New system will streamline the process of becoming chartered

by Fiona Tregoning

By 1 July Engineers Australia (EA) will complete eChartered, a project that will deliver a new online assessment process for becoming chartered and registered. The new system seeks to deliver an improved user experience. It will also be the launch pad for the 2012 Australian Engineering Competency Standards Stage 2 for Professional Engineer, Engineering Technologist and Engineering Associate, currently under review.

Why eChartered? Ongoing member feedback, for instance from Young Engineers Australia, coupled with market research has concluded that the current Stage 2 assessment process is too arduous and time consuming. EA's new system seeks to save time without compromising on the rigour of the current Stage 2 assessment process. Some of the more significant changes that will be introduced with the new system are:

- a requirement for those wanting to become chartered to be members of Engineers Australia before they start
- online enrolment and submission of material for assessment, including the verification of evidence of competence
- support for Professional Development Program (PDP) Partners to preapprove

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Engineers Australia's Nina Piotrowicz (l), Fiona Tregoning and Michael Bevan are part of the eChartered project team.

invoice items and run online program performance reports
- more consistent assessment through moderation at the point of assessment by allocating more than one Stage 2 assessor to each application

- more interactive training materials and resources as the system develops.

For PDP Partners transition arrangements will be made for those participants transferring to the new system from existing ePDP software as well as from the 2004 - 2012 standards. Further information will be provided at PDP coordinator information sessions to be held in March. Individual PDP participants will be contacted separately.

So how might eChartered affect you? There are a number of important dates and activities to be aware of:
- By 1 July the new system will be live.
- The new system will be featured at the 2012 Leadership Conference in Adelaide held on 30 May-2 June.
- In March information sessions will be held specifically for PDP Partners to discuss the upgrade of their programs. Other sessions may be run for other applicants and stakeholders.
- After 1 July only in certain circumstances will applications to become chartered and registered be accepted using the 2004 Stage 2 competency standards.

- direct entry to enrolment from the EA member My Page portal
- guidelines by areas of practice to assist applicants in writing their work experience against the 2012 Stage 2 Competency Standards

Only Graduate members of Engineers Australia or above will be accepted onto the new system to complete their application to become chartered. Non-members and Student members will need to upgrade.

Those seeking registration on one of the national registers will use this system for their competency-based assessment.

Enrolment information will be available on the web before the official launch to make sure you're up-to-date for when the system goes live.

There will be various resources provided to help members, valued partners and potential applicants learn more about the project and the new system launch. Look out for updates on the EA website, in this magazine, in divisional and other newsletters and in your mailboxes.

Fiona Tregoning is Engineers Australia's manager for the eChartered project. To find out more about eChartered email echartered@engineersaustralia.org.au or contact the Member Services team on 1300 653 113.