 11 January 2021.

OUT NOW

Visit the AFRDI Certification Guide [here](#).



THANK YOU

A big thank you to all our great clients for your support during 2020.

2020 will certainly go down in history.

We look forward to working with you in 2021 and supporting your businesses.

Season's greetings from everyone at AFRDI



Australasian Furnishing Research & Development Institute Limited
ABN 44 009 579 908, trading as Furntech
School Road (University Campus) Newnham Drive PO Box 2042 Launceston Tasmania 7250 Australia
Tel (03) 6326 6155 Fax (03) 6326 3090
Website: www.furntech.org.au Email: info@furntech.org.au

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