

IPEd Notes – March to May 2015

Accreditation exam to be onscreen in 2016

The Accreditation Board plans to hold the first onscreen accreditation exam on 30 April 2016.

As an onscreen exam (as distinct from online), candidates will sit the exam in a computer lab in an invigilated setting.

The Board is negotiating with a provider of computer training facilities which has venues to run the exam in capital cities, plus partner organisations across Australia, so further venues may be made available if required.

At the moment, the onscreen exam is planned to be in MS Word on PC, but there will be the option to do it on Macs.

The Accreditation Board's exam prototype was available for testing at the recent Canberra conference, with delegates able to have a play and get a feel for how the onscreen exam will work, delivering very positive feedback. The prototype will be available on the IPEd website soon to allow further testing.

IPEd National Mentoring Program

During the conference in May, an agreement was signed between the Canberra Society of Editors (CSE) and IPEd for CSE's mentoring program to officially become the IPEd National Mentoring Program.

The program was established by CSE in 2012, followed by a successful pilot, launched in June 2013, that invited other societies to get involved.

By January this year, all the societies had joined the program and CSE decided it should now sit with IPEd. CSE will continue to coordinate the program.

The mentoring program offers the opportunity for members of any of the Australian societies of editors to improve their skills with professional oversight and feedback from experienced editors.

It provides a two-way learning experience for both mentor and mentee and is aimed at editors of all levels. It provides benefits to the editing profession by increasing members' skills, helping to safeguard the reputation of the profession as a whole.

The [Mentoring Program Guidance Notes](#), which explain how the program works, were released in April and are available on the IPEd website.

For more information and a mentor or mentee application form, please contact the national coordinators:

Ted Briggs AE: tedbriggs@grapevine.com.au

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Reciprocal agreements with international counterparts

IPEd continues to develop relationships with its international counterparts. All Australian societies of editors have agreed to recognise the accreditation or certification schemes of the UK's Society of Editors and Proofreaders (SfEP), the Editors' Association of Canada (EAC) and the Board of Editors in the Life Sciences (BELS). This agreement will extend to the Professional Editors' Guild of South Africa (PEG) as soon as its accreditation program is in place and approved by the IPEd Accreditation Board.

Those who have achieved accreditation or certification from these organisations are entitled to be accepted as full or professional members of any of the Australian societies of editors on application, without the usual process, as our own Accredited and Distinguished Editors are entitled.

SfEP and PEG offer the same right to Australia's Accredited and Distinguished Editors, to join those organisations as professional members. (The EAC has an open membership system, with no joining criteria, and BELS is a certifying body only, not a membership-based organisation; its examination process confers the postnominal ELS.)

IPEd now has ongoing communication with these sister organisations about its accreditation programs and conferences, with reciprocal member discounts offered to participants.

BELS exam to be held in Brisbane

BELS will be holding an exam at the Australasian Medical Writers' Association conference in Brisbane on Sunday 30 August 2015, with registration required by 9 August 2015.

For more information and an application form visit the [BELS website](#).

Benefits of direct membership of IPEd

As part of the proposed restructure of IPEd as a national organisation, the working party handling the transition process developed Green Papers that cover the key areas of the proposed new structure.

These have been distributed to you for your comment (by 21 June), which will, where possible, be taken into account in developing the White Papers. These outline the proposed structures and processes under direct membership, which members will vote on later in the year.

A national organisation will:

- provide a powerful national voice for the editing profession in Australia, with increased equity of opportunity for all editors
- strengthen the value and influence of initiatives such as the *Australian standards for editing practice*, the accreditation scheme and the national mentoring program
- allow for national networking opportunities and information flow between members, drawing together the different societies as they become branches to share ideas and develop industry best practice
- provide national advocacy for editors and the editing profession, with support to members regarding pay rates, contracts and other professional advice
- provide for the establishment of a national editorial services register, which will allow members to market their services nationally and even internationally

- create economies of scale so that IPEd can invest in quality administration, membership and communication systems, such as a national newsletter and website, to the benefit of all members
- support training and professional development programs that can be offered nationally
- support the use of technologies such as webinars and other online training to the benefit of all members
- employ staff to undertake functions such as accounting and banking, membership administration, event coordination and communication to relieve the burden on volunteers, allowing them to focus on developing programs and events for members.

Style manual – lobby your MP

IPEd was part of a delegation that met with the Digital Government Strategy Branch of the Department of Finance in Canberra to discuss the future of the long-awaited seventh edition of the *Style manual*.

This meeting was made possible thanks to the effort of the Victorian and Western Australian societies of editors and included Janet MacKenzie from Victoria, Ilsa Sharp and Kerry Coyle from WA, and Kerry Davies and Loene Doube representing IPEd Council.

The branch is determined to see a seventh edition published, but need to convince the government to provide funding for this.

IPEd will continue to make representations on a national level but in order for this project to have priority, editors will need to lobby politicians.

Janet MacKenzie, on behalf of the Style Manual 7th edn Working Group has developed an Action Alert with guidelines on how to go about your lobbying effort as well as which MPs to lobby.

This Action Alert is available on the [IPEd website](#).

IPEd Conference

The 2015 Australian Conference for Editors, Indexers, and Publishing Professionals, held in Canberra in May, was hosted jointly by the Canberra Society of Editors (CSE) and the ACT Region Branch of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Indexers (ANZSI) on behalf of the Institute of Professional Editors (IPEd) and ANZSI.

The CSE and ANZSI ACT Region Branch are to be congratulated on an outstanding program with delegate feedback positive overall. The conference was a great opportunity to mix editors and indexers. Delegates were given exposure to related skills, networking opportunities and the chance to explore the benefits of collaboration.

The [conference website](#) and [blog](#) will remain live until the middle of July and conference presentations will be made available on the IPEd website.

The 8th IPEd National Editors Conference, Advancing Our Profession, will be held in Brisbane from 13 to 15 September 2017.

Save the date!