



MEDIA RELEASE

Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand and National Association of Testing Authorities sign Memorandum of Understanding for new accreditation program

19th October, Sydney, Australia – The Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) and the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly administer a new accreditation program.

The MoU will see TSANZ partner with NATA for the accreditation program, to be known as the TSANZ/NATA Respiratory Function Laboratory Accreditation Program.

The program will offer accreditation to respiratory function laboratories for a range of tests that contribute to better health outcomes and treatments for patients with respiratory and lung health conditions.

Under the MoU, TSANZ will be responsible for the Standard and for the provision of technical advice with NATA responsible for the administration of the program, including using peer review as part of the assessment process.

The new TSANZ/NATA Respiratory Function Laboratory Accreditation Program will be based on TSANZ's current standard that is being reviewed and updated in line with the ISO 15189: 2022 standard Medical laboratories - requirements for quality and competence.

It is expected the new accreditation program will come into effect by the end of 2024.

Vincent So, CEO of TSANZ said: "NATA is well known to many of TSANZ's members as it currently provides a similar service to the Australasian Sleep Association with regards to the Sleep Disorders Services Accreditation. This is a logical and efficient step to ensure that an organisation that specialises in accreditation can help TSANZ administer its Standard."

Jennifer Evans, CEO of NATA, said: "NATA is delighted to partner with TSANZ on this new accreditation program which will ultimately benefit Australian and New Zealand patients achieve better outcomes and treatments for their respiratory and lung conditions."

“Accreditation is crucial to ensuring patient safety. Using an accredited facility that competently tests against national and international standards ensures confidence in the results that are being delivered.

“We look forward to developing the new TSANZ/NATA Respiratory Function Laboratory Accreditation Program with TSANZ’ using the ISO 15189: 2022 national and international standard.”

NATA has a number of existing MoUs, including with the Commonwealth of Australia, and State government agencies.

For more information about any of these topics, please visit:

The [Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand website](#)

The [National Association of Testing Authorities website](#)

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Notes to editors:

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About NATA

The National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) provides accreditation for laboratories to ensure testing results can be relied on and trusted. As Australia’s sole internationally recognised accreditation authority, NATA’s role is to uphold the national standards of technical competence for those delivering products or services to the general public. Through its extensive network, NATA provides assessment, accreditation and training services to laboratories and technical facilities.

About TSANZ

The Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) is the only health peak body representing a range of professions (medical specialists, scientists, researchers, academics, nurses, physiotherapists, students and others) across various disciplines within the respiratory/sleep medicine field in Australia and New Zealand. The TSANZ is a Health Promotion Charity committed to improving knowledge and understanding of lung disease, with the ultimate goals being to prevent respiratory illness through research and health promotion and to improve health care for people with respiratory illness.