

## **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*.

## **Aim of the Program**

The aim of the Soils program is to test each participant's ability to competently perform chemical analysis of soil.

## **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 Soils program is a biannual program consisting of two rounds per year.

Participants receive one 30g sample of soil. Participants are requested to analyse the chemical composition of the soil sample.

Participants are asked to analyse the samples, provide an estimate of their measurement uncertainty (MU) and to indicate the methods they used. The results submitted by participants for a particular test are typically pooled across all methods and robust z-scores are used to analyse the results.

A final report, summarising the information submitted by all of the participants can be viewed on the PTA website at the conclusion of each round of the program. A summary sheet is also sent to each individual participant at the conclusion of the program. This summary sheet details the performance of that laboratory in the program.

### **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 Soils (Chemical) Program, please contact [ptaenquiry@pta.asn.au](mailto:ptaenquiry@pta.asn.au)