



Address: PO Box 710 Sydney Markets NSW 2129 Phone: 02 8736 1256
email: stateoffice@rdansw.org.au website: www.rdansw.org.au

28 August 2022

To Centres

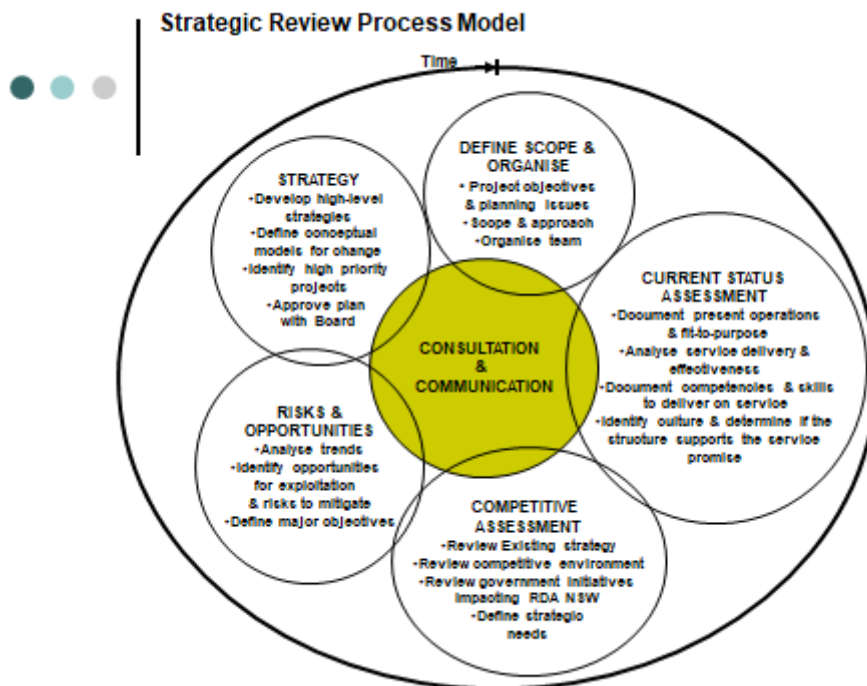
CC: Regional Representatives
Key Committees
RDA NSW Board

RE: Min-Strategic Review Letter to Centres and Questionnaire

Later this year I'll be engaging representatives from all Centres, Regional Representatives, Key Committees such as CASP, State Office, and the Board to provide further input and discussion; that will lead to a revision of the RDA NSW Strategic Plan.

The first step towards that goal is to collect data from the Centres that will inform and help understand the trends, threats and opportunities that may need to be accommodated within the revised plan.

The diagram below outlines broadly the processes that will be undertaken to arrive at the revised plan.



Please assist by completing the questionnaire over page on behalf of your Centre, and return it to State Office by **5PM Monday 19 September**? When completing the questions keep it simple, estimates are fine for the numeric answers, and key words will help the analysis more than long drawn out sentences. If you need help then call me for a quick chat.

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"RDA (NSW) is a volunteer organisation that provides horse - related activities to enrich the lives of people with disabilities"



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Mini-Strategic Review Questionnaire to Centre:

Your Centre: Mudgee

1) ESTIMATED NUMBER OF; Riders including Carriage Drivers, Coaches and Whips, Volunteers for the following years:

Year	Riders	Carriage Drivers	Coaches	Whips	Volunteers
2019	36		1		15
2020					
2021	24		2 assistant		12
2022	24		2 full coaches		6/8

2) IMPACTS OF COVID IN 2020 & 2021 to your Centre across Riders, Carriage Drivers, Coaches, Whips and Volunteers. Max 50 words:

The rules were tough and it had a great impact on the centre, our coach left and took all our horses as she owned them.

3) RIDERS AND CARRIAGE DRIVERS:

3a) Impacts on 2022; whether your numbers are up or down against previous years? Max 20 words:

We dragged ourselves through the hard yards and walked away winners as 2 qualified coaches passed off in 2022. Our riders have always been the number 1 reason we soldier on and we have to say no sometimes due to for our riders with not enough volunteers.

3b) Are the rider/carriage driver weight limits impacting your numbers? Yes ☒ No circle one.

3c) Are riders joining the Centre because of NDIS? Yes ☒ No circle one

3d) Are riders leaving the Centre because they have more choice through NDIS funding? Yes ☒ No circle one

3e) Do you believe that RDA NSW needs to change its programs to attract more riders? Yes ☒ No circle one

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3f) If your answer to question 3e was Yes, please provide a brief explanation of how the programs might be changed? Max 20 words

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4) COACHES AND WHIPS:

4a) What impacts (external or internal) are driving your Coaching or Whip numbers up or down? Max 20 words

Volunteers and age of volunteers. The huge responsibility is a big ask. BUT it is the same in the workforce.

.....

4b) Do you think that the training for RDA Coaches is too extensive? Yes ☒ No circle one.

4c) Do you think that the training for RDA Coaches is just about right? ☒ Yes/No circle one.

4d) What changes should be made to the training? Max 20 words

More workshops throughout the year now that covid and restrictions have eased.

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5) VOLUNTEERS:

5a) What impacts (external or internal) are driving your Volunteer numbers up or down? Max 20 words

Age, fear of getting hurt, getting sick, life has become expensive and retirement age has been extended.

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5b) What actions can your Centre take to increase and sustain Volunteer numbers? Max 20 words

spread the word, showcase how clever our riders are. Lead by example be a hands on board.

.....

5c) What actions should RDA NSW take to increase and sustain Volunteer numbers? Max 20 words

Monkey see monkey do. To see that our leaders too physically get their hands dirty and learn about what the coaches , volunteers need to learn and offer to ensure a safe practice.

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6) FUNDRAISING (Excluding Infrastructure and Capital Equipment Grants):

6a) Are your fundraising efforts covering your expenditures? ☒ Yes/No circle one.

6b) If your answer to question 6a was No; how long can your Centre continue to operate based on your current savings? Max 20 words

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6c) Are you finding it more difficult to fundraise since COVID? ☒ Yes/No circle one. Please explain? Max 20 words

Many business are doing it tough as are individuals and families. It is hard to ask for funds when others are doing it tough.

7) SITE AND INFRASTRUCTURE:

7a) Is your Centre located on an RDA NSW owned property? Yes/☒ No circle one.

7b) Does your Centre have a riding or dressage arena? ☒ Yes/No circle one.

7c) If your answer to question 7b was Yes, is your arena covered? Yes/☒ No circle one.

7d) Do you have enough paddock space to house and feed your horses; accepting that they may need supplements? Yes/☒ No circle one.

7e) Do you require assistance when applying for Grants? Yes/☒ No circle one.

For and on behalf of the RDA NSW Board,

Ed Binney
Director/Marketing & Strategic Planning
+61 417 277 027
Ed.binney@rdansw.org.au

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