

CredAbility 4: The Assessment Process

The success of the proposed accreditation scheme rests on the ability of the Accreditation Board to develop an assessment process that not only is based on a nationally approved **definition of editing competence** but also evaluates this competence in a **consistent, equitable** and **transparent** manner.

With these tasks clearly in mind, 14 delegates drawn from the initial assessors' pool and representing all societies (ACT, NSW, Qld, SA, Tas., WA, Vic.) are meeting in Melbourne for a two-day workshop on 2–3 December to establish a sound foundation for the assessment process.

The delegates will begin by reviewing some minor rewording of the *Australian Standards for Editing Practice* that the Standards Revision Working Group is currently considering, to ensure that these changes, if implemented, would not compromise the Standards' suitability as the basis for establishing editing competence.

Delegates will then work through a number of different materials, including 'dummy' applications and a selection of texts related to different genres (e.g. educational materials, children's fiction, government reports), to reach a consensus on what represents an acceptable level of editing skill. They will also be asking 'what if' questions to identify aspects that would cause an application to be judged borderline or be rejected.

For example, what if the applicant provided insufficient or dubious evidence of their contribution to the final document? What if their editing introduced errors into the text? What if they failed to note and correct clearly contradictory statements?

The delegates' objective will be to draft a list of guiding principles for determining editing competence, which will ultimately be incorporated into the overall guidelines for assessors. The draft list will be circulated to societies, reviewed at society workshops or meetings planned for February 2007, and placed on the IPEd website for comments to be registered.

If time permits, the delegates may also review a number of other documents that the Accreditation Board has drafted, including an information kit for applicants, guidelines for assessors and an explanation of the appeals process. The delegates' final task will be to pass on all the information gained over the weekend to the other assessors in their state or territory.

For further information on accreditation go to <http://www.iped-editors.org/accreditation.html>. If you have any suggestions or comments on these matters, or any others, please contact your society's Accreditation Board member. We welcome your input.