



PROFICIENCY TESTING PROGRAM

SEAWATERS

Company Background

Proficiency Testing Australia (PTA) is one of Australia's largest and most experienced proficiency testing providers. We have a reputation for providing friendly, customer-focussed service using qualified, experienced staff and specialists.

PTA is able to service a very broad range of industries, and many of our clients come to use our services based on the recommendation of colleagues. PTA has offices in Sydney and Brisbane, so our services and support are readily accessible.

PTA is accredited as a Proficiency Testing Provider by International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ). The accreditation covers the specific proficiency testing programs listed on the agreed scope of accreditation. The accreditation meets the requirements of ISO/IEC 17043:2010 *Conformity assessment - general requirements for proficiency testing*.

Note: An application has been made to IANZ to include the SeaWaters program on the PTA Scope of Accreditation.

Aim of the Program

The purpose of this program is to test laboratories' abilities to conduct the prescribed testing in a planned series of rounds involving the analysis of chemical and physical parameters of seawaters.

Application of program to accreditation

Participation in proficiency testing programs will satisfy the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2017 *General requirements for competence of testing and calibration laboratories* for monitoring your performance by comparison with results of other laboratories.

Program Details

The SeaWaters Program is an on-going program generally consisting of two rounds per year, covering a range of chemical determinations in water.

Participants receive sample(s) and are requested to analyse the sample(s) for the prescribed analyte(s). In addition to reporting results, participants are asked to provide an estimate of their measurement uncertainty (MU) and to indicate the methods used. The results submitted by participants for a

particular test or analyte are typically pooled across all methods and robust z-scores are used to analyse the results. Generally, this involves identifying any statistical outlier results which will highlight any major variation between the individual results and the general consensus.

A final report, summarising the information submitted by all participants can be viewed on the PTA website at the conclusion of each round. Each individual participant is also sent a summary sheet, detailing their laboratory's individual performance in the program, at the conclusion of the round.

Confidentiality

Each participating laboratory is assigned a code number to allow for confidential treatment of results in all reports and publications produced by PTA. Please refer to the PTA website <http://www.pta.asn.au/index.php/programs/confidentiality> for more information.

Fees

Please contact PTA for information on fees for this program.

Further Information

For further information on the SeaWaters Program contact ptaenquiry@pta.asn.au