

## COMMUNIQUE - TRANSITION ROUNDTABLE BEGINS WORK

The leaderships of ASLIA, AUSIT, Professionals Australia and NAATI met for the first time as the Transition Roundtable in Sydney on Saturday 5 July 2014 to start working on issues of transition from the current national accreditation system for translators and interpreters to the proposed new certification scheme.

Representing ASLIA were National President Paul Heuston, Pip Cody and Sandra Leane. AUSIT was represented by Barbara McGilvray, Sam Berner and EO Daniel Muller while Bede Payne was there from Professionals Australia. The meeting was convened by NAATI Chair Kerry Stubbs who was assisted by Director Pino Migliorino and CEO John Beaver.

The Transition Roundtable is intended to meet regularly to discuss issues of concern to the profession and/or NAATI as we move closer to transition to the new NAATI certification scheme. Transition is presently planned to happen in July 2017. Present plans are for two years of analysis and scheme development before the decision to proceed with implementation is made.

The first meeting of the Roundtable focussed on how practitioners will demonstrate on a regular basis their currency of practice, maintain continuing professional development (CPD) and comply with the relevant code of ethics or conduct. These are the requirements agreed in 2006 by ASLIA, AUSIT and NAATI for what is now called Revalidation.

All participants agreed there was a need for a process by which practitioners demonstrate currency of practice, CPD and compliance with ethical code requirements. There was agreement the current Revalidation arrangements are not ideal and further work is needed before transition. AUSIT in particular had a number of concerns including how holders of pre 2007 credentials might transfer into the new system. NAATI has offered to meet with AUSIT members to discuss these concerns.

All agreed action was needed on the quality and accessibility of CPD. CPD is being referred by NAATI to its Professional Reference Group (PRG) to consider what CPD should be acceptable, what review process should be in place to ensure that CPD offerings meet needs, affordability of CPD and a plan to improve CPD over the next three years.

The Roundtable acknowledged that Revalidation is not the correct term for what ASLIA, AUSIT and NAATI agreed in 2006 and which is now in place. Recent research found that Revalidation is the term used when practitioners are required to re-sit their examinations or tests. It was agreed what we now have is better described as Recertification. Recertification is the process of demonstrating a practitioner remains current in their practice, maintains professional knowledge and meets expectations of professional conduct. NAATI will now refer to Revalidation for the next three years of the current system but will adopt the term Recertification from 2017 when the new certification system begins.

Also, NAATI accepted advice from the representatives of the profession that a strong marketing campaign to both government and private sectors would increase the value of NAATI credentials in the eyes of users and NAATI will consider how to implement this.

Kerry Stubbs thanked the representatives of the profession for their contributions and cooperation at the start of what are expected to be many consultations over the coming three years.

