



## Life Sciences

### Summary of the 7<sup>th</sup> Accreditation Advisory Committee Meeting

The Committee met on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024 and considered the following matters:

- New AAC Members, Ms Doreen Fernandez and Mr Brett Chapman were welcomed to their first meeting.
- US EPA method 1633 *Analysis of PFAS in aqueous, solid, biosolids and tissue samples by LC-MS/MS* has come out of draft and facilities testing for PFAS using this method should ensure that they are familiar with any changes between the draft and final versions of the method.
- A project consolidating various initiatives to develop and further support NATA’s volunteer pool of technical assessors has commenced. This includes the NATA portal, sector forums and webinars, access to Australian Standards online, welcome pack and a revamped Technical Assessor Development Program.
- A new accreditation program for Respiratory Function Laboratories is under development. This will be a joint program with the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand.
- ISO/TC 147 WG26 continues to develop a standard method for detecting SARS-CoV-2 in wastewater.
- A number of issues have been identified with validations undertaken on a range of microbiological methods. A webinar is being prepared to provide updates on ISO and AOAC validation requirements.
- Facilities that have algal analysis on their scopes of accreditation have participated in a survey of cyanobacterial species that are considered as potentially toxic. The AAC is considering how this can best be represented on scopes of accreditation.
- As sequencing technology advances, costs continue to decrease, making it an increasingly attractive option for genomic testing. This technology is increasingly being used in non-diagnostic testing.
- Facilities continue to report unrealistic MU in PT programs. A webinar titled ‘Tips on Evaluating and Assessing Measurement Uncertainty and Traceability’ was organised by RACI on 5th June 2024, attracting over 100 participants.



- Bureau International des Poids et Mesures is working towards the digitalisation of calibration and CRM certificates.
- A review of food categories recognising the complexity of matrices is required in the allergens testing space.
- High throughput sequencing guidance has been developed for plant pathology testing and MALDI -TOF guidance is under development.
- AS 5370 has been published. NATA has advised applicant and accredited facilities of the process to seek accreditation for this new standard. Accreditation will continue to be offered for AS 4964 (2004).