Australian Government
IP Australia

P | Patents
TM | Trade Marks
D | Designs
PBR | Plant Breeder's Rights

The CPC journey at IP Australia

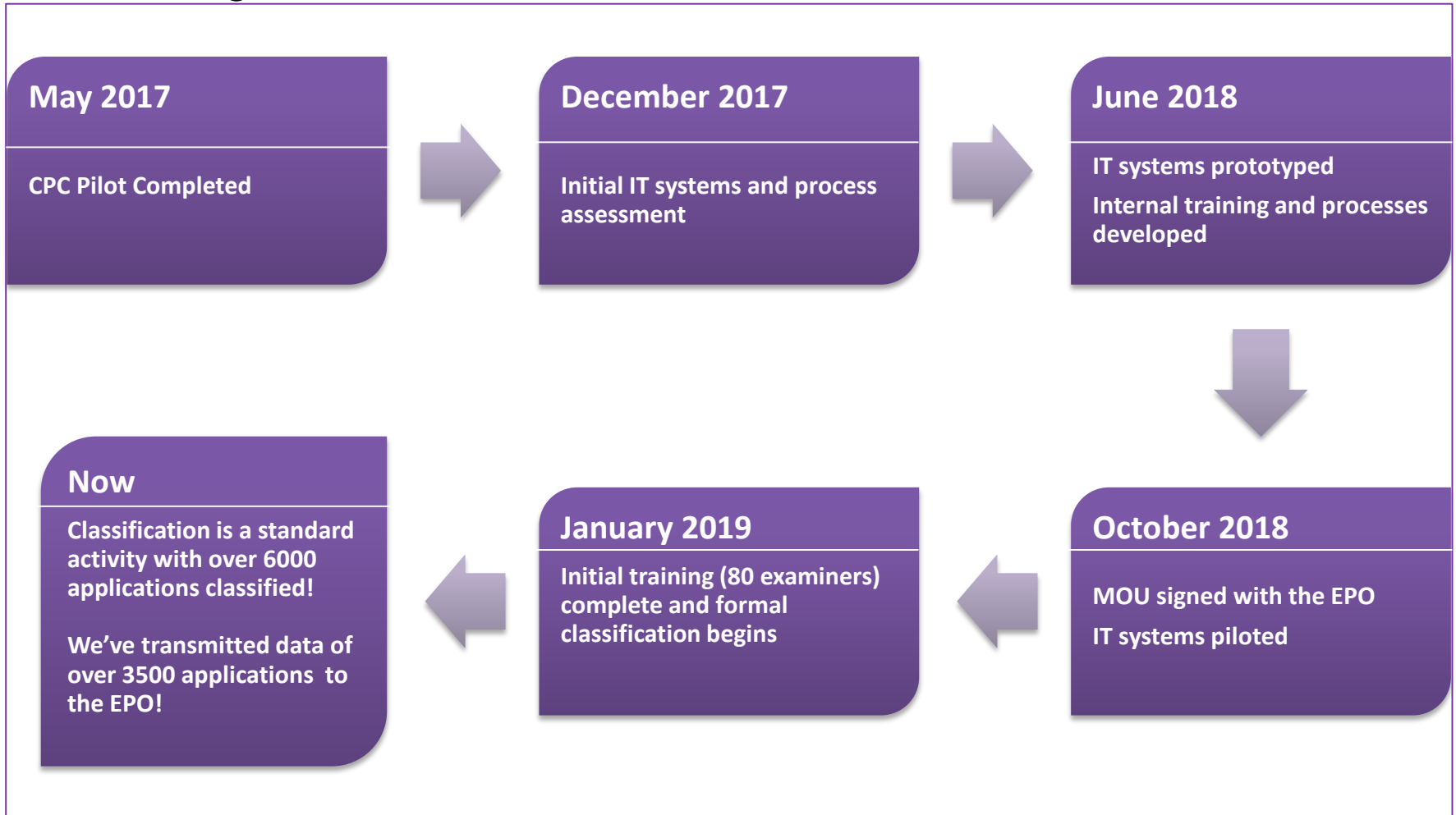**Randeep Abraham**

CPC Implementation team | Senior examiner of Patents
IP Australia.

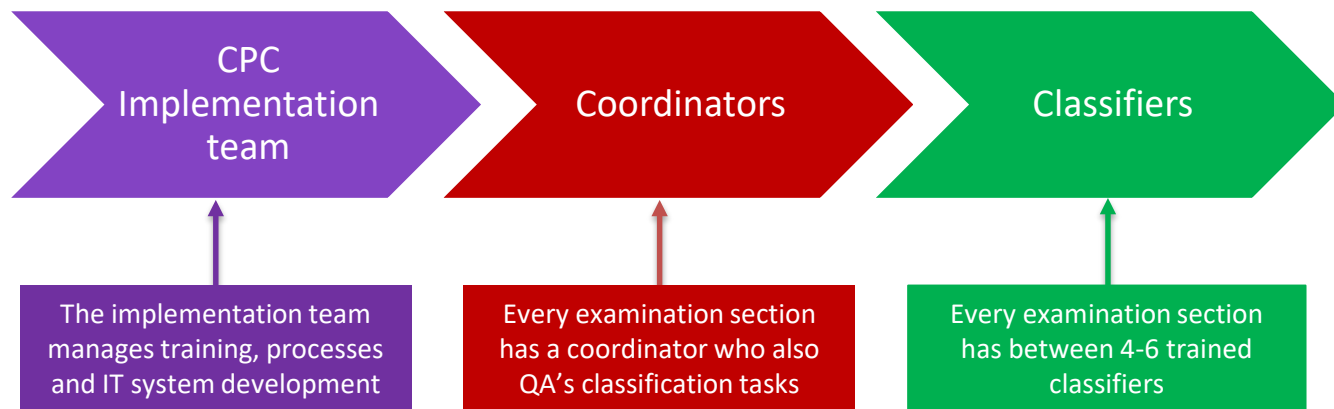# A history of CPC at IP Australia

May 2017

CPC Pilot Completed

December 2017

Initial IT systems and process assessment

June 2018

IT systems prototyped

Internal training and processes developed

October 2018

MOU signed with the EPO

IT systems piloted

January 2019

Initial training (80 examiners) complete and formal classification begins

Now

Classification is a standard activity with over 6000 applications classified!

We've transmitted data of over 3500 applications to the EPO!
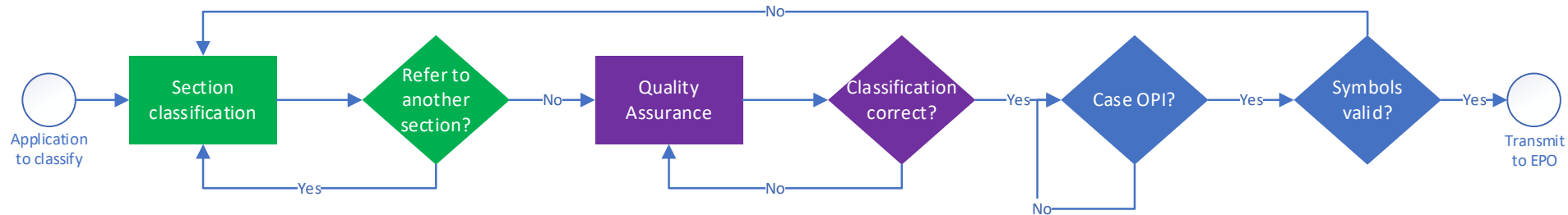
CPC structure at IP Australia

- The CPC implementation team manage: Processes, Training, IT Systems, and Communications

- This team works with a coordinator in each examination section, who leads a group of classifiers in their section

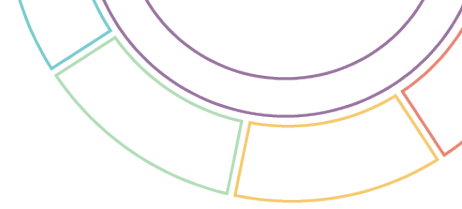| CPC Implementation team	Coordinators	Classifiers
The implementation team manages training, processes and IT system development	Every examination section has a coordinator who also QA's classification tasks	Every examination section has between 4-6 trained classifiers

The Classification Process

- Each application is classified and Quality Assured (QA) at filing to make symbols available for search and examination

- Symbols are revised against latest schema before transmission to the EPO

Tool Interface – Classification Screen

Training

- Training materials were developed using knowledge of staff who have trained directly at the EPO offices, and other internal experts.

- We introduced a blended training program comprised of:

  – A common e-learning module to introduce the concepts of the CPC

  – Classrooms providing Technology-Specific Training and

  – A period of ongoing training through discussion and feedback exercises

- Over 100 Examiners have completed the new CPC training program, with plans for more examiners to undertake the training program based on operational requirements.

- Ongoing training is done through feedback from QA (as this is done on all applications).
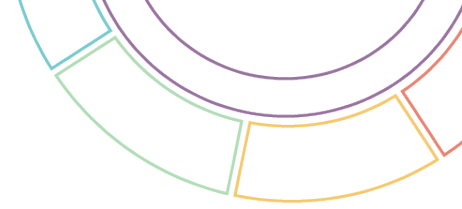
CPC – a grassroot level change management

- At introduction, CPC classification was a new process, which used a new IT solution within our existing workflows.
  - This required a 'grass-roots' level change management.
- Examination teams had to incorporate CPC activity into their performance requirements – this presented challenges.
- Patents leadership had to work collaboratively to support and manage staff through this process.
- We created goodwill through motivating staff, recognising them and spread awareness across examination by promoting the benefits of our work.
  - Availability of CPC symbols prior to a search being conducted has had a positive impact!

What's happening right now?

We have classified over **6000** national applications with Australian, New Zealand or no priority, in addition to all international PCT applications for which IP Australia is the International Search Authority (ISA)

We are in the process of exporting over **3500** applications to the CPCi platform using the EPO Web Services API.

- The Consolidated Revision Concordance List (RCL) is used to ensure that classification is valid before transmission to the EPO. This includes performing revision tasks.

On-going refinement of internal CPC classification and QA processes and the IT systems

What's next?

Devise a new approach to gauge and maintain CPC competency within IP Australia.

Integrate the CPC tool into our future Patent Examination IT systems.

Incorporate CPC training within Patent examiner training framework to embed CPC ability as a core skill in all future examiners.

Thank You

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