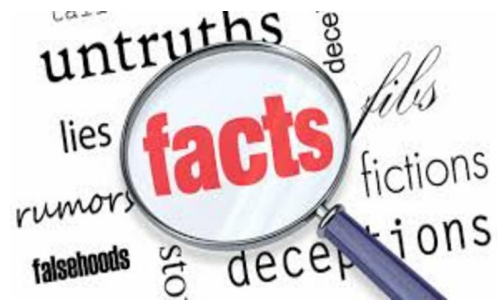


FACT SHEET



WIA licence assessment system complies

The Wireless Institute of Australia (WIA) continues with its successful Amateur Radio accredited assessors program of licence assessments and callsign recommendations under a Deed with the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA).

However, a lot of misinformation is circulating about WIA Assessors and Learning Facilitators, and even the validity of the Australian Amateur licence exams. Recently, provisions of the ACMA Deed that underpins the WIA Exam Service have been wrongly interpreted by some, although these details had been explained earlier by the WIA.

The Deed with the Commonwealth sets out the conditions of how the WIA manages examinations, the issuing of Certificates of Proficiency and callsign recommendations. Periodic reports to the ACMA on these functions include key performance indicators, which measure the performance of the WIA along with its meeting of the Commonwealth's cost recovery guidelines and the maintenance of standards.

The Deed requirements have been met, the WIA assessments are valid, and will continue while the current arrangements are in place.

Let us look at the history of how it began.

In 2009, the WIA, led by then-President Michael Owen VK3KI (SK), signed a Deed of arrangement with the ACMA to formalise the contractual arrangements for licence assessments and issuing of Certificates of Proficiency, which included that the WIA would later also provide callsign recommendations.

After running successfully for some time, it became evident that maintaining a Registered Training Organisation for the WIA was not realistic due to the high cost. The WIA brought the issue to discussion meetings with the ACMA and the exam instructions were changed to allow for flexibility in the WIA's Amateur Exam Service.

This means that the WIA training is compliant as long as the Assessors and Learning Facilitators continue to meet the ACMA and WIA agreed standards.

The WIA is not in breach of the Deed, as was claimed in 2016, and which has since been repeated on social media.