



18 October 2023

We are writing to inform you that the Thoracic Society of Australia and New Zealand (TSANZ) Board have made the decision to partner with the National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) to conduct respiratory laboratory accreditations following an extensive review of the current service conducted by TSANZ.

The Board believes this partnership will enable a better accreditation program for respiratory function laboratories that will deliver better health outcomes for patients. This partnership maximizes NATA's vast experience in accreditation for testing with the current TSANZ standard to be reviewed and updated in line with the international Standard ISO 15189: 2022 *Medical laboratories - requirements for quality and competence*.

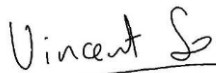
It is hoped that members of the current Laboratory Accreditation Clinical Quality Committee (LAQC) will become members of the new steering committee who will advise and inform the new standards. We are aware that some members of LAQC hold joint TSANZ/ANZSRS membership and as such would expect that the views of ANZSRS will be represented in this steering committee. Members of this steering committee will be asked to apply via EOI and will be approved by the Board who will consider that diversity, inclusion and full representation is covered including representation of respiratory scientists. It may be deemed necessary for an additional EOI which could include ANZSRS members and will be at the discretion of the Board.

It is anticipated that the completion of the new Respiratory Function Laboratory Accreditation service will be ready by the end of 2024. Laboratories that are due to expire during the transition period will be contacted and provided with an extension to December 2025. Individual laboratories already undergoing accreditation will be notified regarding their application and provided with an extension or to continue with their accreditation application under TSANZ depending on their individual situation.

Once transitioned TSANZ will be responsible for the Standard and for the provision of technical advice. NATA will be responsible for the administration of the program. It is hoped that many of the TSANZ assessors will become assessors for NATA under the new program. Assessors will be contacted by TSANZ and asked for consent to share their contact details with NATA to assist with this process.

Further information can be found on our website at <https://thoracic.org.au/lab-accreditation-program/>. We have developed a full list of FAQs which I have attached for your convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Vincent G. W. So  
Chief Executive Officer, TSANZ

