

Communiqué

November 2024 meeting of the Accreditation Committee

The Ahpra Board established the Accreditation Committee (the committee) consistent with [Ministerial Council Policy Direction 2020-1](#) to provide independent and expert advice on accreditation reform and other National Scheme accreditation matters to National Scheme entities (National Boards, Accreditation Authorities and Ahpra). Other external entities performing accreditation roles as part of the National Scheme, such as specialist colleges and postgraduate medical councils should have regard for the committee's advice, where relevant.

The committee issues a communiqué after each meeting to keep stakeholders informed about its work.

The committee held its fourteenth meeting in Melbourne on 20 November 2024. Members welcomed Mr Takudzwa Gandanhamo, the new Australian Private Health Associations representative to his first meeting. Members also acknowledged the contributions of Mr Brett Simmonds as the outgoing Chair of the Pharmacy Board of Australia and looked forward to welcoming the new National Board representative at its next meeting.

The key areas considered by the committee during the meeting are reflected in its work plan.

Update from the Chair

The Chair advised of a number of meetings with stakeholders he attended since September. The Chair met with the CEO of the Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) and the senior management team from the Australian Medical Council (AMC).

Cultural safety and eliminating racism considerations

Members noted cultural safety and racism considerations in relation to the meeting agenda. Members also noted the recently published data on health practitioners who identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander in the 2023-24 Annual Report.

Accreditation reform agenda

Members noted the Chair attended a Policy Design Forum led by the independent reviewer, Ms Sue Dawson, for the [Independent review of complexity in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme](#). The purpose was to consider issues related to accreditation functions and to identify if there are potential reforms that could strengthen the effectiveness of the Scheme.

Members discussed the role of the committee in accreditation reform and agreed to revise its 2024-2025 workplan to incorporate more reform projects. An updated workplan will be published on the committee's website in early 2025.

Reducing duplication in accreditation processes across the National Scheme.

The committee considered its role in providing advice to all accreditation entities in the National Scheme regarding opportunities to reduce duplication in accreditation processes between accreditation authorities, and the administrative burden that duplication places on education providers.

Advice to National Scheme bodies on the publication of accreditation assessment decisions and monitoring reports

Members noted and discussed options for the publication of accreditation assessment decisions and monitoring reports across the accreditation authorities for the registered health professions. Members agreed to develop a statement to provide guidance to accreditation authorities.

Guidance on developing professional capabilities

Members noted the public consultation report on the draft guidance on developing professional capabilities which ran between August and October 2024. Further updates will be made to the draft guidance before its publication in early 2025.

Principles for the use of outcome-based approaches for accreditation

Members discussed the draft proposed principles for the use of outcome-based approaches to accreditation and noted the communications and engagement plan. Public consultation on the draft principles will commence in early 2025.

The role of accreditation in the National Scheme's Environmental and Sustainability Strategy

Members noted the development of Ahpra's Environmental and Sustainability Strategy and discussed the committee's role in contributing to environment and sustainability efforts.

Embedding clinical placements, simulation based learning and virtual care in initial student health practitioner education

Members noted the latest iteration of the draft guidance and approved the publication on the committee's website in early 2025.

National Prescribing Competencies Framework (NPCF) review

Members discussed the current review of the NPCF, and provided feedback to the project team on the proposed framework.

2024-25 Work plan and 2025 meeting schedule

Members agreed to finalise the committee's 2024-25 workplan, and noted the 2025 meeting schedule.

Other business

There was no other business raised.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held via videoconference in **March 2025**.

More information

Questions about the committee's work may be directed to the secretariat via email to: ahpra.secretariat@ahpra.gov.au.

Members

Professor Andrew Wilson AO	Independent Chair
Professor Maree O'Keefe	Accreditation/education expert
Ms Alison Barnes	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander member
Associate Professor Carmen Parter	Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander member
Mr Brett Simmonds	National Boards representative
Adjunct Professor Veronica Casey AM	National Boards representative
Dr Terry Crisp	Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (HPACF) nominee
Mr Anton Barnett-Harris	Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (HPACF) nominee
Dr Hamza Vayani	Ahpra's Community Advisory Council nominee
Dr Heather Buchan	Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care nominee
Dr Mary Russell	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) nominee
Mr Jeffrey Moffet	Ahpra Board member
Professor Trish Davidson AM	Ahpra Board member
Mr Takudzwa Gandanhamo	Australian Private Hospitals Association (Private healthcare employer) nominee
Professor Esther May	Universities Australia nominee
Ms Valerie Ramsperger	Jurisdictional representative