



National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Minutes of the 69th Meeting, 8 October 2025

Minutes of the sixty-ninth Annual General Meeting of the National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia held via Microsoft Teams, commencing at 11:00am AEDT.

Attendees

NATA Board Sanmarié Schlebusch, David Turner*, Eric Swayn, John Leeder*, Mark Burgess, Tracey Hoitink, Giacomo Collica*

**Authorised Representatives*

Authorised Representatives [32 in Total] Adrian Tang, Anna Fernando, Anna Riddell, Barbara Frankel, Caitlin Hadley Cabral de Almada, Celeste Tong, Chewie Chifuntwe, Chris Barnes, Holly Kime, Jade Smith, Julie Flavel, Katharine Wilks, Ken Williams, Kip Stavrou, Kym Pharm, Lisa Kerr, Milana Ranieri, Nelson Flores, Paul Ching, Paula Hawthorne, Rachal McKay, Rose Kursun, Sarvesh Mali, Scott Azzopardi, Sean Peters, Selena Heaton Shannon Carrick, Shaun Cupitt, Tharaka De Silva

NATA Staff Jennifer Evans, Tony Vandenberg, John Styzinski, Brendon Moo, Danielle Dicker, Sam Hayes, Andrew Griffin, Samantha Luo, Dean Tomlinson, Jana Clayton, plus an additional 40 NATA Staff Members.

Invited Guests Russell McGree (StewartBrown)

1. Welcome and Acknowledgement of Country

The Chair [Sanmarié Schlebusch] opened the NATA AGM meeting at 11:05am. The Chair made an Acknowledgement of Country. The Chair welcomed all members and guests to the meeting. Including NATA Directors, NATA executives, NATA staff and external auditor Mr. Russell McGree from StewartBrown.

2. Previous Minutes of 68th Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the sixty-eight Annual General Meeting of the National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia held on 16 October 2024 were presented.

The Chair noted that the minutes of the 68th AGM had been adopted.

3. Special Resolution

The special resolution vote was put to the Authorised Representatives attending the AGM; the vote was for the Constitutional Change to Permit Board Director Remuneration. The vote was managed by Vero Voting.

It was explained that Board members would be exempt from voting in the special resolution.

The special resolution did **not** pass.

4. Chair's Address

It has been a year marked by significant activities and outcomes for NATA, and the Board congratulated NATA's Executive Management Team and all NATA staff for their diligence, expertise and commitment.

The Chair thanked the NATA volunteer Technical Assessors. These professionals and their organisations generously donate their time and expertise to uphold the integrity of our accreditation processes through independent peer review. Their work ensures that NATA-accredited products and services reflect international best practice and are trusted by Australians every single day.

NATA has also strengthened the way it communicates, engages, and represents accreditation across industry, government, and the community.

Stakeholder relationships were strengthened through governance activities, including key agreements such as the Memorandum of Understanding with the Commonwealth of Australia and with the United Kingdom Accreditation Service.

NATA has served renewed MoUs and strengthened stakeholder relationships also ensure that Australia remains connected to international best practice. This alignment is critical as NATA turns its attention to emerging technologies in shaping global standards, trade, and technical infrastructure.

NATA has deepened its focus on the role of artificial intelligence in laboratories, recognising both the opportunities and risks it presents. Work is underway to explore how AI can be responsibly integrated into testing, calibration, and inspection services, while ensuring that quality and safety remain uncompromised. Through thought leadership pieces, webinars, and engagement with regulators, NATA is helping members prepare for an AI-enabled future of accreditation.

NATA advanced digital transformation among accredited organisations, including the adoption of client portals, automated processes, and new digital platforms to improve efficiency.

NATA further contributed to regulatory and accreditation infrastructure across inspection, calibration, biobanking, medical imaging, and human pathology through updated publications, webinars, and sector-specific guidance.

The Board would like to congratulate the NATA organisation for the world-class Accreditation Matters event held in July 2025. NATA staff were actively involved and made it an event that significantly increased NATA's profile in the Australian and international accreditation and conformity assessment community. We are looking forward to Accreditation Matters 2026 and Jennifer will be telling everyone some more about this later in today's meeting.

5. The Year in Review

The Chief Executive Officer noted that 2025 had been a busy and productive year for NATA.

NATA's Accreditation Service delivery and operational metrics improved after some difficult post-COVID years. Overdue surveillance activities are now well under the target set by the NATA Board of <2% of scheduled activities overdue by >3months.

NATA finished the year at 1.6%, the figure continues to improve as we have moved into the new financial year.

During the year we also concluded the review of our fee model. This was a significant body of work designed to make our fee structure more transparent and equitable for all our members. The CEO acknowledged that not everyone was happy with the new model but, going forward we have a sound basis for applying fees and charges to our members that reflects each Member's structure and its scope of accreditation.

The CEO gave her thanks to Members for their patience and understanding during the past two years of this process.

In February 2025, NATA and the Thoracic Society of Australia & New Zealand (TSANZ) proudly launched the TSANZ/NATA Respiratory Function Laboratory Accreditation Program.

This is a new program for NATA, although a number of respiratory function laboratories currently hold accreditation in the NATA/RCPA human pathology program or the NATA/ASA sleep disorders program.

The program builds on an accreditation program that has been offered by TSANZ for several years and will contribute to better health outcomes and treatment for patients with respiratory and lung health conditions. We are well underway with two accreditations in the program.

NATA commenced assessing new and existing Member organisations to the revised ISO 15189:2022 Standard in August 2023 and to the revised ISO/IEC 17043:2023 in March 2024. I am pleased to report that our CABs are well on track to meet the three-year transition deadline for each Standard. Thank you to all organisations that have facilitated the smooth transition.

Compliance by our CABs with International Standards is vital for NATA to meet its international obligations under the global and Asia-Pacific mutual recognition arrangements. But more importantly, it is important for Australian CABs and the results and data they produce, to have standing in an increasingly globalised world.

ISO/IEC 17020, the standard for inspection bodies, is in the final stages of review by a working group of the ISO Conformity Assessment Committee. Once the revised standard is published by ISO and formally adopted by Standards Australia, NATA will commence assessments for new and accredited inspection bodies.

As I noted last year, NATA has a significant voice in the revision of ISO Standards that underpin our accreditation process and we receive funding from the Australian Government to do so. For ISO 15189, ISO/IEC 17043 and ISO/IEC 17020, NATA provided Australia's representatives to the respective ISO committees responsible for the revisions. It is extremely important that we have a voice on these committees, to ensure that standards will be fit-for-purpose for the Australian context.

In June 2025 NATA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS). The key objectives are:

- Exchange views and develop mutually supportive positions in international accreditation forums;
- Exchange experiences and co-operate in the development and continuous improvement of assessment programs of mutual interest;
- Promote and enhance communication leading to better mutual understanding of the other Party's activities, priorities and roles;
- Support, where possible, the strengthening of UK-Australian trade through accreditation and conformity assessment, for example through joint initiatives in accreditation or conformity assessment

A new international organization for accreditation was formally established in October 2024. The Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated will replace the two existing international organisations, the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) of which NATA is a Full Member, and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) which is for accreditors of certification bodies (so JASANZ is a Full Member.) NATA has submitted its application to join Global ACI which will become fully operational in early 2026.

NATA staff have been active in the United Nations (UN) Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (CEFACT) administered by the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE). It has responsibility for maintaining standards, processes and definitions for the facilitation of national and international trade.

In July 2024, UN/CEFACT published its new standard Digital Product Conformity Certificate Exchange - High Level Process. This standard describes a data model, a set of digital elements and linkages, to enable automated verification of conformity information, thereby enhancing the utility of data issued by conformity assessment bodies (CABs) in support of the integrity of trade. One of its fundamental principles is to ensure a demonstrable link between a product and the associated conformity assessment information that verifies its authenticity and compliance, for example, through the use of digital identifiers.

NATA has begun work with the steel industry to develop a pilot based on the UN protocol that will enable digital exchange of accreditation information and conformity assessment information, in this case testing and certification for steel products.

In July, NATA hosted Accreditation Matters 2025 for the fourth time, the second time as a 2-day conference. This is an event dedicated to accreditation and conformity assessment activities and is aimed at promoting the value of NATA accreditation and importantly for our members, the value of using accredited conformity assessment bodies.

6. The Year Ahead

The coming year will see a continuation of our work to improve both our internal processes and our outward-facing accreditation processes with a view to making accreditation more efficient and cost-effective for our members and improve our operational agility.

We have a number of on-going projects and others that commenced at the start of the 2026 financial year. For example:

- At the start of FY 2026, we implemented a new process for the management of enquiries for accreditation with a view to improving the engagement with potential new Members and reducing the time frame to application with the ultimate objective to improve the conversion rate of enquiries to accreditation.
- We have also introduced an enhanced process for obtaining feedback on our accreditation process from Members and Technical Assessors.
- Like many businesses, we are hoping to leverage the benefits of AI to streamline our processes and make them more efficient and effective. We made a modest start in 2025 and are hoping to do more in FY26.

All this work is done against a backdrop of ensuring information security and confidentiality, and business continuity. We have a strong commitment to compliance with international standards for information security (ISO 27001) not only to protect internal systems but also to safeguard the interests of our Members, volunteers and stakeholders.

The establishment of the Stakeholder Engagement and Communications business unit last year has seen both a refresh of our approach to stakeholder engagement and its integration with visibility initiatives. For example, NATA became a member of Science Technology Australia in 2024 and as a result, earlier this year, participated in Science Meets Parliament. This puts NATA, accreditation and conformity assessment, in front of politicians on both sides of parliament. As a result, we have bigger plans in the pipeline for Science Meets Parliament 2026.

The team is also working with the University of Technology, Sydney (UTS) to update the 2018 publication Economic Value of NATA Accreditation.

Seven years ago, NATA commissioned the University of Technology Sydney to evaluate the economic impact of accreditation in Australia. Their independent research showed that accreditation contributes over \$1 million each day to our nation's productivity, competitiveness, and confidence.

We have engaged UTS to undertake a fresh study to capture current insights and ensure the ongoing relevance and value of our work. Many of you will have received a survey link; if you have, I encourage you to complete it at your earliest convenience. You may also be invited to participate in a brief Teams interview.

Your participation is important. By contributing your insights, you actively support the ongoing development of accreditation and its value to our community.

The CEO encouraged every member and TA to complete the survey, which can be accessed via the QR codes that were present on the screen.

The CEO also announced the planning Accreditation Matters 2026 which will be held on 7 and 8 July at the Melbourne Convention Centre. We anticipate Accreditation Matters 2026 will be our biggest yet with a diverse and engaging event program and a lineup of international and national speakers. As was the case this year, it will be attended by industry leaders, technical experts, and quality professionals from Australia's and indeed the world's leading technical organisations. It will also be the accreditation and conformity assessment networking event of the year.

There will be many opportunities for those interested to get involved from delivering presentations and participating in key panel sessions, to exhibiting products and services and high value sponsorships.

7. Annual Report

The 2025 Annual Report has been prepared for the NATA Group covering NATA itself and Proficiency Testing Australia, PTA. This report is available on the NATA website.

The Chair noted that the 2025 Annual Report had been presented to the meeting.

8. New Board Appointments

The 2025 Board Elections were held in September and there was a total of three positions up for renewal.

The Board nominated position endorsed by the members was given to Sanmarie' Schelbusch. Sanmarie' has been endorsed for another three year term.

The two remaining candidates were elected from member nominated representatives - Tracey Hoitink and Matthew Tett.

Tracey and Matthew will each serve a three year term.

9. Closing

The Chair thanked all attendees of the 2025 AGM.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 11:45am.