



Address: PO Box 710 Sydney Markets NSW 2129 Phone: 02 8736 1256  
email: [stateoffice@rdansw.org.au](mailto:stateoffice@rdansw.org.au) website: [www.rdansw.org.au](http://www.rdansw.org.au)

28 August 2022

To Centres

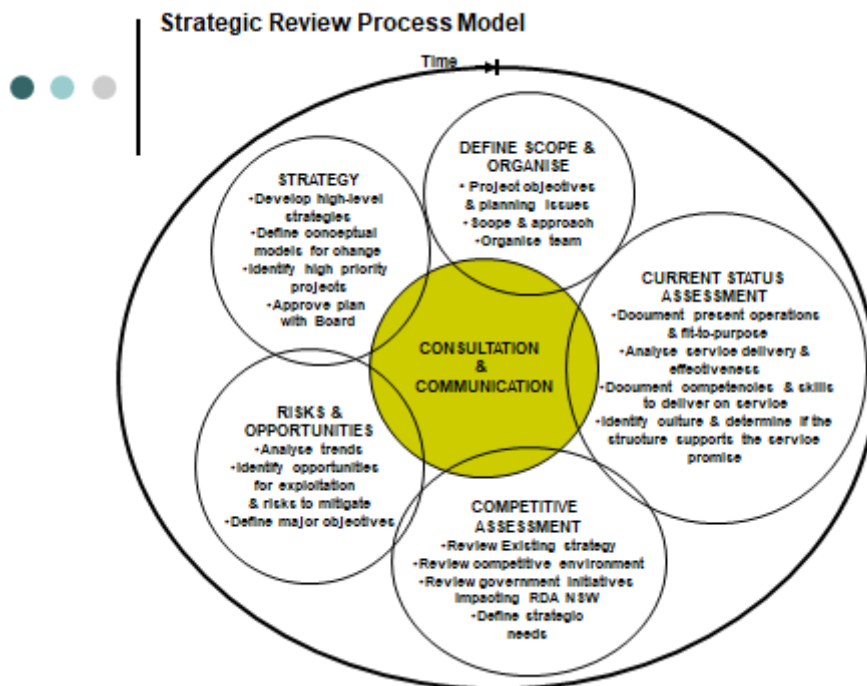
CC: Regional Representatives  
Key Committees  
RDA NSW Board

## 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.

**Founded:** 1972 by Pearl Batchelor OAM. **Joint Patrons:** Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of NSW and Mr Dennis Wilson

ABN 50 001 823 267 • CFN 12295 Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 **All donations \$2 or more are tax deductible**  
*"RDA (NSW) is a volunteer organisation that provides horse - related activities to enrich the lives of people with disabilities"*



Address: PO Box 710 Sydney Markets NSW 2129 Phone: 02 8736 1256  
email: [stateoffice@rdansw.org.au](mailto:stateoffice@rdansw.org.au) website: [www.rdansw.org.au](http://www.rdansw.org.au)

### Mini-Strategic Review Questionnaire to Centre:

Your Centre: Ryde.....

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

Year	Riders	Carriage Drivers	Coaches	Whips	Volunteers
2019	30		8		200
2020	20		8		200
2021	20		7		100
2022	60		11		130

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

.....  
During Covid we lost one Coach. Volunteer numbers declined and many did not return. We had no riders for half of 2020 and most of 2021  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

#### 3) RIDERS AND CARRIAGE DRIVERS:

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

Our rider numbers are well up as we have more Coaches and our volunteer numbers are growing and returned in to pre Covid numbers  
.....

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

We have weight limits for riders but we still have long waiting lists.

##### 3c) Are riders joining the Centre because of NDIS? Yes/No circle one Yes, families are seeking experiences

##### 3d) Are riders leaving the Centre because they have more choice through NDIS funding? Yes/No circle one A few will take up higher cost alternatives

##### 3e) Do you believe that RDA NSW needs to change its programs to attract more riders? Yes/No circle one Maybe but at Ryde we need more horses, more Coaches and more support staff to take more riders

Founded: 1972 by Pearl Batchelor OAM. Joint Patrons: Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of NSW and Mr Dennis Wilson

ABN 50 001 823 267 • CFN 12295 Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 All donations \$2 or more are tax deductible

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



Address: PO Box 710 Sydney Markets NSW 2129 Phone: 02 8736 1256

email: [stateoffice@rdansw.org.au](mailto:stateoffice@rdansw.org.au) website: [www.rdansw.org.au](http://www.rdansw.org.au)

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

We are already doing short excursions, we will look at classes of shorter length for more highly dependent riders

#### **4) COACHES AND WHIPS:**

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

Volunteer are busy people and often find it hard to get the study done. Also, sometimes the supervisor is not well versed in the training program or the use of accelerate. This is hard to solve.

**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

Training covers the basics and could be more extensive but that will mean less Coaches for sure.

#### **5) VOLUNTEERS:**

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

Driving up .... a more professional approach to Induction, introduction to classes, appointed liaison person for each class, valuing them and communicating.

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

We are having events for vols to bring family to come and meet the horses (we are urban), we are spending money on interesting and professional trainers, we hold quite extensive debriefs so all volunteers are engaged in feedback.

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

State could sponsor the roll out of Volunteer management software to make communication and education for volunteers much easier.

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

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

**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

**Founded:** 1972 by Pearl Batchelor OAM. **Joint Patrons:** Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of NSW and Mr Dennis Wilson

ABN 50 001 823 267 • CFN 12295 Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 **All donations \$2 or more are tax deductible**

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



Address: PO Box 710 Sydney Markets NSW 2129 Phone: 02 8736 1256  
email: [stateoffice@rdansw.org.au](mailto:stateoffice@rdansw.org.au) website: [www.rdansw.org.au](http://www.rdansw.org.au)

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

We are doing better because we are working harder at it. The fact that we are totally volunteer operated is appealing. It takes a lot of time as we have to be part of the business community, the local clubs and pubs.

#### 7) SITE AND INFRASTRUCTURE:

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

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

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

7d) Do you have enough paddock space to house and feed your horses; accepting that they may need supplements? Yes/No circle one. No but we hand feed and manage, being in teh heart of Sydney

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

For and on behalf of the RDA NSW Board,

Ed Binney  
Director/Marketing & Strategic Planning  
+61 417 277 027  
[Ed.binney@rdansw.org.au](mailto:Ed.binney@rdansw.org.au)

Founded: 1972 by Pearl Batchelor OAM. Joint Patrons: Her Excellency The Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, Governor of NSW and Mr Dennis Wilson

ABN 50 001 823 267 • CFN 12295 Charitable Fundraising Act 1991 All donations \$2 or more are tax deductible  
"RDA (NSW) is a volunteer organisation that provides horse - related activities to enrich the lives of people with disabilities"