

Public consultation response template – draft guidance on embedding good practice in clinical placements, simulation-based learning and virtual care in initial student health practitioner education

April 2024

Please provide any feedback on the draft guidance using this template, including your responses to all or some of the questions in the text boxes on the following pages. The boxes will expand to accommodate your response. You do not need to respond to a question if you have no comment.

Making a submission

Send the completed response template to AC_consultation@ahpra.gov.au using the subject line 'Feedback – public consultation on good practice guidance for clinical placements, simulation-based learning and virtual care'.

Submissions are due by close of business (AEST) 21 June 2024.

Publication of submissions

At the end of the consultation period, submissions (other than those made in confidence) will be published on the Accreditation Committee's website to encourage discussion and inform the community and stakeholders about consultation responses.

We can accept submissions made in confidence. These submissions will not be published on the website or elsewhere. Submissions may be confidential because they include personal experiences or other sensitive information. Any request for access to a confidential submission will be determined in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982 (Cth)*, which has provisions designed to protect personal information and information given in confidence. **Please let us know if you do not want us to publish your submission or want us to treat all or part of it as confidential.**

We will not place on the website, or make available to the public, submissions that contain offensive or defamatory comments or which are outside the scope of the subject of the consultation. Before publication, we may remove identifying information from submissions, including contact details.

The views expressed in the submissions are those of the individuals or organisations who submit them, and their publication does not imply any acceptance of, or agreement with, these views by the review.

Published submissions will include the names of the individuals and/or the organisations that made the submission, unless confidentiality is requested. If you do not wish for your name and/or organisation's name to be published, please use the words '**Confidential submission**' in the subject title when emailing your submission.

Initial questions

To help us better understand your situation and the context of your feedback please provide us with some details about you. These details will not be published in any summary of the collated feedback from this consultation.

Question A

Are you completing this submission on behalf of an organisation or as an individual?

Your answer:

Organisation

Name of organisation: Australian Rural Health Education Network (ARHEN)

Contact email: admin@arhen.org.au

Myself

Name: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Contact email: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Question B

If you are completing this submission as an individual, are you:

A registered health practitioner?

Profession: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

A member of the public?

Other: [Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

Question C

Would you like your submission to be published?

Yes, publish my submission **with** my name/organisation name

Yes, publish my submission **without** my name/ organisation name

No – **do not** publish my submission

Your responses to the consultation questions

1. Do you have any comments on the good practice statements in the guidance?		
Please add your comments to the following table and add a new row for each good practice statement you have a comment for.		
Guidance	Good practice statement	Comments or suggestions
Example: Clinical placements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Simulation-based learning <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual care <input type="checkbox"/>	[Insert good practice statement number and/or statement here]	[Insert your comments and/or suggestions here]
Clinical placements <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Under the section on supervisors – p.6-7	Consider including a requirement for supervisors to be able to facilitate interprofessional learning and reflection.
Simulation-based learning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dot point 5 – page 9	Consider changing to ‘integrates pre-briefing and debriefing...’
Simulation-based learning <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Dot point 6 – page 10	Consider change to ‘they enable students to collaborate interprofessionally with health practitioners and students from other health professions’.

2. Are there any other evidence-based good practice statements that should be included in the guidance?
See comments below.

3. What information could the committee provide that would help National Scheme entities implement the guidance?
See comments below.

4. Do you have any general comments or feedback about the guidance?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft guidance. ARHEN considers that the guidance is clear and well-considered.

ARHEN is the national association for the 19 University Departments of Rural Health (UDRH) around the country. Each year, the UDRHs facilitate training placements for more than 15,000 nursing, midwifery and allied health students in rural and remote Australia in a variety of settings including acute care, primary health care, aged care, mental health services, disability services, schools, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander services and other community services.

ARHEN appreciates the inclusion in the guidance of the importance of placements in diverse geographic locations and settings, as well as the emphasis on extended placements. ARHEN considers these factors are essential for ensuring that health students are able to experience the opportunities and challenges of working in rural and remote Australia, build skills and confidence in these settings, and be ready for a rural and remote health career on graduation.

One thing the Accreditation Committee may wish to consider including in the guidance (potentially in the context section on page 5) is a statement that encourages flexibility in rural and remote settings to enable tailoring the placement approach, setting and duration to local needs. In many rural and remote regions, the UDRHs are co-designing and implementing innovative, hybrid approaches which support students to achieve their learning outcomes while also delivering value to the host organisation and under-served communities. This includes, for example, supporting students with an extended duration placement which allows students to participate in lectures and tutorials, as well placement activities, and community immersion activities which help to deepen students understanding of the rural and remote context.

ARHEN also supports the statements regarding cultural safety in placements.

With regard to interprofessional learning and reflection, the Committee may wish to ensure that this is equally emphasized across the guidance on clinical placements, simulation and virtual care.

The Committee may wish to also consider the recommendations from the Australian Government's [Scope of Practice Review](#) and the importance of health professionals working to their full scope of practice, as well as the importance of inter-professional training opportunities and supervision.

The Committee may also wish to substitute the term 'patient-centred' for 'person-centred' in its guidance.