

Newsletter of the Australasian Biospecimen Network Association

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CONSULTATION ON THE 2021 NRI ROADMAP EXPOSURE DRAFT IS NOW OPEN

As many of you are aware, the National Research Infrastructure Roadmap Exposure Draft was released last week with comments due by COB 22 December 2021.

Given the implications of the roadmap for future directions in biobanking, ABNA would encourage all of our members to respond to the exposure draft to ensure that a strong biobanking voice is heard.

To facilitate these responses, we are incredibly fortunate that Professor Jennifer Byrne (Director of Biobanking, NSW Health Pathology) has kindly prepared an annotated document to facilitate ease of response. Accompanying this, she has also prepared suggested talking points to stimulate discussion when composing responses.

We understand that the exposure draft is likely to generate a high volume of responses and are incredibly grateful for this support which will assist our members in submitting as many quality individual responses as the time allows, noting her comment that "this will inevitably be a combination of group responses and more individualised responses that can be illustrated by specific case examples of excellence in biobanking across all fields, including biomedicine".

The ABNA committee would like to thank Professor Byrne for her continued contributions to ABNA and ongoing support of our membership.

NRI Exposure Draft Documents

To assist our members with responding to the NRI Roadmap Exposure Draft please find a copy of Professor Byrne's annotated document and suggested discussion points [HERE](#)

Information about the NRI Roadmap Exposure Draft can be found on the 2021 National Research Infrastructure Roadmap [website](#)

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST ACCREDITED BIOBANK

NATA has just announced that [Monash University – Biobanking Victoria](#) has become the first accredited biobanking facility in Australia.

NATA's accreditation program for biobanks is a new service launched in 2021. Accreditation of a biobank to ISO 20387 involves an independent, unbiased assessment of the biobanking facility to determine competence, impartiality, and consistent operation. While biobanking is a new accreditation program for NATA, there has been a great deal of interest.

Accreditation with NATA to ISO 20387 will provide independent recognition to biobanks that is highly regarded around the world.

The accreditation process will cover collection (or acquisition), preservation, quality control, storage and distribution of biological material. It will also include a review of the management system underpinning these processes.

ISO 20387 was developed with a wide range of biobanking functions in mind covering the banking of biological materials including:

- Human samples
- Animal samples
- Fungal samples
- Plant samples
- Microorganisms

The standard also includes requirements regarding the preparation and long-term preservation of samples and long-term sample traceability.

Importantly, the requirements address considerations for biobank-specific collection and transportation procedures and, as with other ISO standards NATA uses for accreditation purposes, ISO 20387 covers both the management system and technical aspects of operation.

CONGRATULATIONS

ABNA extends their congratulations to the team from [Monash University – Biobanking Victoria](#) on achieving NATA accreditation to ISO 20387.



If you have any suggestions for a short article for Bio-Babble, please contact: abna.biobabble@gmail.com
Content deadline for January edition: 21.01.22



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Dear Santa, we've tried to be good all year!

HERE'S A LIST OF THINGS THAT WE REALLY NEED

