

Play Australia

Frequently Asked Questions

The following issues/comments were raised during the drafting of the discussion paper.

1. *What are you proposing exactly? Why is this happening now?*

Play Australia is currently an organisation based in Victoria with national membership. The aim is to evolve into a national organisation with committees and membership in all States and Territories to develop a national voice for play.

2. *What are the benefits of developing a national body?*

The benefits of a truly national organisation will be a stronger voice for play, the capacity to access federal funds both private and Government and to provide strong representation internationally.

3. *How long do you anticipate it will take before the national body is fully in place?*

The act of changing the constitution to reflect a truly national body can be completed in 2013. The growth into strong representation from the committees throughout the country could take several years.

4. *What if there are members but no Play Australia presence in a state or territory?*

The national body will provide umbrella support for all Play Australia members. The formation of local committees will however greatly enhance the ability to support good play and to access funding from State and Territory governments and other potential funding bodies.

5. *Why this model and not incorporated bodies in each state and territory that are affiliated to the National Body?*

A model with only one legal entity is preferable in that it will have the least financial impost, will have a strong voice as one national organisation and reduce the chances of the organization being used for inappropriate financial gain by commercial interests.

6. *Where will the money come from to set up a National Secretariat with a paid CEO?*

Whilst some funding will come from membership, funding will need to be sought to assist in the establishment of the national body. Funding will be sought from the Federal Government as well as private sources.

7. *How will the National Board be appointed and will the states/territories be represented?*

In the model being presented for discussion it is proposed that each State and Territory will elect one of their Committee to be a member of the National Board.

8. What do you mean by an Interim Board?

It is not expected that the organizational structure proposed could be achieved in one step. Therefore a transition will be required, which could include the establishment of an interim Board. The interim Board may also include people with skills in establishing a new organization like Play Australia.

9. Do all of the membership fees go to the National Body? If so what about the states and territories?

Yes all fees will be collected by the National Body as it will provide administration support, and a percentage will be returned to local groups to assist with expenses.

10. What will happen in our state? Do you mean Victoria?

Little change to current activities in Victoria, training, network meetings to continue.

11. What will happen to the current Victorian Committee?

It will form the basis of the local Play Australia Victoria Branch.

12. What will states do and what will the national body do?

State Branches will run the day to day operations of Play Australia and the National Board will oversee national advocacy, and international responsibilities.

13. What's the International Play Association got to do with any of this?

Play Australia is the national member of the IPA and has the responsibility of promoting and developing the IPA in Australia and promoting a commitment to the UN Charter on the Rights of the Child throughout Australia.

One of the benefits in developing the national organisation will be to build the membership and communication between the international play sector and the Australian play sector.

14. When will we see the new constitution?

The Board will develop a new constitution for discussion with the membership in time for adoption at the Annual General meeting in October 2013

15. What happens next?

When the feedback to this Discussion paper is collated and fed into the process, the Board will revise where necessary and develop a draft constitution. Ideally this draft will be discussed with the membership and finalised for adoption at the AGM in October 2013.