

Co-operatives in NSW

Role of Registry Services &
Administration of Co-operatives
National Law in NSW

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Overview

- NSW Fair Trading is part of the portfolio of Better Regulation Division within the new Department of Customer Service
- Registry Services is one of the business units within Regulatory Services, which is part of the Better Regulation Division
- Registry Services is based in Bathurst and co-locates with Spatial Services, another agency within the Department of Customer Service
- Registry Services currently has 25 staff



Role of Registry Services

- Regulation of incorporated associations, co-operatives, funeral funds, co-operative housing societies and Starr-Bowkett societies in NSW
- Administration of registers for solicitor corporations, limited partnerships and incorporated limited partnerships
- Provision of information and education services to support regulation
- Primary level compliance and enforcement action

Legislation

- Associations Incorporations Act 2009
- Co-operatives National Law (NSW)
- Co-operative Housing & Starr-Bowkett Societies Act 1998
- Funeral Funds Act 1979
- Partnership Act 1892
- Legal Profession Act 1987 (Administer public register only)

Key functions and services

- Registration of incorporated associations, co-operatives, funeral funds, limited partnerships, & incorporated limited partnerships
 - Administration of public registers for the above entities as well as for co-operative housing & Starr-Bowkett societies, solicitor corporations and rules for the Country Women's Association.
 - Document lodgement on the various public registers held by the Registry and the provision of access to the information held on them.
 - Management of a range of compliance programs that guide and encourage regulated entities to meet their statutory responsibilities, including identification of entities that require further compliance action.
- Provision of information and education products, largely through the NSW Fair Trading website that inform the entities and their members about their rights, responsibilities and the operation of the legislation.
 - Responding to a range of enquiries and complaints regarding the entities administered.
 - Supporting delivery of association information webinars & other information channels
 - Collaborate with Policy on proposed changes to legislation administered by the Registry to reflect community needs and government objectives.

Key statistics

	Total Registered Entities at 31 May 2019	New Entity Registrations in 2018/2019
Incorporated Associations	35,247	1,575
Co-operatives	587	14
Funeral Funds	23	-
Limited Partnerships	878	8
Incorporated Limited Partnerships	332	49
Solicitor Corporations	68	n/a
Co-op Housing Societies	5	n/a
Starr-Bowkett Societies	7	n/a

Co-operatives national law in NSW

- NSW Fair Trading was lead agency in development and introduction of CNL
- NSW commenced CNL in March 2014
- NSW chairs the CNL National Working Party which considers policy issues around the legislation



NSW also established the Co-operatives Inter-jurisdictional Operational Forum (CIOF) in 2017 to consider operational issues arising from the CNL

NSW co-operative snapshot

- **587** co-operatives currently registered at 31 May 2019
- There are **143** distributing co-operatives
- There are **444** non-distributing co-operatives
- **15** new registrations YTD in 2018/2019
- **8** deregistrations YTD in 2018/2019

Administration of co-operatives national law

- Initiatives to support administration include:
 - Re-design of all forms
 - Review of website information
 - Limited disclosure requirements for registration of non-distributing co-operatives
 - Templates
 - Collaboration with Co-operatives NSW & the Co-op Builder team to streamline new registrations & rules

Contact details



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