

Media release

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VOTE “NO” ON NATIONAL LICENSING FOR REAL ESTATE UNTIL IT’S RIGHT

The Real Estate Institute of Australia (REIA) says the Standing Committee on Federal Financial Relations (SCFFR), due to meet in November, should vote no to the latest version of national licensing of the property profession.

It has also called for a review of the property development, sales and management qualifications that must be undertaken, prior to reconsidering national licensing for the real estate profession.

REIA President Peter Bushby says, “The *Decision Regulation Impact Statement - Proposal for National Licensing for Property Occupations* (DRIS) is totally inadequate and fails to comprehend the responsibilities of agents and agents’ representatives in proposing educational qualifications and the integral role played by Continuing Professional Development (CPD).”

“Under the proposal, consumers in Western Australia, NSW, Tasmania and the ACT would lose the benefit of agents’ CPD, leaving them at possible risk when buying or selling.”

“Victoria would lose regulations that require agents to hold a single licence – something that state values.”

“Consumers in Western Australia, the Northern Territory, Tasmania and South Australia would face a lowering of educational qualifications of an agent from diploma level to certificate IV and consumers in Queensland would face the lowering of entry level training of agents from 7 to 4 units of competency.”

“Licensing and harmonised conduct laws should then be developed for jurisdictions simultaneously and holistically by officers with experience in the development of regulation for the property industry, overseen by the Legislative and Governance Forum on Consumer Affairs.”

“This is something that NOLA, in its submission to the Productivity Commission on labour mobility, agreed with.”

REIA says NOLA should then be abolished as there would be no role for it to play, thereby removing a layer of red tape and cost to industry and government.

“NOLA has evolved as a very costly white elephant and another example of bureaucratic excesses that failed to deliver value for the expected outcomes,” concluded Mr Bushby.

REIA’s Decision RIS response can be found at www.reia.com.au

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