



# **Accreditation in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme:**

A snapshot 2024/25

# Introduction

**The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme** (the Scheme) was established by the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the National Law) in July 2010.

The Scheme is multi-professional, regulating more than 950,000+ health practitioners across 16 professions. The accreditation functions in the National Law include developing accreditation standards, accrediting programs of study against approved accreditation standards and assessing internationally qualified health practitioners (IQHP).

**Accreditation** is integral to the Scheme as it is the key to ensure that individuals seeking registration have the knowledge, skills and professional capabilities to safely and competently practise their profession in Australia.

The **Snapshot of Accreditation** is a yearly summary of whole of scheme information about accreditation activities. This version is current at 30 June 2025.

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## Contact us

Please contact Ahpra on **1300 419 495** or  
visit our website **[www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au)**

This document was prepared by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency in collaboration with National Boards and the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum.



# Accreditation

## What is it?

### Program Accreditation

Program accreditation is the process of assessing whether an educational program of study and the education provider that provides the program produce graduates who have the knowledge, skills and professional capabilities to safely and competently practise the profession in Australia.

### Practitioner Assessment

Practitioner assessment is the process of assessing whether an internationally qualified health practitioner has demonstrated the knowledge, clinical skills, and professional capabilities to safely and competently practise the profession in Australia.

## Who performs accreditation?

The accreditation authorities (six accreditation committees and 10 accreditation councils) exercise [accreditation](#) functions in the National Scheme.<sup>1</sup> They develop and review accreditation standards, assess and accredit programs, provide advice to the National Boards, and monitor compliance. Some accreditation authorities evaluate internationally qualified health practitioners.

### Accreditation Committees:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Accreditation Committee
- Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee
- Medical Radiation Practice Accreditation Committee
- Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Committee (Assessment of internationally qualified nurses and midwives)
- Paramedicine Accreditation Committee
- Podiatry Accreditation Committee

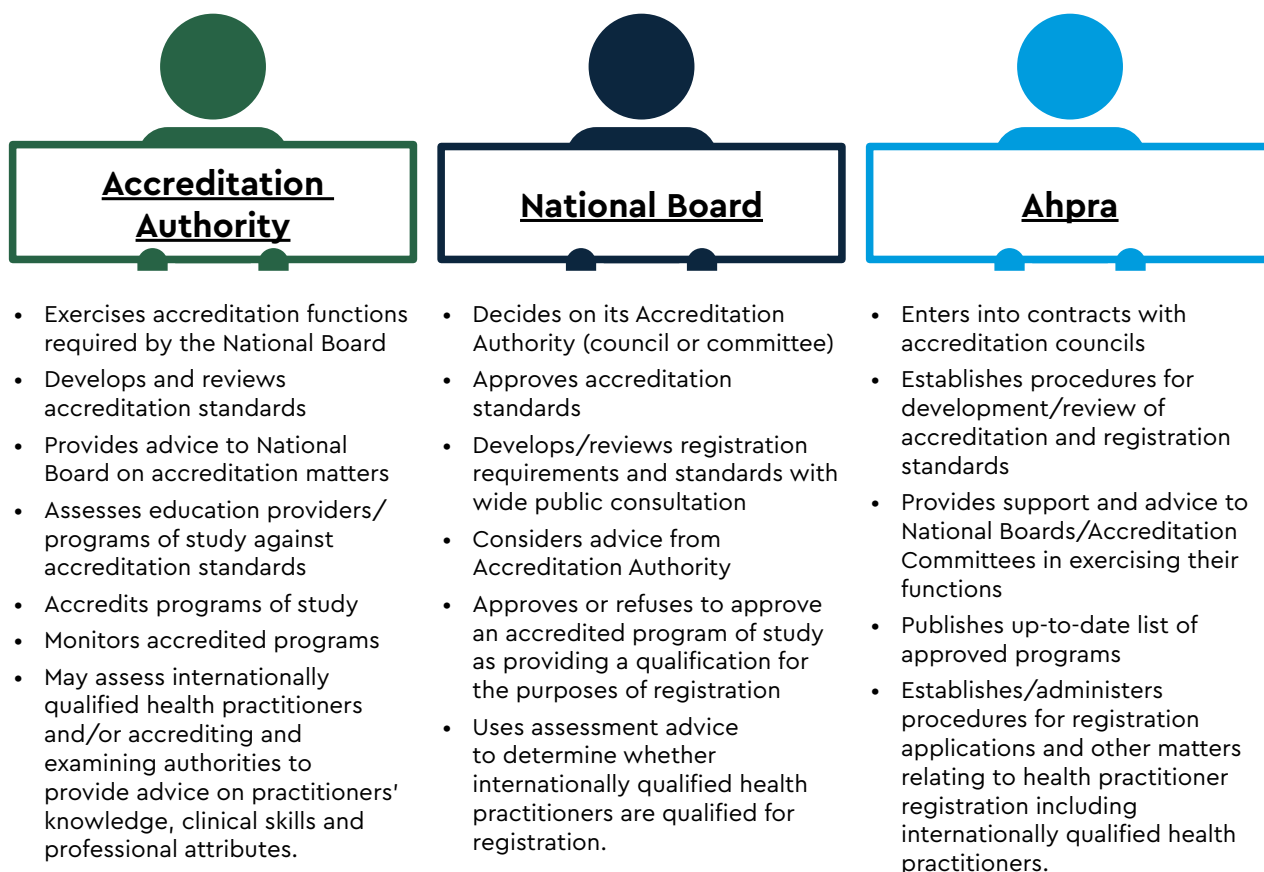
### Accreditation Councils:

- Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia
- Australian Dental Council
- Australian Medical Council
- Australian Nursing & Midwifery Accreditation Council
- Occupational Therapy Council of Australia
- Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand
- Australian Osteopathic Accreditation Council
- Australian Pharmacy Council
- Australian Physiotherapy Council
- Australian Psychology Accreditation Council

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<sup>1</sup> If the Accreditation Authority is an external council, the council works with the National Board to deliver specified accreditation functions under a formal agreement with Ahpra on the Board's behalf. If the Accreditation Authority is a committee, the committee works with the National Board according to the committee's terms of reference.

## Accreditation in the National Scheme: Who does what?



### The Health Professions' Accreditation Collaborative Forum

The [Health Professions' Accreditation Collaborative Forum](#) (HPACF) is the coalition of entities appointed by the National Boards as Accreditation Authorities for the professions regulated under the National Law. The HPACF has since been meeting regularly since 2007, before the commencement of the Scheme. The HPACF considers matters of common interest, principally matters concerning the accreditation of education and training programs in the regulated health professions. The HPACF advocates for good accreditation practices. The HPACF engages with Ahpra and the National Boards and publishes a [communique](#) after each meeting.



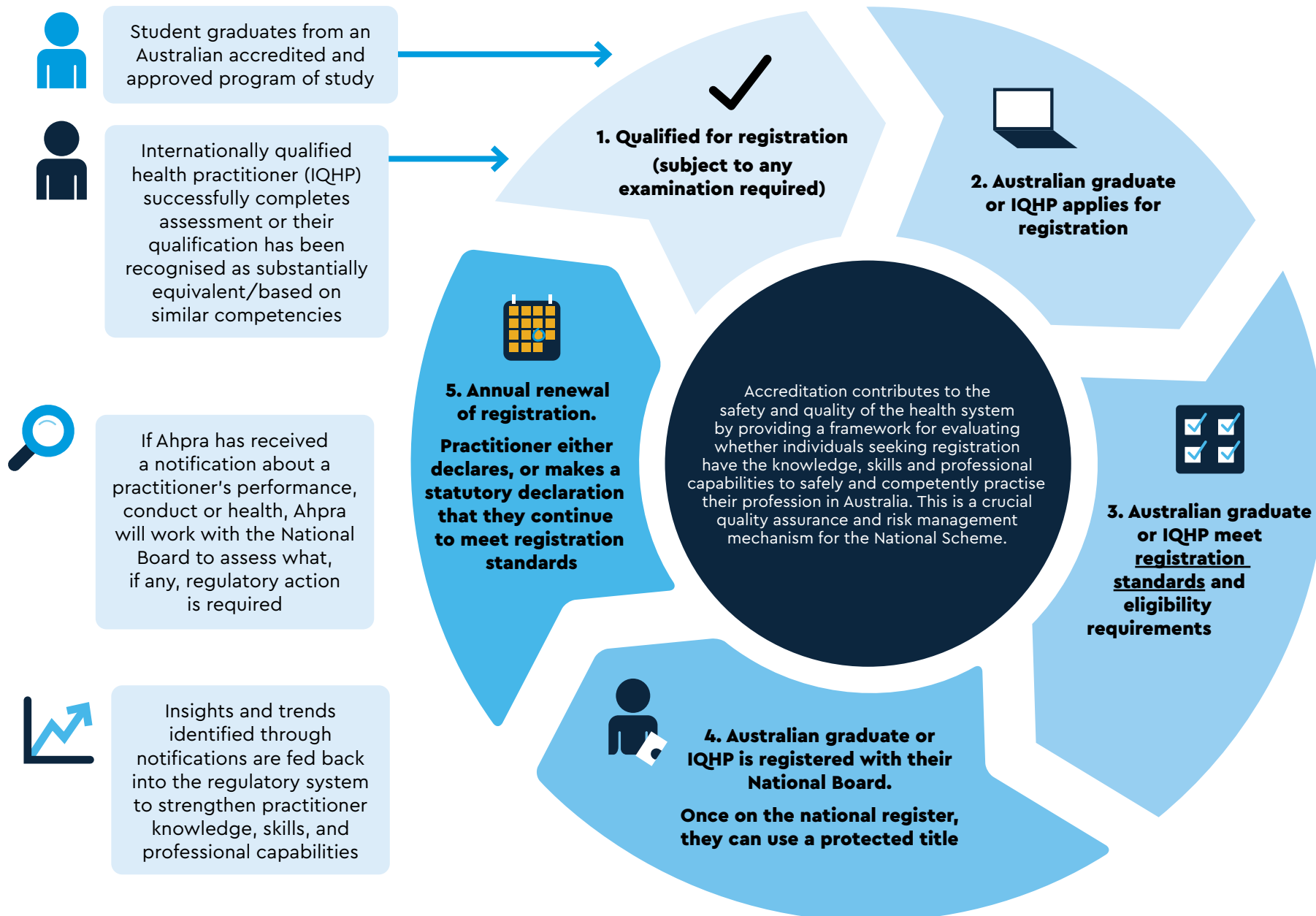
### Accreditation Committee

The Ahpra Board established the independently-chaired Accreditation Committee (the committee) consistent with [Ministerial Council Policy Direction 2020-1- Independent Accreditation Committee](#) 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).

The committee's published [work plans](#) reflect its main work deliverables. The Committee also publishes [communiques](#) following each meeting.

# Intersection between accreditation and registration functions

## Lifecycle of a health practitioner



# What's new in accreditation?

## Update on Accreditation Committee deliverables

In 2024/25 the Accreditation Committee (the committee) contributed to progress multiple deliverables as part of its published [work plan](#).

The committee published its principles to strengthen the involvement of consumers in accreditation and draft guidance on clinical placements, simulation-based learning and virtual care in initial student health practitioner education in April 2025.

The [Glossary of accreditation terms](#) was integrated into accreditation documentation, training and communications to support a shared language and consistent understanding of the committee's advice across professions, National Scheme entities and external stakeholders

*Principles for the use of outcome-based approaches to accreditation* are in development to help ensure accreditation in the National Scheme is flexible, responsive, equitable and contributes to the provision of high-quality healthcare. It is anticipated that the proposal for public consultation on this work will be released in late 2025.



## Annual Accreditation Meeting

The second Annual Accreditation Meeting was held in September 2025. Following on from the themes of Accreditation Meeting held in 2024, the 2025 meeting had a stronger emphasis on workforce intersection with accreditation. Around 120 attendees from National Boards, Accreditation Authorities, Ahpra and other NRAS stakeholders attended.

The meeting allowed for wide-ranging discussion on a range of contemporary accreditation issues, the brainstorming of possible solutions to those issues and will foster a strengthened sense of collaboration and partnership in addressing the issues discussed.

## Update on the Dawson review

The Dawson Review, formally known as the [Independent Review of Complexity in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme](#) (NRAS), was initiated to address concerns about inefficiencies and inconsistencies in Australia's health practitioner regulation system. Ahpra welcomed the findings of the review aimed at streamlining regulatory processes, enhancing fairness and transparency and better aligning with public safety and community expectations. Ahpra and National Boards have commenced work on recommendations that are relevant to accreditation functions.

## Common Capabilities Development

In March 2025, a working group was established to develop a set of common professional capabilities, for adoption by National Scheme professions in areas such as identifying and responding to family, domestic and sexual violence, digital health, cultural safety and mental health. The working group has drafted and developed an initial set of common professional capabilities and will be undergoing a series of testing with specialist expert groups and key stakeholders in late 2025.

## HPACF update

Update from the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (HPACF) –

- The Interprofessional Education initiative entered phase II and is developing guidance for accreditation authorities on expectations during accreditation visits.
- A new governance model has been implemented to address previous resourcing challenges and support future work.
- The Accreditation Managers Sub-committee is working with the University of Adelaide and University of South Australia to reduce regulatory burden during the merger of the two education providers to create Adelaide University.
- A working group is examining the implications of AI on accreditation and education.

More information is available on the [HPACF's](#) website.



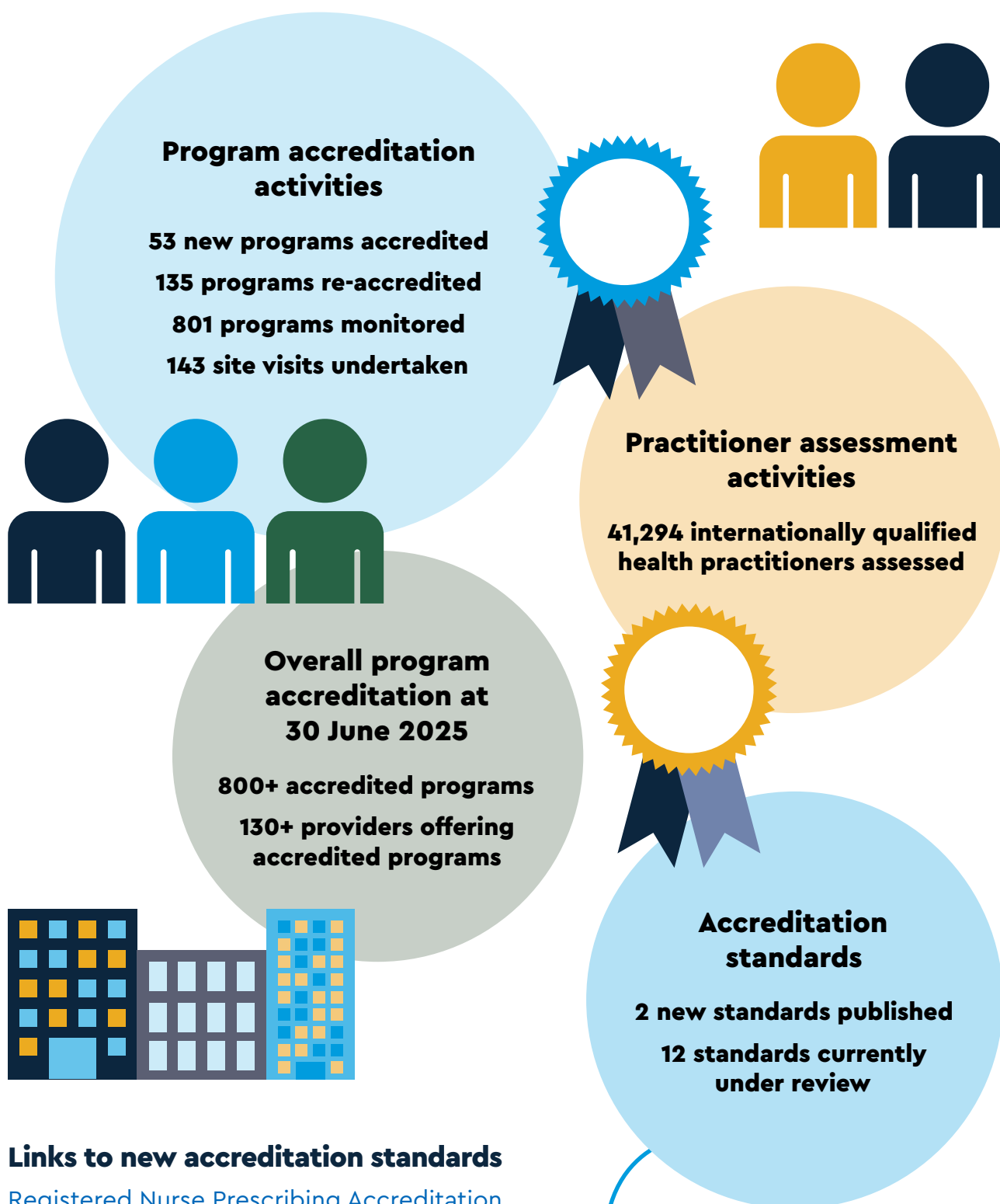
## IPCP SOI Implementation

The committee published the Interprofessional Collaborative Practice (IPCP) Statement of Intent (SOI) in 2024 and has developed an implementation plan to define the key elements, expected outcomes and next steps to action the principles of the statement. The SOI is an important step towards achieving effective team-based and coordinated care across Australia. The implementation plan will include four approaches to utilise National Scheme and out of Scheme levers to help better embed IPCP principles across the learning continuum for all regulated health practitioners.

## Reducing Duplication in Accreditation Processes

Reducing duplication in accreditation processes within the National Scheme is a key priority in 2025. Focus groups have been conducted across Australia with accreditation authorities, accreditation assessors and education providers. The committee's working group is identifying priority activities for reducing duplication, to be tested with key stakeholders in 2026.

# Accreditation activities 2024/25



## Links to new accreditation standards

[Registered Nurse Prescribing Accreditation Standards 2025](#)

[Accreditation Standards for Chiropractic Programs and Competency Standards for Chiropractors](#)

Accreditation standards are used to assess whether a program of study, and the education provider that delivers the program of study, provides graduates of the program with the knowledge, skills and professional attributes to practise the profession.

The current standards can be found on the [Ahpra website](#) under the relevant Boards accreditation section.

# Breakdown of accreditation activity data for 2024/25<sup>2</sup>

	Accreditation standards		Accreditation of programs of study and education providers				Accredited programs and providers		Assessment of overseas authorities	Assessment of internationally qualified health practitioners
	Number of accreditation standards developed in the relevant financial year	Number of accreditation standards reviewed in the relevant financial year	Number of new programs accredited in the relevant financial year	Number of programs re-accredited in the relevant financial year	Number of programs monitored in the relevant financial year	Number of site visits undertaken in the relevant financial year	Total number of accredited programs	Total number of providers offering accredited programs	Number of overseas authorities assessed in the relevant financial year	Number of internationally qualified health practitioners assessed in the relevant financial year
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Accreditation Committee	0	1	1	0	17	2	17	11	N/A	N/A
Australian Dental Council	0	1	0	4	63	10	63	18	0	7,175
Australian Medical Council	0	1	1	55	79	7	116	43	0	10,609
Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council	1	2	36 (29N & 7MW) <sup>3</sup>	0	221	79	183 <sup>4</sup>	92	0	N/A
Australian Osteopathic Accreditation Council	0	0	1	0	4	0	3	3	0	13
Australian Pharmacy Council	0	0	0	4	48	4	48	21	4	6,572
Australian Physiotherapy Council	1	1	2	14	41	13	57	31	N/A	2,426
Australian Psychology Accreditation Council	0	1	5	50	175	14	173	42	N/A	N/A
Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee	0	1	0	0	7	0	7	5	N/A	N/A
Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia	0	1	0	2	5	2	5	5	0	32
Medical Radiation Practice Accreditation Committee	0	1	0	0	30	1	30	11	N/A	N/A
Occupational Therapy Council of Australia	0	0	4	5	59	5	68	27	0	575
Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand	0	0	0	1	10	2	10	9	N/A	198
Paramedicine Accreditation Committee	0	1	2	0	25	2	25	18	N/A	N/A
Podiatry Accreditation Committee	0	1	1	0	1	2	17 <sup>5</sup>	11	N/A	N/A

2 Reflective of data provided by accreditation authorities for the 2024/25 financial year

3 1 Endorsed Midwife (EM) 6 Bachelor of Midwifery (BM) 15 Diploma of Nursing (DN) 10 Bachelor of Nursing (BN) 4 Nurse Practitioner (NP)

4 5 Endorsed Midwife (EM) 31 Bachelor of Midwifery (BM) 50 Diploma of Nursing (DN) 65 Bachelor of Nursing (BN) 13 Nurse Practitioner (NP) 8 RN/RM 11 RN/ Non ac

5 Includes two Podiatric Surgery programs accredited by the Committee

The authorities that do not perform the functions addressed in columns 9 and 10 have been recorded as N/A (not applicable).



# Internationally qualified health practitioner assessments



**Nine Accreditation Authorities assess internationally qualified health practitioners seeking registration in a registered health profession in Australia**

## **Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia**

32 assessment activities

## **Australian Dental Council**

7,175 assessment activities

## **Australian Medical Council**

10,609 assessment activities

## **Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Committee**

(Assessment of internationally qualified nurses and midwives)<sup>6</sup>

13,691 assessment activities

## **Occupational Therapy Council of Australia**

575 assessment activities

## **Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand**

198 assessment activities

## **Australian Osteopathic Accreditation Council**

13 assessment activities

## **Australian Pharmacy Council**

6,572 assessment activities

## **Australian Physiotherapy Council**

2,426 assessment activities

Internationally qualified health practitioners seeking registration in other registered health professions in Australia are assessed as part of the registration process.

<sup>6</sup> The Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia has established a committee to oversee the assessment of internationally qualified nurses and midwives

# More information about accreditation

Each Accreditation Authority, the HPACF and Ahpra publishes information, including current accreditation standards and contact details on their websites:

## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Accreditation Committee

[www.atsihealthpracticeboard.gov.au/Accreditation/ATSIHP-Accreditation-Committee.aspx](http://www.atsihealthpracticeboard.gov.au/Accreditation/ATSIHP-Accreditation-Committee.aspx)

## Australian Dental Council

<https://adc.org.au/>

## Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (Ahpra)

[www.ahpra.gov.au/Accreditation.aspx](http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Accreditation.aspx)

## Ahpra's Independent Accreditation Committee

[www.ahpra.gov.au/About-Ahpra/Who-We-Are/Agency-Management-Committee/Accreditation-Committee.aspx](http://www.ahpra.gov.au/About-Ahpra/Who-We-Are/Agency-Management-Committee/Accreditation-Committee.aspx)

## Australian Medical Council

[www.amc.org.au/](http://www.amc.org.au/)

## Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council

[www.anmac.org.au](http://www.anmac.org.au)

## Australian Osteopathic Accreditation Council

<https://osteopathiccouncil.org.au/>

## Australian Pharmacy Council

[www.pharmacycouncil.org.au](http://www.pharmacycouncil.org.au)

## Australian Physiotherapy Council

[www.physiocouncil.com.au](http://www.physiocouncil.com.au)

## Australian Psychology Accreditation Council

<https://apac.au/>

## Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee

[www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/Accreditation/Committee.aspx](http://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/Accreditation/Committee.aspx)

## Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia

[www.ccea.com.au](http://www.ccea.com.au)

## Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum

<http://hpacf.org.au/>

## Medical Radiation Practice Accreditation Committee

[www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au/Accreditation/Accreditation-Committee.aspx](http://www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au/Accreditation/Accreditation-Committee.aspx)

## Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Committee (Assessment of internationally qualified nurses and midwives)

[www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Accreditation/Assessment-of-overseas-qualified-nurses-and-midwives.aspx](http://www.nursingmidwiferyboard.gov.au/Accreditation/Assessment-of-overseas-qualified-nurses-and-midwives.aspx)

## Occupational Therapy Council of Australia Ltd

[www.otcouncil.com.au/](http://www.otcouncil.com.au/)

## Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand

[www.ocanz.org](http://www.ocanz.org)

## Paramedicine Accreditation Committee

[www.paramedicineboard.gov.au/Accreditation/Accreditation-Committee.aspx](http://www.paramedicineboard.gov.au/Accreditation/Accreditation-Committee.aspx)

## Podiatry Accreditation Committee

[www.podiatryboard.gov.au/Accreditation/Accreditation-Committee.aspx](http://www.podiatryboard.gov.au/Accreditation/Accreditation-Committee.aspx)