



members

Member Advisory Forum

10th MEETING MINUTES

19 May 2026
NATA Melbourne Office



members

MAF

Member
Advisory
Forum

NATA's 10th Member Advisory Forum (MAF) brought together MAF representatives, NATA senior leaders and Board representatives to discuss strategic priorities, business updates and emerging developments shaping the accreditation landscape.

The forum commenced with recognition of Graham Smith, who recently passed away, and his significant contribution to the calibration community and to NATA.



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Business Updates

1. Accreditation services

NATA provided an update on accreditation statistics and performance against NATA's Service Standards (service commitment performance measures). Members discussed the importance of ensuring performance measures and resourcing remain fit for purpose.

2. Stakeholder engagement and government relations

An update was provided on NATA's engagement with government, regulators and industry stakeholders. This included participation in Science Meets Parliament, ongoing engagement with the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR), liaison with regulatory bodies and continued engagement with industry groups on issues affecting accreditation and conformity assessment. Members noted the strategic importance of these activities in positioning accreditation within broader policy, regulatory and industry discussions, strengthening awareness of NATA's role, and supporting collaboration on issues of national and sector significance.

3. Digital transformation and verifiable credentials

The forum received an update on NATA's digital transformation activities, including work related to digital identity anchors and verifiable credentials for accredited facilities. Discussion focused on the potential application of these initiatives to support traceability, confidence in conformity data and future digital assurance needs.

4. International developments

Members were informed of developments in the international accreditation landscape, including the establishment of Global Accreditation Cooperation Incorporated (Global ACI) as the single international organisation replacing the former International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) arrangements. Discussion noted the commencement of Global ACI's Multilateral Recognition Arrangement, the transition of existing recognition frameworks, and the rollout of its new identity, website and governance arrangements. Members noted the significance of these developments in supporting international alignment, continuity of recognition and ongoing cooperation across the accreditation system.

5. Accreditation Matters 2026

An update was provided on Accreditation Matters 2026, with the program featuring keynote perspectives from organisations including Global ACI, the World Bank Group, the ACCC, Standards Australia, and the National Measurement Institute. Members also noted the breadth of the conference program, which includes more than 80 sessions across themes such as digital transformation and AI; technical knowledge and innovation; and productivity, industry, and regulation, providing practical learning, shared expertise, and strategic insight for the conformity assessment community.



Future-focused discussion

Members considered how artificial intelligence, automation and digital recordkeeping may influence laboratory practices, data integrity and the way conformity assessment information is generated. Discussion also addressed the importance of workforce capability, succession planning and maintaining access to technical expertise as the operating environment becomes increasingly complex.

NATA's complaints and feedback process were discussed. This was raised by members who had concerns with suspected poor laboratory practices by accredited laboratories and the means by which to bring these to NATA's attention. The importance of a NATA whistleblower policy was recognised as an important element in maintaining confidence and trust in accreditation.

The next meeting is planned for November 2026.

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