



ACCREDITATION MATTERS

2025

SPEAKERS



NAOMI AITKEN | NATA Education & Advisory Services

General Manager

Naomi is a dedicated and innovative Learning and Development expert who strives for excellence and leadership. She is motivated by achievement and guided by strong values including dedication to client focus and quality. Naomi is regarded as a strong leader with integrity who walks the talk but also allows her team to feel trusted, guided and supported to reach their full potential and in turn deliver exceptional results. Her experience spans over 25 years as a Facilitator, General Manager and a Change Consultant enabling her to see opportunities for improvement and to challenge the status quo. As General Manager of NATA Education & Advisory Services Naomi provides advice to organisations and works with course participants to design and deliver learning that realises outcomes that make a difference.



ALI AKBARI | Gradient Institute

Director Of AI Practice

Dr. Ali Akbari is the Director of AI Practice at Gradient Institute. With a PhD in Computer Vision from Tokyo Institute of Technology, he brings over 20 years of experience building operational AI systems across sectors such as banking, government, transportation, and manufacturing. His work spans robotics, computer vision, natural language processing, and biometrics. He has practical experience implementing AI governance frameworks to ensure ethical and responsible application of AI, and contributes to international ISO standards as an AI committee member of Standards Australia.



LUMINITA ANTIN | National Measurement Institute (NMI)

Team Leader Chemical Proficiency Testing (PT) Program

Luminita has a MSc in Environmental Chemistry from Macquarie University and over 20 years' experience as a professional analytical chemist. In her current role she oversees the management of a team of scientists producing reference materials and providing proficiency testing. She is a NATA Technical Assessor in the fields of chemical testing and proficiency testing and has authored or co-authored several peer-reviewed scientific journal publications.



TIM AULT | Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Director Non-Tariff Barriers Strategies Section (NTS)

As Director of DFAT's Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) Strategies Section (NTS), Tim leads implementation of the DFAT-led, whole-of-government Non-Tariff Barriers Strategy to minimise regulatory and technical barriers to trade impacting Australian exporters. The NTS team engages with business leaders from a variety of export sectors to identify and tackle NTBs through bilateral and multilateral negotiations and other mechanisms, including in the World Trade Organization and major economic forums. We work closely with federal and state/territory partners to pressure authorities in key overseas markets to reduce NTBs stemming from trade-restrictive requirements in relation to biosecurity, standards and conformance and environmental sustainability, among others.



ROD BALDING | Standards Australia

Chief Executive Officer

Rod is a people-centric leader with deep expertise in finance, risk management, and governance who joined Standards Australia in 2025. As CEO, Rod brings a strong history of working with organisations of all sizes to drive growth, enhance governance, and foster collaboration across industries. Rod is a passionate advocate for strong governance and stakeholder engagement, having served in key roles with Basketball Australia, Football Australia, and the Australian Sports Foundation. Previously, Rod was a Partner at a large accounting firm, where he held multiple leadership roles with responsibility for Markets & Growth, Operations, Human Capital, and Finance. He led major engagements and collaborated across the financial services and member-based industries, working closely with executive teams and boards to deliver commercial and strategic insights. Rod holds a Bachelor of Business (with Distinction) from the University of Technology, Sydney, and is a member of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand, the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and the Risk Management Institute of Australasia.



CHRIS BARNES | CHOICE Senior Project Officer

With over 20 years' experience working on laboratory projects focused on consumer products, Chris is very familiar with the need for labs to deliver results that are accurate, reliable and – most importantly – actually useful. In addition to managing a wide range of product review tests, he also represents CHOICE on standards committees, manages much of CHOICE's commercial testing and is its NATA Authorised Representative.



CAROLINE BARRETT | GS1 Australia Director - Primary Industries

Caroline previously led the \$15 Million 'Transforming Traceability' program for Agriculture Victoria. She has also led traceability technology pilots in cherries, citrus and table grapes supply chains. Caroline's previous experience includes Corporate Affairs at Mars, Board Member of PrimeSafe (Meat and Seafood Food Safety Regulator) and Veterinarian and Veterinary Pathologist in NATA accredited laboratories.



STEVE BEAMAN | NSW EPA Executive Director, Regulatory Practice and Services

Steve has worked for almost 30 years on developing and implementing policy change and programs, enabling practical solutions to improve the quality of the NSW environment. In 2017 he was awarded a Public Service Medal (PSM) for his outstanding contribution to the environment. He has worked across a diverse range of policy and program areas, including natural resources management, environmental planning and regulation, resource recovery and community programs. His areas of expertise include evidence-based analysis of complex policy issues and delivering innovative regulation programs to protect the community and environment. Steve has a strong interest in the power of building and leveraging strategic relationships with stakeholders to achieve aligned responses in sensitive or contentious environments. He holds a Bachelor of Science and is completing a Master of Emergency Management.



TONY BERGEN | Australian Photometry and Radiometry Laboratory Managing Director

Tony is a physicist who has been working in the field of photometry and radiometry for nearly 30 years. He is Managing Director of the Australian Photometry and Radiometry Laboratory, a NATA-accredited calibration and testing laboratory and consultancy based in Melbourne, and is also Director of two Australian-based companies which design and manufacture testing and measurement equipment. One type of product he has recently become involved in the development of is miniaturised sensors employing machine learning in their programming. Tony is also President of the Metrology Society of Australasia, the peak body for metrologists across Australia and New Zealand. He also serves on three Standards Australia committees; is a former Chair of NATA's Calibration Accreditation Advisory Committee; and is Vice-President Technical of the International Commission on



PAUL BYLEVELD | NSW Health Manager Water Unit

Paul is the Manager of the Water Unit in the Environmental Health Branch of New South Wales Health. He has developed and implemented statewide programs to protect and improve drinking water quality, including services for remote Aboriginal communities through the NSW Aboriginal Communities Water and Sewerage Program. Paul has contributed to the development of the National Health and Medical Research Council Australian Drinking Water Guidelines and the World Health Organization Guidelines for Drinking-water Quality. Paul worked in laboratories before moving into public health and is a 'retired' NATA assessor.



ANDREW CAMILLERI

FSSA

Assistant Director Science & Support

Andrew commenced at FSSA in 1998 and becoming a discipline expert in illicit drugs and illicit drug manufacture including three years as chair of the Australian Illicit Drug Specialist Advisory Group (DrugSAG). He has authored several award-winning papers published in the international scientific literature and has lead national strategies relating to New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and science-based Illicit Drug Harm Reduction.

Progressing into leadership and managerial roles, Andrew has since 2013 occupied the position of Assistant Director Science & Support at FSSA with responsibility for strategic, business and risk planning, university liaison, quality management, scientific research and development of new technologies, information systems, procurement, staff training and development and Work Health & Safety.



CATHY CAROLAN

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre

Regulatory and ICT Manager

Cathy's role includes managing all aspects of the Quality management system for the pathology service and management of information systems, with some involvement in Hospital accreditation and quality improvement. She has over 35 years of experience in public and private pathology, including 21 years in Quality and 12 years as Chief Scientist in Microbiology. This has included quality management of networked laboratories and coordination of clinical trials quality activities. Cathy has a Bachelor of Applied Science in Medical Laboratory Science (RMIT) and a Graduate Diploma in Computing (Monash University). She has been a NATA Technical Assessor for 25 years.



STEWART CARTER

METTLER TOLEDO

LabTec Product Manager

Stewart is a knowledgeable expert in weighing practices, particularly within the context of METTLER TOLEDO's range of products and solutions. With a strong background in chemistry and international business, he provides valuable insights to laboratories on selecting the right balances to meet their specific needs. As an expert in Good Weighing Practice (GWP), Stewart emphasizes the importance of using the most appropriate balance for the application at hand to achieve reliable measurement results. He offers guidance on best practices for routine testing and the digitalisation of weighing processes, making him a trusted resource for laboratories seeking to enhance their analytical capabilities while adhering to GWP standards.



DEAN CATOGGIO

Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency

Assistant Director, National Institute of Forensic Science

Dean is the National Institute of Forensic Science Assistant Director at the Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (ANZPAA NIFS). He oversees operations, including practitioner certification programs and specialist advisory groups. Dean has led cross-jurisdictional projects like the Research and Innovation Roadmap 2020-2025 and a guide to evaluative reporting. Previously, he worked as an audio-video analyst with Victoria Police and has provided testimony in various jurisdictions. He led the Digital and Document Evidence Branch and was a scientific advisor for the 2013 Victoria Police Forensic Operations Review. Dean also chaired the ANZPAA NIFS Electronic Evidence Specialist Advisory Group and initiated an audio-video proficiency test program. He is a NATA technical assessor and Forensic Science Accreditation Advisory Committee member from 2017 to 2024. Additionally, he served as the Victoria Chapter Council Treasurer of the Australian Academy of Forensic Sciences from 2015 to 2022.



VICTOR CHIM

Coregas

Business Development Manager, Specialty Gases and Export

With over 20 years' experience in the specialty gas industry, Victor has worked extensively with laboratories and R&D facilities to provide ultra-high purity and electronic gas delivery solutions. Recently, with the growing demand for ISO 17034-certified reference gas standards, he has been leading Coregas' expansion into the export market. Today, Coregas products are used in over 10 countries, earning high praise for their quality and reliability.



KAREN CIVIDIN | Proficiency Testing Australia

General Manager

After completing a BSc DipEd, Karen began her career with NATA in 1989 working as a Scientific Officer in Proficiency Testing. During this time, she coordinated programs in the fields of Biological and Chemical testing, including the Microbiological Waters Program, Dairy Program and Correlated Fuel Research Scheme. Karen was also involved in establishing the National Asbestos Program (NAP) in 1990, a program she coordinated for many years. When PTA was established in 2006, Karen continued as a Senior Scientific Officer, coordinating numerous proficiency programs across various fields of testing. Karen was appointed to the position of Quality Manager in 2017 a role in which she was responsible for maintaining PTA's Quality Management System and ensuring PTA's continued conformity with the requirements of ISO/IEC 17043. As General Manager, Karen has focused on setting new priorities for PTA and developing a clear vision and strategy for the company's future.



VICTORIA COLEMAN | National Measurement Institute (NMI)

Nanometrology, Section Manager

Victoria is an elected member of the 18-member International Committee for Weights and Measures (CIPM) which was created when the Metre Convention was established in 1875. She is the President of the Consultative Committee for Length, which is the key global body in the field of length metrology. At NMI, Victoria leads a team of metrologists who provide a practical link between the realisation of the SI unit metre and dimensional measurements made at the nanoscale in support of areas such as advanced materials development and nanomedicine. Victoria holds a PhD from the Australian National University in Physics and Materials Science.



BEN DAVIS | Victorian Asbestos Eradication Agency

Chief Executive Officer

Ben leads Victoria's mission to remove asbestos from government-owned buildings in Victoria. Throughout his career, Ben has successfully driven complex negotiations and secured critical outcomes for industry and for government. His expertise, strategic vision and commitment to health and safety brought Ben to the Victorian Asbestos Eradication Agency to deliver meaningful outcomes and a safer future for Victorians.



EMILY DAWSON | Department of Industry, Science and Resources

Acting Manager, Trade Facilitation Section

Emily Dawson is the Acting Manager of the Trade Facilitation Section at the Department of Industry, Science and Resources. She has a background in standards development, having worked at Standards Australia, where she contributed to shaping national and international standards. Her career spans both public and private sectors, including her work with the NABERS program under the NSW Government. In her current role, Emily focuses on government's relationship with the Technical Infrastructure Alliance and promoting Australia's interests in standards and conformance.



ASHLEY DE SILVA | CHOICE

Chief Executive Officer

Ashley has a background in digital innovation and advocacy, Ashley leads a dedicated team that fights to ensure fair, safe and just markets for all consumers in Australia. Before joining CHOICE, he served as the CEO of youth mental health service, ReachOut Australia, where he led significant growth and innovation to improve outcomes for young people and carers, resulting in numerous awards such as the Good Design Award Gold Winner and Not-for-Profit Technology Innovator of the Year. Ashley holds degrees in Business from Monash University, an Executive MBA from the Australian Graduate School of Management, and a Masters of Science in Positive Organisational Development and Change. He serves as Board Director of mental health service Neami National.



JAMES DELLER

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Director, National Residue Survey, Residue Chemistry Laboratory
Performance Evaluation Team

James has nearly 20 years of experience in risk assessment and monitoring of pesticide and veterinary medicines, and was previously with the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority. Among other responsibilities, James is an active member in the Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues and the Codex Committee on Residues and Veterinary Drugs in Food.



NICK DI CRESCE

National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)
Deputy Sector Manager, Materials, Assets & Products (MAP)

Nick Di Cresce is the Deputy Sector Manager for Materials, Assets and Products at NATA. With a background in materials science and engineering, he has international experience in product testing & certification, quality assurance, and civil construction. At NATA, he is responsible for developing accreditation criteria for testing laboratories, implementing technical standards, and stakeholder engagement that spans engineering, manufacturing, and government bodies. He represents NATA on several standards committees including Standards Australia and ISO/IEC for Artificial Intelligence (IT-043 and JTC1/SC42).



DANIELLE DICKER

National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)
Technical Manager

Danielle has almost 20 years of accreditation experience. She is responsible for ensuring the technical integrity of NATA's accreditation programs and services, fulfilling business objectives and obligations. She provides direction and advice to NATA staff and members on technical matters and contributes to the strategic direction of NATA. She represents NATA at various International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) committees and is the convener of the ILAC Scopes of Accreditation and ILAC Sampling working groups. Prior to ILAC she represented NATA for many years at various Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) committees and is also an ILAC and APAC peer evaluator.



ANNETTE DOUGALL

Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
Assistant Director

Annette currently works in the Animal Health Policy Branch, where she supports the development, communication, and implementation of policies and programs aimed at strengthening infectious disease preparedness and response across the national animal health laboratory network. Annette has a strong academic background in parasitology and infectious diseases, and brings extensive research experience to her role. She is passionate about evidence-based decision-making and is committed to fostering the exchange of knowledge and information to inform effective policy outcomes.



JOEL DRISCOLL

Toyota
Senior Energy Solutions Specialist

Joel is responsible for the development and management of exciting new projects that increase Toyota's use of renewable energies and help achieve our sustainability targets. Working at Toyota for 15 years, the last 5 years Joel has been an Energy Specialist with a key focus on Hydrogen Projects. More recently with a focus has been on the compliance, safety and customer engagement for the GEH2 H2 powered genset (which uses a Toyota Fuel cell).



KAREN ECK | The Power of Visibility

General Manager

A visibility strategist, Karen specialises in putting brands and exceptional individuals in the spotlight. With her hallmark energy and enthusiasm, she has built her career on strategically positioning clever and extraordinary people, allowing them to tell their stories. Karen is the founder of publicity agency eckfactor and presenter of The Power of Visibility, which helps subject matter experts and executive leaders build their profiles for better business. She works with organisations to develop a 'culture of visibility', where everyone has a role to play, whether they are C-suite or technical experts on the frontline. Karen is the co-founder of Collabor8Women, a connecting event for professional women.



JOHN EDWARDS | AusHealth

Senior Toxicologist

John is a toxicologist and occupational hygienist with over 30 years' experience in academic teaching and research, and extensive consulting experience in occupational and environmental health. He has been a member and chair of multiple Commonwealth and State committees, advisory groups, and working parties, and is a NATA Technical Assessor and has been an active participant in multiple Standards Australia Committees. Currently at AusHealth providing support services in workplace drug and alcohol testing.



JENNIFER EVANS | National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)

Chief Executive Officer

Jennifer Evans is the Chief Executive Officer of the National Association of Testing Authorities, a position she has held since May 2011. She holds a Bachelor of Applied Science (Medical Laboratory Science) and a Masters of Business Administration. She joined NATA in 1987 as a Scientific Officer (lead assessor) in the newly established program for the accreditation of pathology laboratories. Jennifer established new accreditation programs for laboratories performing paternity testing under the Commonwealth Family Law Regulations and for forensic science laboratories providing services for the criminal justice system and State Coroners, and was appointed Manager of the Forensic Science accreditation program in 1993. In that role, she also made a number of presentations at international forensic science conferences and symposiums, conducted a training course for the FBI's forensic laboratory quality group in Quantico and was the lead assessor in a pre-accreditation evaluation of the FBI's forensic laboratory in Washington DC. In 1998 she was appointed the first Manager of the NATA's Medical Imaging accreditation program and was responsible for the early stages of the development of this program. Throughout this time she performed well over five hundred assessments as a lead assessor.

She was appointed to a senior management position as NATA's Quality Manager in 2001 and to the position of General Manager, Accreditation Services in 2006. In this position she had responsibility for the four major components of NATA's accreditation service - operations, technical, quality management and corporate governance. As CEO, Jennifer has led significant organisational changes including in the areas of accreditation service delivery, ICT, stakeholder engagement and most recently in NATA's communication and messaging. She is currently Chair of the Asia-Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC), a member of APAC's MRA Management Committee, Chair of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Arrangement Management Committee, and a member of the ILAC Executive Committee. She is also a Lead Evaluator for ILAC/APAC evaluations of accreditation bodies for signatory status in Mutual Recognition Agreements.



CATHERINE FARROW | Westmead Respiratory Function Laboratory

Scientific Director

Catherine is the Scientific Director of the Respiratory Function Laboratory at Westmead Hospital. She is an expert in respiratory physiology and lung diseases with over 20 years of experience in clinical science. Catherine is also an active researcher in respiratory diseases and has had multiple publications in peer reviewed journals. She has been involved in multiple committees to develop Australian state and national policies pertaining to COVID19 and safe patient testing.



CATHY FOLEY AO PSM

Australia's Former Chief Scientist

Dr Cathy Foley AO PSM completed her term as Australia's ninth Chief Scientist on 31 December 2024. Before that role, she had an extensive career at Australia's national science agency, the CSIRO, including as the agency's Chief Scientist. During her term as Chief Scientist, Dr Foley led the development of the Quantum Industry National Strategy and the National Science and Research Priorities. Dr Foley is an internationally recognised physicist with major research achievements in superconductors and sensors which lead to the development of the LANDTEM sensor system to locate valuable deposits of minerals deep underground. Dr Foley's scientific excellence and influential leadership have been recognised with numerous awards and fellowships, including election to the Australian Academy of Science in 2020, and an Order of Australia for service to research science and to the advancement of women in physics. She received the Australian Institute of Physics Medal for Outstanding Service to Physics in 2016. She is a Fellow of Australian Academy of Technological Science and Engineering (2008) and an honorary Fellow of the Australian Institute of Physics (2019).



SHELLEY FOX

National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)
Principal Accreditation Specialist

Shelley Fox is a Principal Accreditation Specialist at NATA, bringing over 12 years of service. Throughout her tenure, Shelley has worked in the Human Pathology and Forensics Sectors, evolving from her initial role as a Lead Assessor to Principal Accreditation specialist, serving as a support to an Accreditation Team Leader and performing higher level duties. Most recently, she has had a lead role in NATA's review of its Forensic Science program. Before joining NATA, Shelley worked in the field of pathology, working as a scientist, quality manager, WHS coordinator and operations manager.



MICHAEL FRASER

ILAC
Secretary

Michael is currently the Secretary of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). Prior to this role, which he commenced in January 2024, Michael gained over 34 years' experience in the accreditation of laboratories with the National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA), occupying numerous positions during his tenure. For eight and half years he was the secretary of Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC), one of the four Specialist Regional Bodies (SRB) of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC). During this time, he Chaired several SRB Forum Meetings, liaising directly with the APEC Sub-Committee on Standards and Conformance (APEC SCSC).



MICHELLE FRAZER

X-Lab
Director - Business Development APAC

Michelle has spent her career facilitating large scale improvements to health sectors in Australia and overseas, through the delivery of digital health solutions and services. She is currently the Director of the APAC region for X-Lab Systems, where she is on a mission to solve the delays and errors caused by our disconnected and disparate pathology services, to improve health outcomes and ensure Australia's healthcare system remains sustainable for future generations.

Michelle has a strong understanding of the important role pathology plays in diagnosis and treatment of health issues, having led the introduction of multi-site, single patient record Laboratory Information Management systems into the UK. She is the author of the health chapter of the Australian Information Industry Association's 2021 Whitepaper, which led to the federal government committing to transitioning My Health Record from a clinical document (PDF) repository to a data-rich platform.



COLIN GNIEL

LinkedIn
Head of Government - Australia & Aotearoa NZ

Colin is LinkedIn's Head of Government for Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand, responsible for guiding all aspects of LinkedIn's talent solutions business across Federal, State, and Local Government clients. With over three decades of experience working with the Public Sector, Colin has cultivated a deep understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities facing governments in Australia and the broader Asia Pacific region. His expertise enables him to effectively partner with government organisations to address complex business challenges and deliver impactful solutions. Colin leads and supports the LinkedIn team in their mission to empower government clients through innovative talent management, employee branding, and learning tools. By sharing LinkedIn's distinctive insights and perspectives, Colin helps organisations align their talent strategies with policy and service delivery priorities, ensuring successful adoption of LinkedIn's solutions to meet their needs. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology from the University of Canberra, with majors in Information Systems, Economics, and Marketing.



OLIVIA HALL | Department of Finance Director

Olivia has had an extensive career across the Australian Public Service and in Ministerial offices for over a decade. She served as an advisor in the Employment, Workforce, Skills, Small and Family Business portfolio, and she has worked in a number of policy and delivery areas across the Australian Federal Government including regulatory reform, digital transformation, telecommunications and data policy. Olivia currently leads the Reform Initiatives Team at the Department of Finance – delivering on reforms to lower barriers to the adoption of international and overseas standards and improve the efficiency of worker screening processes.



JAN HERRMANN | National Measurement Institute (NMI) General Manager, Physical Metrology

Dr Jan Herrmann leads the Physical Metrology Branch at the National Measurement Institute (NMI) within the Department of Industry, Science and Resources. From atomic clocks to supermarket scales, from quantum electrical standards to petrol bowsers, our work gives Australian businesses, consumers and government stakeholders confidence in the accuracy of the measurements they rely on everywhere, every day. A physicist by training, with a PhD from the University of Leipzig, Germany, followed by post-docs at UC San Diego and at CSIRO, Dr Herrmann helped establish NMI's measurement capabilities supporting



CHRISTINE HIRST | Proficiency Testing Australia Senior Scientific Officer

Christine brings nearly 30 years of experience in proficiency testing. After earning her degree (Bachelor of Technology – Environmental Geochemistry) from Macquarie University, Christine commenced her employment with NATA in 1995, in the field of Proficiency Testing. During this time, she has coordinated a range of PT programs in the Chemical and Biological Testing fields, continuing this role when PTA was established in 2006. Her key area of focus throughout her career has been the Asbestos Proficiency Testing programs, where she has led the National Asbestos Program (NAP)/Fibre Counting, the Asbestos Identifica-



DIANE HOBDAY | National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) Sector Manager, Materials, Assets & Products (MAP)

At NATA, Diane is responsible for implementing technical standards in the engineering, manufacturing, and extractive industries. Since joining NATA in 2008, Diane has worked with several standards across three different industry Sectors. She is an experienced and passionate quality systems professional whose work with implementing and assessing quality frameworks started in the early 1990s. Diane believes that a robust quality system, used by staff at all levels of an organisation, mitigates risk to the organisation, and supports the national technical infrastructure by providing confidence to decision makers who rely on endorsed test reports.



ANNE HOFSTRA | IANZ Senior Operations Manager

Anne brings over 26 years of experience in the accreditation of laboratories and related conformity assessment bodies. With a background in industrial chemistry, she oversees sector programmes under ISO/IEC 17025, including life sciences, mechanical testing, gas cylinder testing, calibration and metrology, proficiency testing providers, and reference material producers. Anne is a Lead Evaluator for APAC and currently serves on the APAC Executive, where she contributes to regional alignment and quality infrastructure development. She is widely respected for her technical expertise and collaborative leadership.



NEIL HORTON

NSW Health Pathology
Operations Manager

Neil has so far clocked up 40 plus years as a Medical Scientist. The large majority of that time as a Laboratory, Quality or Operations Manager in the New England region of NSW. He has over 30 years' experience as a NATA Technical Assessor and is currently a member of NATA Advisory board for the last 7 years as a representative of AIMS. Neil is a passionate and long serving National Board Member of AIMS and is always keen to give back to the profession he loves. While not claiming to be an expert in anything, he feels that he can give a particular perspective in relation to regional pathology services and the changes that accreditation has been through from the late 1980's till now.



BRETT HYLAND

National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)
Stakeholder Engagement Manager

Dr. Ali Akbari is the Director of AI Practice at Gradient Institute. With a PhD in Computer Vision from Tokyo Institute of Technology, Brett brings a broad perspective to compliance and safety matters with a career that has included laboratory management, certification delivery, technical management of accreditation operations, regulatory engagement and varied international representations. Brett has led hundreds of third-party evaluations of laboratories, inspection bodies and accreditation bodies. Brett has also led national and international activities aimed at defining standard protocols for handling conformity data, within the context of digital trade systems. This includes his role as a Project Lead at the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business.



AURELIE JACQUET

Director of Ethical AI Consulting, & Chair of the Australian ISO
mirror committee on AI

Aurélié is the Director of Ethical AI Consulting, where she advises companies in Australia and internationally on the responsible implementation of artificial intelligence. She serves as a member of the Federal Government's AI Expert Group advising on the options for mandatory guardrails for AI in High-Risk settings, and acted as Principal Research Consultant on Responsible AI for CSIRO-DATA61, where she was instrumental in shaping Australia's Voluntary AI Safety Standard. Her leadership extends to significant global AI initiatives, as she chairs the committee representing Australia at the ISO International Standards on Artificial Intelligence and serves as an expert advisor for the OECD on AI. She also advised on international certification initiative led under WEF's umbrella and was appointed as an Expert for the European Commission as part of their international outreach on AI. Amongst the awards she received, she has been recognized as one of the 100 Brilliant Women in AI Ethics globally by Women in AI Ethics (WAIE).



WODEK JAKUBIK

Coregas
Innovation Manager

Wodek has more than 30 years' international experience in all aspects of industrial gases. Wodek has extensive experience in industrial and specialty gases applications, production, and end user installations. As a member of Coregas' senior leadership team, Wodek is responsible for fostering strategic relationships and supporting practical opportunities to increase the momentum towards Australia's hydrogen future. The projects included installation of first Australian refuelling station at Hyundai Head Office, HESC: first shipment of liquefied hydrogen to Japan, and first Australian heavy vehicles refuelling station in Port Kembla, hydrogen to power trials, hydrogen drones and planes.



BRENDAN KENNEDY

Sydney Children's Hospital Network, Westmead
Scientific Director, Respiratory Function Unit

Brendan has more than 20 years' experience in Pulmonary Function testing. Brendan is very passionate about all aspects of Spirometry and has a strong interest in exercise physiology. Brendan has served on the ANZSRS Board, the Laboratory Accreditation Quality Committee (TSANZ) and more recently on the steering committee for the new TSANZ NATA Respiratory Function Laboratory Accreditation Program.



ANNMAREE KENNY

National Measurement Institute (NMI)
Project Scientist, Chemical Reference Values Team

Annmaree holds a Bachelor of Science from The University of Sydney and has been with NMI since 2022. Working in a NATA accredited laboratory, Annmaree develops and applies high accuracy reference methods to certify matrix reference materials, assign reference values for proficiency testing programs and participate in international comparison studies.



PETER KEY

Australian Steel Institute
National Technical Development Manager

Peter's academic achievements include a Bachelor of Engineering from The University of Sydney with 1st Class Honours and University Medal (prox acc). Postgraduate qualifications include a Doctor of Philosophy from The University of Sydney. Peter is a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers Australia and, before joining ASI, had worked for more than 25 years in the design and construct arena, specialising in large span steel structures. He sits on numerous steel related Standards committees and is a member of the EA Civil and Structures panel in Sydney. Peter is author of a range of technical publications for ASI, including the Structural Steelwork Fabrication and Erection Code of Practice, design of hollow section connections and updates to design capacity tables. Recent initiatives that Peter has been involved in include drafting lead for the new AS/NZS 5131 'Structural steelwork - fabrication and erection', drafting of the new ASI 'National Structural Steelwork Specification' and development and implementation of the ASI 'National Structural Steelwork Compliance Scheme'. Peter also managed publication of the 'Practical Guide to planning the safe erection of steel structures' in partnership with Multiplex. Peter is currently drafting lead and chair for the connections working group for Standards committee BD001 undertaking a major revision of our steel design Standard AS 4100.



THARIEN KLAUMANN-S-MOLLER

**National Association
of Testing Authorities (NATA)**
Accreditation Development Manager

Tharien is the Accreditation Development Manager at NATA, bringing over 20 years of experience in accreditation and assessment. Since joining NATA in 2008, in Human Pathology, she has held several key roles supporting the organisation's mission. In her current position, she leads strategic initiatives in staff recruitment, training, and competency development, driving best practices in accreditation across Australia.



TAMMY LAKELAND

Eurofins
Regional Quality Manager

Tammy has overseen over 80 NATA and 15 IANZ assessments in her 10 years as Regional Quality Manager for Eurofins Environment Testing. Armed with a Bachelor of Applied Science (Analytical Chemistry) from Charles Sturt University, Tammy began her career accruing over a decade of experience in various chemistry laboratory roles. After switching the lab coat for a desk, Tammy has developed a keen interest in helping expand, troubleshooting and improve upon quality management systems.

In her Authorised Representative role, she has worked through initial assessments, reassessments, variations, DTVs, laboratory re-locations and new acquisition quality system merges. Current NATA scopes of accreditation held by Eurofins Environment Testing in Australia include Chemistry, Microbiology, Microscopy, Sampling and Mycology fields.



BABAK LATIF

Therapeutic Goods Administration
Senior Technical Lead, Devices In Vitro Diagnostics section

Babak holds a PhD in Biotechnology and is a seasoned expert in molecular diagnostics and clinical genomics, with over a decade of experience in the MedTech and Diagnostics industries. As a Senior Technical Lead in the IVD section at the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), he is responsible for making delegated decisions regarding the approval of IVD medical devices. He has significantly contributed to regulatory reform projects, provided technical advice on IVD-related matters, and represented the TGA in international working groups. Prior to his role at the TGA, Dr. Latif successfully led projects in the validation of in-house tests as a Medical Laboratory Scientist. He also managed several product design and development initiatives in IVD companies and has experience undertaking technical evaluations and conformity assessments for IVD medical devices at overseas regulatory bodies.



MATTHEW LEWIS

NATA Education & Advisory Services
Senior Learning and Development Trainer

Matthew is a seasoned education professional with over 15 years of experience in laboratory management and education. Before joining NATA (and now NATA Education & Advisory Services), he worked with the Victorian Department of Education to update science education approaches and improve learning outcomes through accessible, high-impact online platforms. He partnered with secondary teachers to implement learning management systems that enhanced digital education capabilities, while helping redesign curricula delivery using evidence-based learning theories. Matthew combines his passion for educational innovation with practical applications tailored specifically for testing professionals. His commitment to result-oriented workforce development work hand-in-hand with his industry experience in the delivery of high-quality learning solutions that enhance outcomes and foster continuous improvement. At the heart of Matthew's work is a commitment to adapting education to



CLAIRE LILLEE

National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)
Accreditation Specialist

Dr. Ali Akbari is the Director of AI Practice at Gradient Institute. With a PhD in Computer Vision from Tokyo Institute of Claire is a highly motivated and accomplished scientific professional with over two decades of experience across human pathology, genetic diagnostics, and laboratory quality management. With a strong foundation in genetics and cytogenetics, she has built a career around delivering high-quality, patient-focused services while maintaining rigorous compliance with accreditation standards such as ISO 15189 and ISO 17025. Her career spans leadership roles in operational management, quality and risk, and accreditation, where she has demonstrated my ability to lead teams, manage complex projects, and drive continuous improvement. She thrives in environments that value innovation, collaboration, and excellence in service delivery, and I am passionate about contributing to the future of diagnostic science through quality systems and regulatory expertise.



ADRIAN LINACRE

Flinders University
Chair in Forensic DNA Technologies

Adrian has worked in forensic science since 1994 when he started at Strathclyde University in Glasgow, Scotland. Before that he gained a BSc at Edinburgh University in Zoology and a D.Phil. in Molecular Neurobiology at the University of Sussex. The role at Strathclyde University was to lecture, research and perform operational casework for the courts. He gained registration in the areas of blood pattern, body fluids and DNA; authoring over 500 cases for the court and presenting evidence in over 100 cases in court. In 2010 he relocated to Flinders University in Adelaide to take up a Chair in DNA Technologies. The role has been to work with Forensic Science SA to develop research projects of mutual interest to assist with issues arising in casework. He has authored over 200 publications in peer-reviewed journals and co-authored two textbooks.



CATRIONA LOWE

Australian Competition & Consumer Commission
Deputy Chair

Catriona was appointed by the Governor General to the position of ACCC Deputy Chair for a 5-year term on 27 January 2023. On 19 June 2023 Catriona commenced as an Associate Member of the Australian Communications and Media Authority. Catriona chairs the Compliance and Product Safety Committee, and is a member of the Competition Exemptions, Consumer Data Right and Enforcement Committees and the Digital Platforms, Financial Services Inquiry, Child Care Inquiry, Electricity Markets Inquiry and East Coast Gas Market Boards. For over 20 years Catriona has had a strong commitment to consumer issues and protection of consumer rights in her varied roles as a regulator, litigator and consumer advocate. Before joining the ACCC, Catriona was a Board Member of the Australian Energy Regulator from February 2020. She has also held a non-Executive director role on a range of boards, including the Australian Financial Complaints Authority, the Financial Adviser Standards and Ethics Authority and the Telecommunications Industry Ombudsman. Catriona was also principal of a consumer-focused consulting practice. From 2006 to 2013, Catriona was Co-CEO of the Consumer Action Law Centre. She has also held senior roles with the Consumers' Federation of Australia and the ACCC. Over the years Catriona has worked extensively on matters involving consumer focused regulation,



DAVID MAHAFFEY

Mahaffey Associates Pty Ltd
Managing Director

David has decades of experience in materials testing on both new and existing structures, and has a clear understating of the key role that testing plays in the successful delivery of construction projects. He has a degree in civil engineering from University of Technology. He is also a representative on a number of standards committees for Standards Australia, has contributed to the Durability Committee of the Concrete Institute of Australia, and is an Honorary Life Member of the Australian Concrete Repair Association. Mahaffey Associates was established in 1978 and has operated a NATA accredited construction materials testing laboratory since that time. David has specialised in the field of construction materials technology since he joined the firm in 1984 and has management control of the laboratory. In 2021, Mahaffey Associates received accreditation for inspection services in accordance with ISO 17020.



AMIR MARASHI

Digital Health CRC
Data Scientist

Dr Amir Marashi is a health data scientist specialising in machine learning, synthetic data, and digital health innovation. He holds a PhD in predictive modelling on health data and has led impactful research across academia, government, and industry - including the University of Sydney, NSW Health, and the Digital Health CRC. His work focuses on privacy-preserving synthetic data pipelines, governance frameworks, and translating AI research into real-world healthcare applications. Amir brings a unique blend of technical expertise and strategic insight to digital health, with a strong commitment to making data more secure, accessible, and impactful. Outside of work, he enjoys Persian calligraphy, origami, and exploring the intersections between art and philosophy.



MADDIE MASSY

ABC
Science Communicator and Presenter

Maddie is a science communicator and presenter. Her mission is to connect people, particularly the younger generations, with the science that underpins all of our lives. Maddie started out in biomedical research, working in labs around the world focusing on cancer immunology, gut parasites and COVID-19. Now, Maddie works as a presenter and producer at the ABC, producing informative social media and audio content for the ABC's Gen Z and Millennial audiences. Maddie also shares science videos on YouTube, TikTok and Instagram as @maddiemassy, which have been viewed over 35 million times. Her videos explore the science behind everything, from why plastic chopping boards are a bad idea, to why you shouldn't pet a platypus. Maddie is also passionate about empowering science-based organisations to connect with the community, build their communication skills, and better leverage social media.



SHARON MAWHINNEY

IANZ
Senior Operations Manager, Healthcare Program

Sharon oversees Medical Imaging, Medical Testing, and the development of the new Te Paerewa Recognition Programme. She joined the IANZ Healthcare team in 2011, bringing with her 23 years of experience in New Zealand's Medical Imaging sector across both public and private environments, in clinical and senior leadership roles. Sharon has extensive expertise in leadership and clinical applications across healthcare, and maintains strong relationships with healthcare stakeholders and within the regulatory environment. She is also actively involved in the APAC Working Group for Medical Testing Laboratories. Sharon is passionate about enhancing the client experience and delivering outstanding service to the people of New Zealand, and is a driving force behind continuous improvement, growth, and development within IANZ.



PAUL MCMULLEN

National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)
Sector Manager, Calibration

Paul has more than 25 years' experience in measurement technology, calibration and accreditation. He is responsible for supporting the technical integrity of NATA's accreditation activities in calibration, proficiency testing providers and reference material producers. Paul is on the Executive Committee for the Metrology Society of Australasia, an association of professional metrologists, engineers, scientists, technicians and measurement experts throughout Australia, New Zealand. He is also a member of the Australian Acoustical Society. As part of his role Paul participates at several International Bodies, the Convener of the Reference Material Working Group for the Asia Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (APAC) and member of the technical committees for Calibration, RMP and PTP committees at both APAC and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). Additionally, He participated at the ISO Standards Committees for Conformity Assessment, CASCO during the revision of ISO/IEC 17043 for proficiency testing providers and the ISO is a member of the ISO committee for Reference Materials, TC-335.



DAVID MCNEIL

Infrabuild
Customer Experience Manager

David boasts 44 years in steel manufacturing, sales, and distribution in Australasia. With that experience he has a deep understanding of customer dynamics across Australia and New Zealand, with a focus on streamlining business processes through innovative initiatives such as self-service platforms through to full B2B integrations, complemented by standard product tags utilizing GS1 symbology and RFID technology to enhance supply chain efficiency. Recently, David has prioritised digitising InfraBuild's products and services, notably the unique identification of Mill Test Certificates. This emphasis aligns with global recognition of the critical importance of digital product-to-certification linkage, as evidenced by UNECE's Recommendation No. 49 in establishing trust through digital verification at scale. Additionally, as Co-Chair of the National GS1 Traceability Advisory Group (NGTAG), McNeil actively contributes to enhancing supply chain traceability, fostering global competitiveness, sustainable growth, and positive socio-economic outcomes for the Australian community.



MARTIN MICHELOT | TIC Council, Europe Executive Director

Martin leads the TIC Council, Europe's advocacy work towards the European Union and coordinates global advocacy on product testing and certification issues. A graduate in international relations and European Affairs from Sciences Po Lyon, Martin was previously Deputy Director of EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, a Prague-based think tank focusing on European affairs, where he provided strategic advice to governments on various EU issues. He has also worked for the Institut Jacques Delors, the German Marshall Fund of the United States, and the Brookings Institution in various research positions on transatlantic relations and European integration issues.



ASHRAF MINA | NSW Health Pathology Principal Scientist

Ashraf has an extensive 38-year career specialising in analytical and clinical services, change management, workflow redesign, research, education, strategic planning, and financial management within complex, multi-layered organisations. His expertise spans both teaching hospitals and the private sector, where he has successfully led initiatives to optimise operations and drive innovation.

As an accomplished academic, Ashraf serves as a reviewer for numerous international journals. He has authored multiple articles published in peer-reviewed journals and shared his research at national and international conferences. Additionally, he is an expert witness in court cases, offering specialised knowledge and insights tailored to each case. Ashraf has played a key role in numerous scientific societies and organisations in Australia, holding leadership positions and contributing to their growth. He has also served on various national and international committees, working collaboratively to advance the field of science and healthcare.



MARIAM MNATSAKANYAN | AirLabOne Founder & Chief Executive Officer

Mariam holds a PhD in Chemistry with Postdoctoral expertise in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Pharmacology. She has collaborated with leading institutions, including the University of Geneva, the University of Sydney, Nestlé, and CSIRO. A recipient of the prestigious Horizon H2020 fellowship for her research on cloud-based lab infrastructure and an NVIDIA Inception recognition for her invention in digital twin med-lab devices, she now leads AirLabOne. The company is pioneering smart digital twins that are transforming remote lab operations. AirLabOne aims to enhance existing lab infrastructure by integrating digital capabilities that drive sustainability, ensure compliance, and foster global trade collaborations.



BRENDON MOO | National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) Head of Strategic Engagement & Communications

Brendon joined NATA in 2021 following more than 20 years' working in the fast-paced Australian entertainment and media industry. A former journalist, he is a highly respected senior executive, marketer, content expert and communications professional, having had senior management roles for Australia's biggest media companies including Foxtel, FOX SPORTS, Presto, the Nine Network, SBS and News Corporation Australia. He has successfully launched and promoted multiple services, consumer products and tent pole content. His career highlights include General Manager for award-winning subscription television brands The History Channel, The Comedy Channel and FOX8, launching the FOX CRICKET Channel for FOX SPORTS, commissioning hits such as The Real Housewives of Melbourne, Australia's Next Top Model and The Recruit, overseeing pay-per-view events such as Joy Jones Jr v Danny Green and being a producer at the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games. As NATA's Head of Strategic Engagement and Communications, he is responsible for the Stakeholder Engagement, Marketing and Communications and Business Development teams.



ANGELO MORENO | LabWare Oceania Sales Executive

Angelo is an international senior sales executive with over 10 years at LabWare, a global leader in laboratory informatics solutions that empower laboratory managers, scientists, and analysts to work efficiently, accurately, and in compliance. He currently serves as a Sales Executive for LabWare Oceania. Angelo has partnered with organizations across various industries, helping them optimise laboratory operations in compliance with local and international standards.



ROB MYLES

Australian Mobile Telecommunications Association (AMTA)
RF Safety Program Manager

Rob is a telecommunication industry veteran with 25 years of specialisation in design, compliance, and management of mobile phone sites.



KEREN NATALIA

SmartQMS
Director and Principal Consultant

Keren has over 15 years of quality management experience in the medtech and biotechnology sectors. Her experience spans a wide range of products and services, including orthopaedics, biologics, genomics, telehealth, and IVDs. With a solid foundation in biotechnology and quality, she has honed her expertise in creating efficient, user-friendly quality systems that drive success and innovation. Keren is passionate about fostering a culture where quality is more than just a checkbox, and helping businesses of all sizes navigate the complexities of compliance with ease. With her expertise, Keren has established enduring partnerships with top-tier institutions, serving laboratories within University of New South Wales, Garvan Institute of Medical Research, and Telethon Kids Institute. Ultimately Keren's goal is to empower organisations to achieve more while keeping things simple, offering tailored, practical solutions that translate into real-world impact.



GEORGIA NEWTON

Pathfindr AI
AI Innovation Consultant

Georgia bridges the complex world of artificial intelligence (AI) with practical business solutions. With experience across Australia, Europe, Asia and North America, she brings fresh insight to business challenges others often miss. Georgia has a rare talent for making technology work for real people, developing human-first digital solutions across sectors such as healthcare, government, climate tech, education and financial services. Rather than getting lost in technical jargon, she focuses on what matters most: real-world results that drive business value. Her straightforward approach cuts through complexity, helping organisations not only gather critical information but understand what it means for their future. Georgia's no-nonsense methodology enables smarter, faster decision-making—something every industry needs in today's fast-changing landscape. As a trusted adviser at the intersection of business strategy and AI, Georgia helps organisations reimagine how they use technology to solve their most pressing challenges.



SADEGH NIAZI

Western Sydney University
Lecturer in Environmental Health, School of Science

Sadegh is a Lecturer in Environmental Health at Western Sydney University and a registered member of Environmental Health Australia (EHA). His research focuses on environmental risks to human health, with a particular emphasis on air quality, pollution exposure, and environmental monitoring. He brings strong laboratory expertise in microbiology, chemistry, and aerosol science, supporting a multidisciplinary approach to addressing complex scientific challenges. Sadegh coordinates the Laboratory Quality Management unit, embedding national and international standards into science education. The unit is closely aligned with the principles of quality assurance and technical competence endorsed by the NATA, reflecting an ongoing collaborative relationship. His work advances laboratory practice through a commitment to continuous quality improvement.



IAN OPPERMANN

Commonwealth Data Standards Chair;
Co Founder ServiceGen, Industry Professor UTS

Ian is a Member of the Board for multiple deep technology start-ups. He is also the Chair of the Commonwealth's Data Standards Committee and an Advisor to the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change. From 2015 to 2023, Ian was the NSW Government's inaugural Chief Data Scientist (CDS) and was the founding CEO of the NSW Data Analytics Centre (DAC).



SANDEEP PATHAK

National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)
Business Development Manager

Sandeep joined NATA in 2024 and is a seasoned Business Development and Strategy leader with extensive experience across Financial, Tech, Consultancy, and Construction sectors. He excels in driving growth through customer acquisition, brand building and strategic engagement. With a strong background in stakeholder management, project leadership, and digital marketing, he develops and executes high-impact Go-To-Market strategies that enhance brand reputation and exceed commercial objectives. His ability to align business strategy with marketing execution has resulted in sustained revenue growth and market leadership for various organisations.



MATTHEW PITT

Joint Accreditation System of Australia
and New Zealand (JASANZ)
Technical Manager

Matthew is a regulatory toxicologist and occupational hygienist, with almost 20 years' experience advising government on agvet chemical toxicology and medical devices. He joined JASANZ in 2016 and helped develop the NDIS Approved Quality Auditor Scheme and was appointed Technical Manager in 2021 overseeing scheme development, endorsement and review. Matt holds BBiotechnology (Hons) and Master of Public Health degrees. He was an ACT Finalist in the 2011 Young Australian of the Year Awards for his work as co-founder and Chair of the patient advocacy group Brain Tumour Alliance Australia. He is an APAC Peer Evaluator (QMS & MDQMS), Head Delegate for the IECQ, IEEE, and IECRE CA Systems, and the CodeMark Australia Scheme Administrator. In mid 2025, Matt was appointed incoming Chair of the Standards Australia Committee QR-10 (Standards Australia mirror Committee for ISO/CASCO and IEC CAB).



CHRISTOPHER PRESTON

CSIRO
Director, Infrastructure Technologies

Dr Christopher Preston is the Director of CSIRO's Infrastructure Technologies which provides testing, certification, accreditation and consulting services to a range of industries, focussed primarily on the building construction and transport sectors. Infrastructure Technologies provides laboratory testing and certification related to a wide range fire safety products and systems, fire safety engineering consultancy and testing, building acoustics and materials performance testing. Laboratories within Infrastructure Technologies operate quality management systems supporting recognised 3rd party accreditation of the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA). Infrastructure Technologies operates product certification schemes for fire detection, alarm, emergency warning and suppression systems (ActivFire), and industrial paints and coatings products (Australian Paint Approval Scheme - APAS), and an accreditation scheme for applicators (Painting Contractor Certification Program - PCCP). Dr Preston is a member of several Australian Standard and International Standards Organisation (ISO) committees in the areas of fire protection, and a member of Fire Protection Association of Australia Technical Committees related to the areas for which CSIRO provides evaluation and certification of products and represents CSIRO on the ABCB Building Codes Committee.



BRODIE QUINE

National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)
Principal Accreditation Specialist

Brodie has been with NATA for the past 4 years working within a range of sectors from Sleep Disorders Services to Medical Imaging and Biobanking. Brodie is also an active member within the Standards Australia and International Standards committee's for Biotechnology, where she works closely with international members from within the Biobanking field. She holds a Bachelor of Science from the University of Queensland, and has a background within Medical Research with ten years' experience prior to joining NATA.



Praveen Rao

C-PRAV Labs & Certification
CEO & Technical Director

Praveen is a seasoned engineering professional with over 30 years of expertise in electrical product compliance, Standards, Regulations, Testing and certification. He has led technical and managerial roles across consumer, industrial, IT, telecom, defence, medical, and automotive industries. As the Founder, CEO, and Technical Director of C-PRAV Group with offices in Australia, New Zealand, India and Canada. Headquartered in Melbourne, C-PRAV Test lab is ISO 17025 NATA accredited for EMC, electrical Safety testing. C-PRAV Certifications offers its unique services of helping local manufacturers certify their product and hence access to sell in any country on the globe. Praveen spearheads global regulatory approvals and end-to-end compliance management with his extensive experience in EMC Industry since 1992. His global certifications involvement comes from working with Fujitsu Australia Ltd for 21 years where he managed product testing and certifications across multiple international markets. Praveen is an active member of Australian and International standards committees, including IEC, CISPR, and IEEE. He is the current chair of the Australian Standards committee TE003. He also serves as a technical assessor for NATA and IANZ. A recognized authority in product compliance. He continues to drive innovation in regulatory testing, ensuring seamless global market access for electronic products. He has been an active member of the USA's FCC/TCB Council since 2006 and also at the European REDCA.



TODD RATTANAKONE

National Measurement Institute (NMI)
Organic Chemist

Dr. Ali Akbari is the Director of AI Practice at Gradient Institute. With a PhD in Computer Vision from Tokyo Institute of Technology, Todd is currently an Organic Chemist for the National Measurement Institute's Analytical Services Branch (NMI, ASB). Todd has experience in the chemical analysis of a wide range of chemicals in food, pharmaceutical and environmental matrices. Todd started his career with pesticide residues analysis and PFAS targeted analysis using LC-MS/MS and HRMS-LC Orbitrap techniques. Todd has interests in PFAS analysis which also includes alternative methods for measuring PFAS with sum parameter analysis using combustion ion chromatography.



KAREEN RILEY-TAKOS

Standards Australia
Chief Operating Officer

Kareen Riley-Takos is the Chief Operations Officer at Standards Australia, leading the key areas of national and international standards development and publishing, as well as e-commerce and customer success. Since joining Standards Australia in 2009, Kareen has held numerous leadership positions across the business, primarily focussed on innovation in standards development and content delivery. Kareen has also been responsible for driving digital transformation at Standards Australia, enabling the delivery of increased value to customers, productivity, and growth for the organisation. Kareen is actively involved in various governance groups within the International Organisation for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) to drive positive outcomes for the international communities they serve, including Australian stakeholders, and customers. Prior to joining Standards Australia, Kareen held senior positions with peak industry organisations where she specialised in supporting, promoting, and advocating public policy interests for the shipping and infrastructure industries. Kareen commenced her career as an intellectual property lawyer in Brazil.



SAMANTHA ROWE

National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)
Lead Accreditation Specialist

Sam joined NATA in November 2022 as an Accreditation Specialist after 35 years of working in the Pathology industry across Victoria and Queensland in both the public and private sector laboratories. The changes and innovation over her working time has seen pathology laboratories expand in their testing and automation with the routine and specialised testing. Since joining NATA, Sam has had the opportunity to see the wider NATA universe of accreditation and is looking forward to sharing some of the more unusual testing NATA assessors review and accredit across all the sectors.



JAMES RULE

BinaryMed
Head of Technology

At BinaryMed James leads the design and development of IoT-based monitoring solutions for pathology logistics. With a Bachelors Degree in Information Technology, a background in network design and embedded software and a track record of innovation across sectors, James bridges technology and healthcare to help NATA accredited laboratories achieve greater traceability, compliance, and operational insight.



BEN RUSSELL

Standards Australia

Engagement Manager, Consumer Products & Safety

Ben's role at Standards Australia is to manage and encourage engagement between consumers, government, industry and the standards development process, nationally and internationally. This includes assisting in the process of creating proposals for new standards and changes to existing ones, as well as continuously work with the community to help get the right stakeholders onto technical committees.



MELINDA SAMPSON

IANZ

Senior Operations Manager

With over seven years at IANZ, New Zealand's national accreditation body, and prior experience managing an accredited laboratory, Melinda brings a practical and collaborative approach to building robust, outcomes-focused accreditation systems. She is the current Convener of the APAC Inspection Working Group and serves as APAC's liaison to ILAC for inspection, playing an active role in shaping international standards and harmonisation efforts across the region. Melinda is passionate about unlocking team potential and working collaboratively with stakeholders to drive improvement, build capability, and enhance trust in inspection outcomes.



SANMARIÉ SCHLEBUSCH

National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)

NATA Chair, Medical Director Microbiology, Virology, and
Genomics Pathology Queensland

Sanmarié is an experienced medical practitioner and pathologist who brings insights in clinical governance and emerging trends in diagnostics. She has a number of qualifications in medicine and business and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (FRCPA), Fellow of the Australian Society for Microbiology (FASM), Associate Fellow of the College of Health Services Management (AFCHSM), and a Graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors (GAICD). Sanmarié is currently the Medical Director Microbiology, Virology, and Genomics at the Public and Environmental Health Reference Laboratories for Pathology Queensland, and a Clinical Microbiologist at the Central Laboratory for Pathology Queensland. Previously the Director of Microbiology of Mater Pathology in Brisbane, Sanmarié is well published and recognised for her research and expertise in innovative technologies for diagnosis of infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance. She completed a PhD on the effects of antibiotics on the gut microbiome using a metagenomic approach and continues to contribute to translational medicine and research holding an academic title with the University of Queensland. Sanmarié joined the NATA Board in 2018 becoming the Chair in December 2024. She is also currently the Deputy Chair for the Communicable Diseases Genomics Network of Australia and was previously a Board Director and Treasurer for Women's Health Queensland Inc and also served in a number of management and governance roles within the health industry.



GEORGE SFINAS

Standards Australia

Engagement Manager

As Engagement Manager, George broadly coordinates the work of the technical committees across both sectors as well as liaise with manufacturers, suppliers, regulators, and other stakeholders to ensure Australian standards are contemporary, relevant and internationally aligned. George has worked closely with members of the Hydrogen technical committee to adopt relevant international standards.



LIAM SHANAHAN

Australian Pressure Laboratory

Director

Liam is an engineer and scientist with over 15 years of experience in metrology and calibration. He is the Managing Director of Australian Pressure Laboratory, a calibration laboratory in pressure and electrical quantities which has held NATA accreditation for over 30 years. He is a Technical Assessor for NATA, member of NATA's Calibration Accreditation Advisory Committee and the Vice President of the Metrology Society of Australasia.



NEIL SHEPHERD

National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)
Sector Manager, Life Sciences

Neil has more than 29 years' experience in the laboratory accreditation space and is responsible for ensuring the technical integrity of accreditation activities in the Life Sciences Sector. Neil has held the position of Sector Manager, Life Sciences since 2011, a role that encompasses the following:

- maintenance of NATA the Accreditation Criteria pertaining to Life Sciences;
- review of accreditation recommendations;
- secretary for the Animal Health and Life Sciences Accreditation Advisory Committees;
- staff training
- recruitment of Technical Assessors;
- stakeholder engagement



DANIEL SLEE

National Measurement Institute (NMI)
Laboratory Operations Manager

Daniel is involved in chemical and biological measurements in fields across the environmental, food & pharmaceutical sectors of the economy. He also has operational management of business development, technical development and administrative functions. Daniel started his career as an analytical chemist specialising in trace organic analysis mostly using mass spectrometry instrumentation. He has worked for private and state government laboratories in Queensland before starting a career with NMI. He held the role as Organic Chemistry section manager at NMI North Ryde for greater than 20 years. Daniel has particular experience with PFAS analytical methodology and is a NATA Technical Assessor for environmental testing laboratories. He is an active committee member for the Analytical & Environmental Chemistry group of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute, NSW.



DAMIAN SMEULDERS

National Measurement Institute (NMI)
Director of Reference Gases

Damian has served as the Director of Reference Gases at the National Measurement Institute (NMI) since 2005, bringing a wealth of expertise to the field of gas metrology. His academic foundation is distinguished by a University Medal and a PhD in Chemistry from the University of Technology Sydney. Prior to joining NMI, Damian gained valuable industry experience in the alumina and dairy sectors. At NMI, he has been instrumental in developing specialised services, notably proficiency testing for gas analysis and the production of very high accuracy calibration gases, which are crucial for emerging gas industries supporting the transition to net zero. Dr. Smeulders plays a pivotal role in international metrology, serving as the Australian representative and rapporteur for the International Consultative Committee for Gas Metrology (CCQM-GAWG). He is also an active member of ISO TC 197 (Hydrogen Technologies) and Standards Australia ME-093 committees, contributing to the development of standards that facilitate the safe and effective use of hydrogen as a low-emissions fuel. His commitment to quality and accreditation is further demonstrated by his experience as a NATA technical assessor and his former role as Chair of the NATA Proficiency Testing and Reference Material Programs Accreditation Advisory Committee.



DAVID SPRINGER

EnviroLab
Chief Executive Officer

David is EnviroLab's advocate and a key figure in the science industry. He tirelessly represents EnviroLab at conferences, forums, universities and with government, fostering strong industry relationships. His strategic vision and leadership have been instrumental in EnviroLab's ongoing growth and success over the past 20 years. And with a PFOS in blood level at 6ppb, exactly the same level for the last 8 years, he believes he is now in a state of PFAS equilibrium with the universe.



ALASDAIR STARK | NATA Education & Advisory Services

Senior Learning and Development Trainer

Alasdair is a dedicated learning and development professional with a passion for fostering growth, transformation, and professional excellence. At his role with NATA Education & Advisory Services, he equips individuals, teams, and organisations with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate complex regulatory, technical, and scientific environments effectively. With extensive experience across corporate, voluntary, public, education, and environmental sectors in Australia, and internationally, Alasdair brings a diverse and multidisciplinary perspective to his work. His background as a facilitator, trainer, manager, and consultant, by qualifications in Business, Leadership & Management, Training & Assessment, Vocational Education, Human Resources, and more – enables him to engage with scientific and technical professionals in a meaningful and impactful way. Alasdair goes beyond conventional training by designing engaging, evidence-based learning experiences that enhance professional capability and drive continuous improvement. His insightful and dynamic communication style, combined with a deep understanding of assessment and quality processes, ensures that participants gain not just theoretical knowledge but also practical, applicable skills. He is particularly skilled at facilitating "Aha! Moments" that lead to sustained behavioural change, helping individuals and organizations strengthen their expertise and uphold the highest standards in scientific practice.



SHRADDHA SWAMI | Therapeutic Goods Administration

Director of DIVDS

Shraddha's section is responsible for premarket approval of IVD medical devices and leading the development and implementation of IVD medical device reforms and initiatives including the regulation of in-house IVDs. Shraddha has a qualification in Biotechnology and has worked for over 10 years across various roles in the Health portfolio. She has experience working in administration and policy development of Health technology regulation (medical devices) and reimbursement, with her previous role in design and development of National Public Health COVID testing policy for use of Rapid Antigen Tests.



BOB SYMONS | Eurofins

Regional Technical Manager

Bob serves as the Regional Technical Manager for Eurofins Environment Testing Australia & Aotearoa New Zealand, where he oversees contaminants of emerging concern and contributes to the PFAS global peer group. Holding a Ph.D. in Environmental Analytical Chemistry from La Trobe University and an undergraduate degree from Victoria University in Melbourne, Bob brings a wealth of academic expertise to his role. He has previously served as a member of the NATA Life Sciences Accreditation Advisory Committee and currently acts as a Technical Assessor for ISO/IEC 17025. Bob's research pursuits have primarily focused on the analysis of persistent organic pollutants (POPs), encompassing dioxins, dioxin-like PCBs, PBDEs, PPCPs, and PFAS, employing advanced mass spectrometric techniques. Notably, he has played a pivotal role in pioneering commercial microplastics analytical methodologies within Australia, underscoring his commitment to advancing environmental testing capabilities.



MICHAEL TARANTO | QED

Managing Director

Michael began his career as a management consultant with Bain & Company and holds an MBA from INSEAD. Since then, he has built a 20-year career in private equity with Macquarie and ABN AMRO, where he managed investments across a broad range of industries and served on the boards of numerous portfolio companies, building deep expertise in strategy, operations, and governance.

Michael acquired QED in 2015, a NATA accredited firm specialising in built environment quality. QED operates as both an inspectorate and a laboratory, with offices across Australia.



ANDREW TAYLOR | Bullivants

National Technical Service & Training Manager

Andrew has 42 years' experience in the lifting, rigging & height safety industry in lifting equipment design, manufacture, testing, inspection, lift planning/installation and now training staff and end users across Australia. He is passionate about the use of new technology and new materials in our industry to help improve safety for operators and productivity for crane owners. Andrew is also a member of Standards Australia's ME025 Lifting Committee and a Member of NATA's AAC for Inspection.



STEPHANIE TONKIN

Consumer Action Law Centre
Chief Executive Officer

Stephanie Tonkin is the CEO of the Consumer Action Law Centre. She started her career in public law at a large firm, and for nearly 15 years since, has worked in the community legal and consumer sectors, focusing on systemic and integrated service responses to family violence, mortgage stress and vulnerability. Steph sits on a broad range of industry and government advisory committees including the Victorian Energy and Water Ombudsman Board, the National Anti-Scam Centre Advisory Board and ASIC Consumer Advisory Panel and Standards Australia SDAC Committee. Stephanie holds a BA/LLB (Hons) from Monash Uni.



GILLIAN TRELOAR

National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)
Deputy Sector Manager, Legal & Clinical Services

Gillian plays a pivotal part in shaping data-informed strategies that enhance NATA's operational excellence and stakeholder engagement. Gillian has a keen interest in monitoring performance metrics and uncovering the insights they offer into accreditation outcomes and stakeholder performance. Her work is centred on transforming raw data into meaningful narratives—illuminating key trends such as non-conformance rates, corrective action close-out times, and benchmarking against ISO standards. These insights support the identification of improvement opportunities and inform strategic decisions that reinforce NATA's commitment to quality and integrity. A passionate advocate for evidence-based management, Gillian is dedicated to demystifying data for accreditation professionals, facility representatives, and others involved in the quality assurance environment.



SARAH TYNAN

Science & Technology Australia (STA)
Director Policy & Government Relations

Sarah is a science-trained policy and advocacy professional with extensive experience across the science, technology, research and higher education sectors. Her roles in government, the Learned Academies, and advocacy organisations have honed her skills in science and higher education policy, government relations, and science communication. At Science & Technology Australia, Sarah leads policy and advocacy efforts for Australia's STEM sector, addressing critical issues in science, higher education, and research.

Sarah earned her PhD in marine geochemistry from ANU in 2017. During her studies, she was also a science writer for the Australian Academy of Science. As one of the inaugural APS Australian Science Policy Fellows (2018-19), Sarah served in the federal Department of Education's Higher Education and Research branch. She later became a Policy Analyst in the International division at Universities Australia, where she focused on international education, global engagement, migration, and national security policy.



TONY VANDENBERG

National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA)
Head of Compliance & Governance

Tony began at NATA in 1996 as a Scientific Officer in Chemical Testing and worked in a number of operational and quality roles before being appointed to the General Manager role in 2011. Tony ensures NATA's management systems and accreditation processes are in compliance with relevant international standards (predominantly ISO/IEC 17011 and ILAC/APAC requirements) and other agreements. He also works with the NATA Board to ensure NATA is governed in accordance with the NATA Constitution, NATA Rules, and applicable legislative and regulatory requirements.



TANIA WARE

Department Of Agriculture, Fisheries And Forestry
Senior Veterinary Officer

Tania is a Senior Veterinary Officer with the Animal Biosecurity Branch of the Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. In this role, she is responsible for equine biosecurity policy and negotiation of export protocols for horses, ensuring Australia's high standards in animal health are recognised across global trade partnerships. Tania has represented Australia in international forums focused on animal health standards, contributing to the writing of World Organisation for Animal Health Animal Health Code chapters on equine encephalitides. Before joining the department, Tania worked in the thoroughbred racing industry and served as a regulatory veterinarian with Racing NSW.



TIM WEBSTER

Komatsu

Engineering Manager, Funct Safety & TS

Tim has worked for Komatsu for 28 years. After working for Komatsu in the UK for 10 years, he relocated to Australia in 2006. He became the Engineering Manager responsible for Product Safety and Compliance for the underground mining products in 2012. Tim is the current chair of EL-023 and the chair of ANZEx Advisory Committee for JASANZ. Tim also represents Australia at TC31 and is the co-convenor of MT60079-19 (overhauls and repairs) and SC31J/WG1 (Underground Mining Installations). As part of this work, Tim also represents Australia on ISO TC127/WG17 for ISO TR 5757 regarding renewable energy storage systems.



ANDREW WHEELER

**Australasian Certification Authority
for Reinforcing and Structural Steels**

Executive Director

Prior to his current appointment, Andrew worked as a structural consulting engineer, project manager based in Sydney Region. Andrew has a long history with the Australian/New Zealand construction industry working as an Applied Researcher, Senior Project Manager, Consulting Engineer and Technical expert. He has worked closely with industry partners addressing issues in design methods and implementing quality procedures for products and systems. Andrew has served and continues to serve on a number and technical committees for New Zealand and Australian Standards, NATA and other certifying authorities. He sits on the Mechanical Testing Accreditation Advisory Committee; is a Technical Assessor for NATA and is a member of Standards Australian on the BD84 Code Committee for reinforcing steels' and for P304 standards committee for structural steels for NZ.



ALAN WHITTLE

Alan Whittle Pty Ltd

Consultant

After graduation Alan worked in the rubber industry for 13 years before joining the plastics pipes industry where has been for the past 43 years. In both industries Alan was involved in the establishment and management of NATA accredited laboratories and has been a Technical Assessor for many years. For the last 16 years Alan has had his own consulting business with clients including water agencies, energy and mining companies, manufacturers, raw material suppliers, plumbers etc. Alan is actively involved in the development of both Australian and ISO Standards for plastics piping products and test methods. He has published research papers on a number of aspects of plastics piping and presented at technical conferences.



RICHARD WILKINSON

Tetra Tech Coffey

MAIOH, Certified Occupational Hygienist (COH)[®]

Richard is a Certified Occupational Hygienist (COH)[®], Licensed Asbestos Assessor (LAA) and principal consultant. Richard is a proud University of Wollongong (UOW) alumni, studying a Masters of Occupational Hygiene under Dr Jane Whitelaw and the team which was a life changing experience! He was the 2024 FAMANZ Derrick Miller award winner for an outstanding contribution to the hazardous materials industry. Richard sits on the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) Australia Accreditation Advisory Committee as industry representative for Asbestos and Occupational Hygiene and is a NATA Technical Assessor in the field of Chemical Testing. With over 17 years' experience in risk assessment, hazardous materials and occupational hygiene consulting and analysis, Richard provides project management, technical leadership, quality assurance and risk-based solutions to industry.



CHUNHAI YU

National Measurement Institute (NMI)

Laboratory Operation Officer

Chunhai has 20+ years of experience in analysis of environmental contaminants and toxins for private or government laboratories in Asia Pacific region. He has eight journal publications in element speciation, mercury and PFAS analysis, five more PFAS analysis manuscripts to be published. His current interests in PFAS analysis includes investigation and removal/mitigation of MRM isobaric interferences and matrix suppressions for target PFAS analysis on LC-MS/MS, sum parameter analysis on combustion ion chromatography, and non-target analysis/screening on high resolution mass spectrometry.