

Summary of the 1st meeting of the Life Sciences Accreditation Advisory Committee

Membership changes

This was the first meeting of the Committee which was formed from the previous Biological and Chemical Testing Accreditation Advisory Committees.

There were no new Members attending. Ms Glenice Ault and Ms Kim Fitzpatrick advised of their intention to stand down from the Committee.

The membership term for Mr Frank Flear expires in September 2018.

The Committee considered the need for additional expertise and identified the need for expertise in bioinformatics as a result of the widespread adoption of Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) in the Life Sciences sector. Interpretation of the data generated by NGS is a specialist area not represented on the current Committee.

Expression of interest to join the Committee will be sought in the areas of waters microbiology, air quality monitoring and bioinformatics.

Reports from members included the following points:

1. Poor participation in the Proficiency Testing Australia, Air programs.
2. Standards Australia has formed a committee to look at standardisation in the area of biotechnology.
3. Food testing is seeing increased requests for the use of rapid methods and client supplied methods and testing of probiotics and spore testing is on the increase.
4. AOAC are developing methods for allergen analysis using ELISA and LC-MS techniques.
5. Loop Mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP) offers the opportunity for in field testing.
6. Demand for testing for per and poly fluorinated alkyl substances (PFAS) is increasing.
7. A Working Group of the European Directorate of Quality of Medicines Healthcare are revising the guidelines for measurement uncertainty.
8. Testing of products containing cannabinoids is increasing following changes to the Food Standards Code.

Update on ISO/IEC 17025 2017

The Committee was provided with a draft of the revised application document updated to reflect the format of the new version of ISO 17025 2017

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is planned for February 2019.