



# NOLS Update

## Final Industry Roundtable



Participants at the roundtable

As a follow up to the industry roundtable reported in our last *NOLS Update*, Senator Chris Evans, Minister for Tertiary Education, Skills, Science and Research and Senator Penny Wong, Minister for Finance and Deregulation, hosted a second industry roundtable in Canberra on 31 October 2012. (See page 4 for a full list of industry participants).

Industry representatives reaffirmed their support for national licensing and identified areas where agreement had been reached across the relevant industries. While there are still a small number of issues to be resolved, the proposals put forward by three of the Interim Occupational Licensing Advisory Committees (OLACs) demonstrated industry consensus on an approach for national licensing. Further work will be required to achieve a final position in relation to a national licensing model for property occupations.

The ministers acknowledged the work that had been undertaken in reaching an agreed position. Recommendations arising from the interim OLACs are going to the Standing Committee on Federal Financial Relations and will provide input into the COAG decisions on the final policy model for national licensing of these occupations.



Participants at the Refrigeration and Air-conditioning OLAC

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### Industry participants in the 2<sup>nd</sup> roundtable

- Air Conditioning and Mechanical Contractors Association of Australia
- Australian Chamber of Commerce & Industry
- Australian Industry Group
- Australian Manufacturing Workers Union
- Business Council of Australia
- Construction, Forestry, Mining and Energy Union
- Electrical Trades Union
- Housing Industry Association
- Master Builders Association
- Master Plumbers & Mechanical Services Association of Australia
- National Electrical & Communications Association
- Plumbing Trades Employees Union
- Property Council of Australia
- Real Estate Institute of Australia
- Shopping Centre Council
- Strata Community Australia

## Interim OLACs

Representatives of peak industry bodies, employer groups, unions and consumer organisations were invited to participate in the interim OLACs for the first wave occupational categories. Regulator participation was sought through the Steering Committee. The NOLA Board approved membership for each interim OLAC and their first meetings were held in the week of 15 October 2012. Given the short timeframe for establishing the OLACs, it was decided that the groups would be set up as interim OLACs and their functions and membership would be formally reviewed once the wave one legislation had been finalised. The issues each OLAC discussed are listed below.

### Property

#### The key issues discussed were:

- commercial agency work;
- qualifications;
- personal probity requirements;
- continuing professional development; and
- sale and auctioning of livestock.

### Electrical

#### The key issues discussed were:

- definitional issues around licence categories and scopes of work;
- some single jurisdictional licence categories eg electrical inspector;
- contractor licence categories and qualifications;
- exemptions from the requirement for a licence;
- retention of apprenticeships as the pathway for a licence; and
- CPR, Rescue, English language and colour blindness testing.

### Plumbing and Gasfitting

#### The key issues discussed were:

- three tier v two tier licensing model;
- retention of apprenticeships as the only pathway for a licence;
- business units of competency;
- deferral of roof plumbing and stormwater categories;
- continuing professional development; and
- single jurisdiction licence category eg medical gases.

### Refrigeration and Air-conditioning

#### The key issues discussed were:

- regulatory duplication arising from ARCTick licence;
- contractor licence categories and qualifications; and
- continuing professional development.

## Regulator Working Groups

Following the interim OLACs, NOLA convened Regulator Working Groups for each occupation, with nominations being sought from jurisdictional regulators. These groups provided an important opportunity to draw on the experience and guidance of regulators in responding to the proposals developed by the interim OLACs.

The groups met by teleconference or telepresence during the week commencing 22 October 2012. They were chaired by the Board member who chaired the interim OLAC for the relevant occupation.

Regulator Working Groups will continue to meet in 2013, in line with the establishment of the permanent OLACs.

## NOLA's Role in Wave 1 Implementation

Since the establishment of NOLA in early 2012, the NOLS project has been managed through a number of transition arrangements. These arrangements provided for the NOLS Steering Committee (and the Taskforce) to continue to manage the policy finalisation for wave 1 occupations. NOLA's role has been to:

- develop and manage the National Licensing Register;
- establish NOLA as an organisation;
- implement wave 1 occupations, including:
  - \* co-ordination of transitional provisions;
  - \* delegation instruments for jurisdictional regulators;
  - \* operational guidelines for jurisdictional regulator staff;
  - \* standardised tools and forms for use by jurisdictional regulators;
  - \* establishment of OLACs and Regulator Working Groups for implementation of first wave occupations;
  - \* information tools for licensees and other stakeholders on the new requirements; and
  - \* training and ongoing support for jurisdictional regulator staff on new requirements and business processes; and
- develop and manage policy for wave 2 occupations.

The outcome of the industry roundtable will provide input to the work of the NOLS Steering Committee and Taskforce as they complete the policy process for wave 1. This includes preparing the decision RIS and the proposed amendments for agreement by all jurisdictions.

The National Licensing Board will be providing its advice directly to the Standing Council on Federal Financial Relations (SCFFR) as they consider national licensing reforms. NOLA will continue to focus over the next 12 months on the completion of the tasks outlined above.

Barbara El-Gamal  
Deputy CEO

## Our plans for 2013

We're looking forward to 2013 at NOLA. As we transition from the NOLS Steering Committee and the Taskforce to NOLA we'll be taking the opportunity to build on the experience gained through the first wave process so that we can meet the needs of those affected by national licensing.

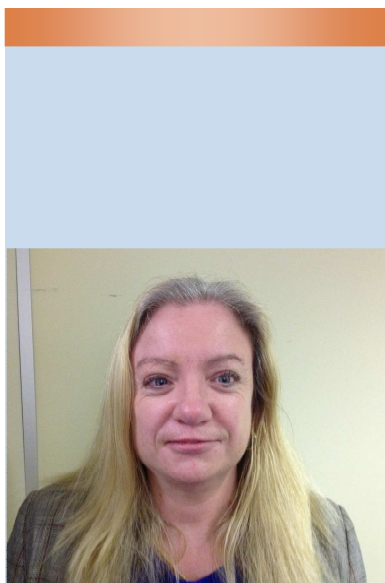
In addition to our priority tasks, we'll continue to closely engage with stakeholders and will provide timely information.

To that end, we'll be reviewing our website to allow for better information flow and engagement. Let us know what information you want to see on the site by emailing [info@nola.gov.au](mailto:info@nola.gov.au).

Thanks to all of you for your support this year and best wishes for the holidays.

Elizabeth Crouch  
Chair, National Occupational  
Licensing Board





## Staff profile **Michelle Haerewa**

Michelle joined the NOLA Team on 1 August 2012 as Chief Financial Officer to set up NOLA's financial governance framework; policies, processes and systems.

Michelle has extensive experience as a senior executive working in the government sector, having previously served as Chief Financial Officer of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, Housing NSW and Energy Australia, amongst others.

For the past year Michelle has been undertaking project based contract roles. She is also a Fellow Certified Practising Accountant and serves on their Public Sector Committee.

Michelle has enjoyed many challenging roles in the past and has relished the opportunity to establish NOLA's financial systems and processes from the ground up.

Michelle is presently refining NOLA's financial reporting, working on the 2013-14 and medium term budget and drafting the policies and procedures that underpin NOLA's financial framework.

## Key dates

NOLA Board	10 December 2012
NLR Steering Committee	11 December 2012
Technical Advisory Group	11/12 December 2012

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