



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

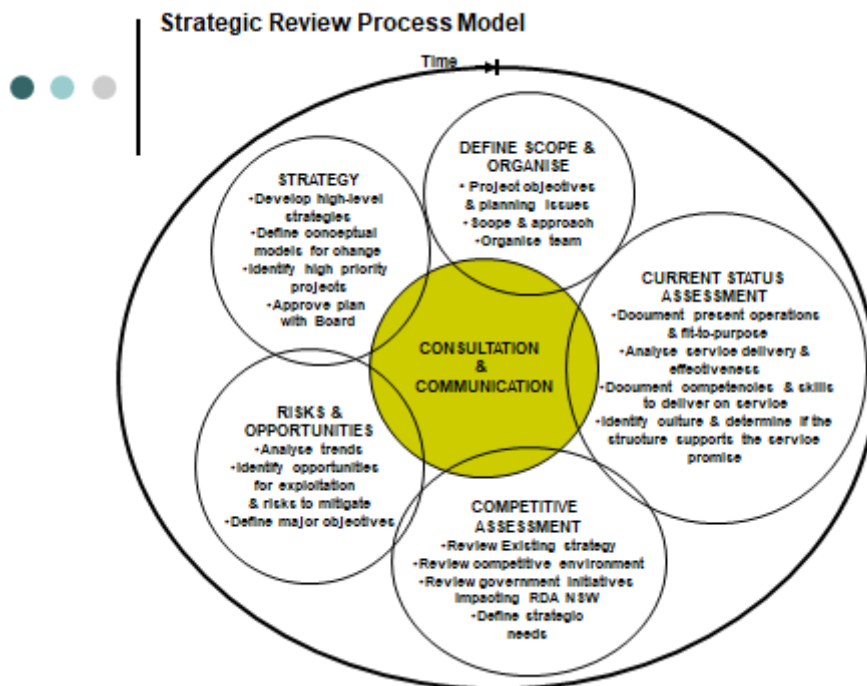
CC: Regional Representatives
Key Committees
RDA NSW Board

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:

RAYMOND TERRACE & LOWER HUNTER

Your Centre:

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

Year	Riders	Carriage Drivers	Coaches	Whips	Volunteers
2019	94	5	10	4	160
2020	18	0	8	4	20
2021	42	5	8	3	70
2022	41	3	9	3	90

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

... Volunteers found other activities elsewhere. Horses had to be sent home as too expensive to hold them at the Centre. Lost two coaches not entirely due to Covid but the break precipitated their leaving. Loss of three programs due to Covid and risk of infection.

3) RIDERS AND CARRIAGE DRIVERS:

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

Numbers down as staff coach resigned and unable to reinstate groups affected.

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

Need more therapeutic non riding programs aimed at holistic wellness and mental health. Equine therapy is requested regularly at our Centre.

4) COACHES AND WHIPS:

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

Long time to qualify for coaches, drop in numbers interested in coaching due to time constraints. Non paid positions not conducive to younger ones training as coaches.

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

Additional training on horse to rider allocation could be expanded. Additional training on working with people who have disabilities especially physical/social/mental issues.

5) VOLUNTEERS:

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

Less commitment on weekly basis due to work and family reasons. Cost of transport to Centre. People looking for different opportunities.

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

Keep advertising for volunteers. Ensure they feel valued with ongoing training, recognition and respect.

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

Recognition of the work of long time volunteers by badge and certificate from State level. Advertising of the work of volunteers and their importance in the organisation.

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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At current rate we have funds to cover 18 months approximately.

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

There are more organisations trying to raise money and individuals and businesses only have limited funds to donate.

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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