



Regionalisation
Project

Frequently Asked Questions from July/August information webinars.

Here we provide a selection of frequently asked questions and responses from the recently held information webinars. You can view the full recording of the webinar [here](#).

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Responses

Why are we doing this project?

To create step/significant change to enable us to ensure a thriving Rotary and Rotaract for generations to come. A Rotary and Rotaract that suits the needs and circumstances of our region facilitated by decision making and strategies that better support all our clubs to be the best they can.

What is regionalisation?

At its heart, regionalisation is about enabling us to take more responsibility for the way Rotary operates in our region.

It's also about:

- recognising we can create a stronger future for Rotary if we speak with 'one voice' in marketing and public relations and when dealing with partners
- having the capacity to adapt to meet the particular needs, circumstances and cultural aspects of our part of the world and recent changes in volunteering trends
- moving away from a 'one size fits all Rotary' to a Rotary where we take the very best aspects of Rotary and adapt them to suit our region
- improving efficiency by reducing unnecessary duplication and costs, automating many processes and creating economies of scale
- providing clubs with more direct access to the best of the best resources to support them to achieve their goals.

What is the region we are talking about?

- At present we are Zone 8, one of 34 zones that make up Rotary International.
- Our zone encompasses Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, Cook Islands, Tonga, Samoa, American Samoa, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Norfolk Island, Papua New Guinea, Timor Leste, Nauru.
- We have 21 districts and 1300 Rotary clubs and 80 Rotaract clubs. These will all be part of the new region.

What are we changing?

The level above clubs:

- A regional council to provide overarching strategy, governance and coordination
- Regional committees to deliver support and programs which can be most efficiently and cost-effectively delivered at a regional level
- Possibly national committees to deliver support and programs which can be most efficiently and cost-effectively delivered at a national level
- More direct support to clubs and groupings of clubs that reflect what they have in common
- A team of other specialists (internal Rotary volunteer consultants) available to support clubs who seek assistance in areas such as membership, public image etc
- Governors will advise and guide the development and implementation of the regionalisation pilot initiative

Why is there no specific structure proposed?

- We are engaging with Rotarians to develop, test and evaluate a new structure
- We have some clear principles for the type of structure we need - *see question below.*

What is the proposed structure?

- A skills-based and representative regional council for Oceania (Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Islands) will assume the governance functions best carried out at a regional level and is likely to include specific portfolios in the areas of support clubs most need.
- Supporting committees in portfolio areas
- Clubs will be grouped by what they have in common and supported by community leaders who will work directly with them as they need it
- Specialist subject matter experts
- There may also be national committees where a coordinated national approach would provide the best approach for clubs.

What does it mean for clubs? What are the benefits to clubs?

Clubs will benefit from:

- Continuity and consistency of strategy and "one voice" messaging, advertising and marketing across our region.
- Strategic decisions which genuinely suit the particular needs and lifestyles of our clubs, members and prospective members in Oceania
- Regional and national partnerships with governments, other similar non government organisations and corporates
- Easy access to global and our region's best specialist resources who can assist clubs to adapt and grow
- Opportunity to be a part of an "affinity" group rather than just a geographical area
- Less cost and more time as we invest in technology, automate tasks and eliminate duplication
- Opportunity to collaborate with each other locally and nationally on larger causes supported by the region

What are the benefits for members?

Members will benefit from:

- Rotary being simpler and easier to 'do' (i.e. make connections, take action, have fun, deliver positive change)
- Technology and automation that will help free up time from administrative tasks to enable focus on projects and fellowship
- Being part of a more relevant organisation better known for the good works it does
- Hopefully less cost to be a member
- Having more say in who will be our leaders
- Taking on leadership roles that genuinely do make a difference

What is the vote for and how will it work?

All answers about the vote are in the [Fact Sheet](#) on the website.

The vote will be electronic and be open from 15-29 September.

What happens to districts and their committees?

- Districts and governors will remain for the duration of the pilot, to contribute and continue as the official officers of Rotary International
- Functions will gradually transfer from districts to regional council portfolios, as seems appropriate.
- Clubs will be supported by district governors and assistant/area governors until the new role of Area/Rotary community Leader is piloted.

How will the new model eliminate duplication and remove layers of hierarchy while we still have District Governors?

- Governors will remain in place for the duration of the pilot. As the official officers of RI they will have important input into the transition of other roles during the pilot.
- Duplication will be temporary for the period of the pilot. We anticipate there will be gradual transition of district functions to a regional level over the 3 years of the pilot, gradually reducing duplication.

How will the pilot be evaluated?

- We will both monitor progress and evaluate how the pilot is delivering the outcomes we want throughout the pilot
- Key performance indicators (KPIs) will be developed by a Monitoring & Evaluation Team against each of the key objectives and used to measure success.
Specifically these KPIs will focus on measuring if the pilot is:
 - Supporting Clubs to provide more relevant and engaging experiences for members to better serve their communities and grow Rotary
 - Creating new and more attractive leadership opportunities
 - Building a stronger unified Rotary brand and public image for Rotary
 - Encouraging clubs to engage in meaningful partnerships with Government, Corporates, other entities and with other clubs
 - Improving efficiencies and reducing duplication

How will we measure success?

- Membership, retention and acquisition, need to be key measures
- Is a club getting the support it needs? (this can be assessed)
- Coordinated and successful public image campaigns
- Number and quality of partnerships
- Collaborative projects and other initiatives

I am still not seeing proposed changes tied to clear underlying issues. What are the clear underlying issues?

- Declining membership
- Lack of profile for Rotary, especially nationally in Australia and New Zealand and connecting with media and governments
- We are hard to deal with and struggle to create large scale partnerships
- Difficulty finding leaders to take on large and time consuming roles
- Considerable leadership time and effort spent on administrative tasks and duplicated across districts.

What will happen with The Rotary Foundation and individual and club contributions?

- In the short term there will be no change to existing arrangements
- A working group is being established to look at issues specific to The Rotary Foundation, both giving and grants.

We currently pay RI and District fees. Do you anticipate we will if implemented, pay region fees instead of any of the above or as well as the above?

- RI fees will continue. These are set by RI for every Rotarian in the world
- For the region, district dues will continue initially
- As functions transfer to a Regional Council, costs and fees will be assessed
- We aim to reduce regional costs to Rotarians in the longer term through efficiencies and use of technology, but this will take time.

How will the structure be streamlined to better connect across the region with all clubs and members to promote larger scale projects?

- Less duplication especially in key areas
- Use of technology for administrative functions and communication
- Key regional portfolios will be represented on the Regional Council and will be supported by committees and volunteer specialists
- We will be seeking our most skilled and motivated Rotarians and Rotaractors to serve in these roles
- Terms are expected to be longer - 2 to 4 years

During the pilot we will have the old and the new structure running in parallel. If an issue arose that needed a decision, who will a club go to?

- District Governors will continue to be key contact for decision making.

What will be the decision making at the end of the pilot to determine if it is successful?

- Delivery against KPIs will be constantly monitored and evaluated through the pilot.
- At the end of the pilot there will be a process from the region and RI to decide on where to from here.

What happens if the vote is NO?

- We will consider a Plan B
- Districts will continue
- Several initiatives that the working groups have identified can continue
- Change will likely be incremental rather than significant
- Much will depend on the appetite for collaboration

What will happen with existing Youth programs etc?

- These will continue as they are for at least the first year of the pilot
- We anticipate that Youth programs will be one of the portfolios on the Regional Council, but this will be from a governance perspective, not an operational role
- District Governors and other leaders will play a key role in determining how best these are continued, seeking efficiencies and collaboration while also delivering to communities