INDUSTRY GUIDE

bio banking

THE BENEFITS OF USING A NATA ACCREDITED FACILITY

NATA | Accreditation Matters

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biobanking

Biobanks are purpose-built facilities or systems designed to acquire, store and manage biological materials and associated data — whether human, plant or animal — under controlled conditions to ensure their long-term integrity and usability.

The role of a biobank:

Enabling Research:

Biobanks support scientific advancement by providing reliable access to well-characterised biological samples and associated data.

Improving Health Outcomes:

Stored samples help researchers explore the causes of disease, evaluate treatment options and support the development of diagnostic tools.

Informing Personalised Medicine:

By linking biological samples with health and lifestyle data, biobanks contribute to more targeted and effective approaches to care.

why is biobanking important?

Confidence in biobanking starts with accreditation

Biobanking plays an essential role in advancing scientific knowledge across a wide range of disciplines. From health and medical research to biodiversity and agriculture, the demand for reliable biological samples and their associated data is rapidly increasing.

Whether storing blood, plant tissue or microbial strains, biobanks must ensure materials are consistently handled, appropriately stored and accurately documented. Reliability and traceability underpin the confidence researchers, clinicians and other stakeholders place in biobanked materials.

That's where NATA accreditation, which includes assessment against the international standard **ISO 20387:2018– General requirements for biobanking,** makes a difference.

NATA is also recognised by the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) as one of the few accreditation bodies worldwide whose biobank accreditation is accepted under a mutual recognition arrangement (MRA), further reinforcing international confidence in accredited biobanking practices.

why ISO 20387 matters

Published in 2018, ISO 20387 is the first international standard to address biobanking holistically. It covers all core activities - from collection and preparation to preservation and distribution of biological materials and associated data.
The standard applies to materials derived from:

humans

animals

plants

fungi

microorganisms

Compliance to the standard promotes long-term traceability and consistent quality control of associated measurement data and donor demographics. Maintaining a high level of accuracy and reliability in both the data itself and the process used to collect it.

ISO 20387 provides a structured framework that supports both technical requirements and organisational management - delivering a well-rounded system of assurance.

accreditation to ISO 20387

Accreditation provides third-party confirmation that a biobank meets ISO 20387 requirements for competence, impartiality and operational consistency.

NATA's team of technical experts conducts peer - assessments of biobank processes, personnel, facilities and systems to evaluate compliance. Accreditation decisions are independently reviewed, ensuring objectivity and integrity.

To remain accredited, biobanks must undergo regular reassessments to ensure ongoing compliance to the standard.

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the benefits of accreditation

Accreditation demonstrates a biobank's capability to manage critical functions including:

Acquisition and transport of samples

Preservation and storage

Quality assurance and data integrity

Traceability and compliance

It helps organisations streamline operations, identify improvements and reduce risk. Importantly, accreditation boosts stakeholder confidence — whether for internal quality assurance or external collaboration.

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supporting research, advancing science

Whether a biobank collects a single sample or a thousand, the way the samples are handled can be critical to achieving reliable research and reproducibility. Accreditation helps ensure that materials are fit for purpose and meet the highest standards of reliability and consistency.

NATA accreditation provides peace of mind that your biobank:

- operates with integrity
- maintains robust procedures
- delivers reproducible results

Accreditation matters. Choose confidence with NATA.

Looking to get accredited or want to find an accredited biobank?

Visit www.nata.com.au or contact us at 1800 621 666 | corpcomm@nata.com.au