



National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia

MEETING OF MEMBERS' REPRESENTATIVES ON NATA COUNCIL

29 May 2014

SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

- **Tabular format of scopes of accreditation**

Feedback was received from some Medical Testing members regarding the impost on the facility to provide the additional information in order to populate all columns of the tabular format. The provision and population of the tabular template is independent of preparation for an assessment activity and hence this should allow facilities with sufficient time to provide this information to NATA. A communique to this effect will be sent to all Medical Testing (MT) facilities. (MT field has a history of very open scopes and MT facilities therefore find themselves in a position for the need to provide the most information to NATA).

- **Other Developments**

There has been an increasing number of enquiries about MRAs from importers / users of products manufactured outside Australia, with some of the enquiries relating to imported products that are 'failing' despite testing and being 'passed' by a laboratory accredited by MRA partners (in particular building and construction products and electrical products). One issue is with utility of Australian Standards in other economies (including English speaking economies). NATA is currently working on a project with China National Accreditation Service (CNAS) which is focused on windows initially. Members' Representatives indicated that this project should be extrapolated. Concerns were raised with electrical safety, including the safety of electrical installations in the mining industry.

NATA received approval from the Commission in April 2014 to offer assessments against the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards. NATA will be accrediting in full against all 10 NSQHS Standards.

- **Governance Update**

A framework for future member representation was discussed.

Members' representatives were asked to consider the following in terms of how best the interests and concerns of members can be represented to the NATA Board and to management:

- The purpose of representation.
- The basis for representation.
- Mechanism for representation.
- Exchange of information between NATA and members' representatives.

- **Report on ILAC Laboratory Committee**

The NATA Members Representative on the ILAC Laboratory Committee (LC) provided an update on attendance at the last ILAC LC meeting.

ISO/IEC 17025-2005 is scheduled for review.

A brief overview of the format of the meeting was provided, at the request of the Members' Representatives. A query was raised whether the minutes of the meeting could be released to members Representatives. The NATA Members Representative indicated that the minutes are not really of any relevance or interest to members and that it is up to each representative of members to summarise and provide relevant outcomes.

The issue of the mechanism for a customer receiving a report in one jurisdiction and from an accreditation body in another jurisdiction was identified as an area for development. It was indicated that the ILAC Chair agreed that a formal process for dealing with complaints needed to be implemented.