

## FAQs for Members: Organisational Changes at the Institute

Our members are at the heart of everything we do. Recent changes are part of evolving our organisation to contemporary ways of working and communicating as part of ensuring the Institute's long-term sustainability. By focusing our resources where they matter most, we're strengthening our ability to support members now and into the future.

We have prepared answers to **frequently asked questions** to keep our members informed.

### What has changed?

This year, we are focusing on our resourcing and services that are of value to you, with your future in mind. To prepare to manage this rebalancing effectively, we have reset the Institute's organisational structure and are working through how we can be more agile and flexible in where and how we work.

The organisational change has meant a shift in the structure, capability requirements, and ways of working for staff roles across education, policy, advocacy, partnerships and membership services to align with providing streamlined, high-impact services for members.

### What does this mean for members?

For this year, and while we are learning from you what you want from us in the future, it means there may be iteration and refinement in how we deliver services. It also means we may need to hold tighter to our boundaries on what our remit as an Institute is and our areas of focus that have been defined in collaboration with our chapters and national committees through the national council.

We ask that you be patient with us this year while we work towards a more efficient and agile operating environment focused on the things that matter to you. We commit to remaining open and transparent in how we progress our changes and to testing with you all our longer-term propositions to ensure they set us all up for a sustainable future.

### I have a question about my committee meeting. Where can I get information?

For National Committees, please email <mailto:policy@architecture.com.au>

For Chapter Committees please email your Chapter team.

## **Is the Institute still delivering policy and advocacy?**

We recognise that delivering effective policy and advocacy work is one of the primary services to members. We remain committed to delivering impactful advocacy. We are excited to announce we will be transitioning to a new model that focuses on delivering key Institute priorities as set by the chapters and national committees through the National Council, while also supporting Chapter-led advocacy.

This model is evolving, and we will be looking to work with the National Council and Chapter Presidents to fine-tune it over the coming months. Our aim is to deliver a robust national framework – defined by the National Council, while arming Chapters with resources to ensure that they can nimbly respond to local issues driven by Chapter Councils and the local Executive Directors.

## **What resources are now dedicated to policy and advocacy?**

We are excited to advise that we are going to market for a new policy and advocacy lead who will lift and amplify the impact of our policy and advocacy services. In this new role, the Executive Director of National Council will work to align national initiatives with federal and state policy. Further, through the Chapter Presidents and their involvement on National Council Chapter advocacy will be led by experts in the field – you: our members. While we will be relying on you for content, it will be up to us to drive strategy. We want to make sure that your voices and experiences are heard – meaning that feedback to all levels of government is relevant and precise. Importantly, local advocacy focuses will be directed by the Chapters with resources deployed to ensure the greatest impact.

We are looking at more effective ways to communicate across our advocacy network to reduce duplicated efforts and to ensure relevant research is clearly communicated. Importantly we will look to partner with likeminded organisations to ensure that initiatives are amplified for maximum effect – to ensure that we have the best possible chance of creating meaningful change to the future built environment of our cities and regions.

Lastly, we are also pleased to advise that a new Advocacy Enablement Fund has been introduced to help support local initiatives across Australian Chapters. Ensuring that advocacy is precise, timely and effective.

## **Our committee used to receive staff support. What happens now?**

We are revisiting where our Institute staff are best placed to provide support. Moving forward, we will be working with Committee Chairs to help transition to a different model where staff are able to still help with meeting logistics and some outcomes, but where we can rely on tools (like AI) to help record minutes and actions.

The new ways of working will form part of a broader review of all Institute committees to instil more alignment and simplification into our governance structure.

## **How will the Institute deliver on education for members?**

We are recruiting a newly designed role of Head of Education and Acumen who will work on a refreshed value proposition for education and a more efficient way of delivering our offering. Hence, we remain a relevant provider of education for the future. Our PALS program continues to be supported, and we'll keep members informed about new developments in this space.

We believe that amplifying our education offering is essential to the success of our profession and our collective ability to deliver high-quality environment outcomes. We believe that success lies not only in improving the educational offerings to members, but also in how we are able to help our members provide educational outcomes for likeminded built environment professionals and indeed the public. We will be committing resources to delivering better quality educational outcomes.

## **What services and support are available for members during this transition?**

We have a full calendar of events in all chapters and staff are now working on the awards program across our chapters. The National Conference is gearing up for a delivery in early May – the team are on track to deliver an amazing experience – we hope to see you there.

Member support is still available through our online resources, forums, and peer networks. We encourage members to continue engaging through these platforms and connecting with one another.

## **Will there be any changes to membership fees?**

Currently, there are no planned changes to membership fees. We review membership fees and their value to members yearly to ensure the best value for our members. Feedback on how we might better support you is always appreciated.

## **How can members stay informed about ongoing changes?**

Members can stay informed about ongoing changes by subscribing to our newsletter, checking the Institute website regularly, and attending member meetings where updates will be provided.

We will be transparent about the changes we are making and keep you regularly updated on them.

## **How can I find out more or help?**

Members can attend a focus group session to help, give feedback and ask questions.

[Participate in a focus group and share your insights.](#)