

1 July 2013

Dear NATA Stakeholder

### Release of the Forensic Science Application Document June 2013

Please be advised that the Forensic Science Application Document (FAD) has been reissued. This is now available in on the NATA website. The FAD was reissued in March 2013 as a result of an extensive editorial revision of all fields and programs and no changes to the forensic specific requirements were undertaken.

A full technical review of the FAD is required to be undertaken in 2013. This process will involve extensive stakeholder and facility engagement. The FAD is placed on the website following the initial review process which involves the current accreditation advisory committee (AAC). A period of four weeks is provided to allow comment on the current and proposed changes to the document. This then requires collation and a further review. As this process may take considerable time, it was deemed necessary to reissue the FAD prior to the full technical review.

Following feedback received from several sources it was identified that a change to proficiency testing requirements was needed sooner. As such the June 2013 version of the FAD has been updated and reissued. The key changes of the document are as follows:

- Review of proficiency testing (PT) requirements to remove the emphasis on individual participation. PT is an activity to provide assurance of the facility processes as a whole and should not be used as a sole measure of staff competency;
- Expansion of staff competency expectations. With the removal of individual PT participation, it was necessary to expand the expectations in relation to staff competency;
- Movement of Court Testimony Monitoring from 5.9 to 5.2 as the process of monitoring court performance is an assessment of an individual staff competency;
- Removal of qualification expectations for specific disciplines. This has been replaced by an overall statement of relevant qualification and/or experience dependent on the activities undertaken;
- Removal of condition 4.13.2.1 j) Each page of every document in the case record must bear the facility's unique case identifier. (previously communicated); and
- Inclusion of references to AS 5388 Forensic Standards.

A separate communication will be issued regarding the assessment process to AS 5388.

If you have any questions regarding the issued FAD or process of technical review, please feel free to contact me at [lisa.bartlett@nata.com.au](mailto:lisa.bartlett@nata.com.au) or by phone on 03 9274 8200.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Bartlett' followed by a period.

**Lisa Bartlett**  
**Deputy Sector Manager, Life Science**