Internal coordination – Australia’s approach to the involvement of national quality infrastructure in meeting the objectives of the TBT agreement.

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Chief Executive Officer  
National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia
Australia’s National Quality Infrastructure

1922  Standards Australia - national body responsible for producing documentary standards

1938  National Measurement Institute - peak body for metrological (measurement) standards and certified reference materials

1947  National Association of Testing Authorities, Australia (NATA) – private sector, not-for-profit body recognised as national authority for laboratory and RMP accreditation and a peak authority for inspection body and PTP accreditation

1991  Joint Accreditation Scheme of Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ) – national authority for both nations for certification body accreditation and a peak authority for inspection body accreditation
Direction Setting by the Federal Government

Bodies have differing relationships with government but federal government has a role in the strategic direction and requires:

- transparency and impartiality;
- engagement with our government and industry stakeholders; and
- facilitate mutual recognition internationally.
Coordination

Stakeholder engagement is a key to NQI’s role

• Reaching out to the government agencies and industry associations
• Information gained is analysed and taken into account in the service offered
• Commonwealth Standards and Conformance Advisory Group (CSCAG) facilitates an exchange of information between the NQI and a diverse range of agencies:
  – on developments within the NQI,
  – national policy priorities and
  – a significant focus on trade related issues
• NQI ‘working group’ focuses on operationalising key Government initiatives
Policy vs Detail

Good policy can be undermined by operational detail

• Technical and scientific considerations in conformity assessment

• Lack of availability of necessary conformity assessment infrastructure – documented standards, laboratory expertise, measurement standards, validated methods, etc.

• Examples:
  – Asbestos – absolute prohibition vs scientific capacity
  – Microbiological analysis of meat – method validation for pathogens
Conclusion

Please talk to us ...

... early