



members

Member Advisory Forum

8th MEETING MINUTES

March 2025
NATA Melbourne Office

Member Advisory Forum (MAF) Meeting Update

The 8th Meeting of the Member Advisory Forum (MAF) was held on **March 25, 2025**, at the NATA Melbourne office and via video conference. The meeting included discussions on various business updates and a roundtable discussion on emerging sectors and untapped opportunities.

MAF members, NATA Board members, and NATA executive and senior staff representatives attended the meeting.

The forum commenced with a warm welcome to the newly appointed members, Dr Christopher Preston, Director of Infrastructure Technologies at CSIRO, and David McNeil, Customer Experience Manager at InfraBuild Steel. Mr McNeil also serves as Co-Chair of the National GS1 Traceability Advisory Group.

Outcomes in relation to the major topics discussed were as follows:

The forum was informed of the transition to the newly established Global Accreditation Cooperation, which will replace the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). This development aims to streamline global accreditation efforts and strengthen mutual recognition arrangements by integrating the current IAF MLA and ILAC MRA into a unified framework.

An update was also provided on the planning and strategy for the Accreditation Matters 2025 conference, scheduled to take place on 30–31 July 2025 at the International Convention Centre (ICC) in Sydney. The event is a key initiative under NATA's strategic plan, aimed at promoting the value of accreditation and fostering engagement across the conformity assessment community.

In addition, the progress was outlined in the NATA 2025 Awards, highlighting their role in recognising excellence, innovation, and collaboration within the accreditation community.

The Workplace Drug Testing Industry Guide was introduced, along with ongoing efforts to develop additional sector-specific resources to support NATA members.

Business updates on the implementation of annual fees and ongoing development within the NATA Education program were presented. The forum discussed these initiatives and contributed valuable feedback, including suggestions for new training courses that offer Continuing Professional Development (CPD) points for engineers and other professionals.

A presentation on the NATA Digital Traceability Project was delivered, which proposes a trial of verifiable accreditation credentials. A proof-of-concept is planned within the next 12 months and may involve collaboration with the Australian Steel Institute. The initiative aligns with international standardisation efforts and supports Australia's digital trade goals under the DFAT Digital Trade Strategy.

Finally, the forum engaged in a roundtable discussion on emerging sectors and untapped opportunities. Areas of interest included microbiome services, particularly faecal microbiota transplants (FMT), workplace and drug testing, biobanking, audiology, and renewable energy manufacturing. Concepts such as provisional accreditation, expedited service models, and engagement with the Tick Council for potential training opportunities were also explored. The discussion underscored the importance of engaging new regulators and adapting to evolving industry trends to ensure NATA's services remain relevant and forward-looking.

These discussions provided valuable insights to support NATA's strategic objectives, particularly in growing stakeholder engagement and expanding into new areas of service.

The next meeting is proposed to take place in October 2025.

NATA Thanks all Forum members for their continuing strategic contribution and looks forward to working together to benefit NATA, its members, and the community.