



PLAY AUSTRALIA RISK ASSESSORS NETWORK TERMS OF REFERENCE October 2021

WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?

The purpose of the **Risk Assessors Network (RAN)** is to facilitate discussion on risk management-related issues, focussing on issues which arise where there is a lack of clarity, gaps, or contradictions in existing Playground Standards.

Membership will comprise one representative of businesses and organisations within our industry who are Play Australia members, who work independent of government and industry, and provide risk assessments on a commercial basis. It will not include businesses who provide services and products commercially to the industry.

The RAN may be used to provide opinion in the case of disputes between suppliers/manufacturers and risk assessors/operators in terms of Standards interpretation or acceptable levels of risk, although should not be viewed as an arbitrator of any kind.

Note: Members should be open-minded to differing views and treat these with respect, even if they disagree.

The RAN will be child-focussed, meaning that it will focus on the protection of children's rights to play and support risk for benefit.

The RAN will provide ongoing advice and 'best practice' support and recommendations to complement Playground Standards in the management, design, and maintenance of playgrounds in Australia.

HOW WILL THE RISK ASSESSORS NETWORK (RAN) WORK?

The Board has invited **Andrew Reedy, Justin Kaese and Rob Hamilton** (with **Barb Champion** as the *Secretariat*) to form a **Steering Committee** to provide leadership of the RAN.

The RAN will work via email and online meetings.

Individual risk assessors and any other Play Australia members may submit issues/questions to the Secretariat. If the issues fit the purpose as detailed above, they will then be forwarded to the Steering Committee for consideration.

The Steering Committee will consider the list of issues forwarded by members and place in a priority order for consideration of the RAN.

The Secretariat will share issues for consideration of the RAN by email.

Members of the RAN will provide opinions via email. ***All members should be copied into all responses.***

Our intention is to share all information with all members of the RAN so as to be completely transparent in our operations.

Discussion and comments will be reviewed by the Steering Committee and a proposed response will be developed. Members of the RAN will be encouraged to contribute responses to issues as they are considered.

The proposed responses will be circulated to the RAN, seeking response and/or comments.

If agreement is reached by the RAN, the issue will be posted on the Play Australia website in the Risk Management Hub under Position Statements. Note: These position statements will not be widely circulated but will be available on the website as a resource as needs or conflicts in interpretation of the Standards arise.

If agreement is not reached a meeting will be organised of the RAN for further discussion. It is not intended that the Steering Committee will determine the outcome of any issue without the agreement of the RAN. It is not intended to schedule regular meetings of the RAN but to arrange meetings with at least one week's notice to maximise participation.

This is an important initiative for Play Australia. We know that risk assessors in particularly frequently work in isolation, and thus we hope that one outcome of this process will be to enable collaboration on difficult issues. Another outcome will hopefully be to provide good outcomes for those responsible for the management, design, and maintenance of playgrounds throughout the country.

We would really appreciate your feedback to this proposal asap to Barb Champion at barb@playaustralia.org.au by 22 October 2021.