

## Communiqué

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### September 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 thirteenth meeting via videoconference on 5 September 2024. The committee noted Mrs Kay Leatherland has retired from her position and acknowledged her contribution to the work of the committee. Members looked forward to welcoming the new Australian Private Health Associations representative at the next meeting.

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

#### Update from the Chair

The Chair advised of a number of meetings with stakeholders he attended since June. The Chair met with Ms Sue Dawson, independent reviewer for the [Independent review of complexity in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme](#), the Australian and New Zealand Occupational Therapy Fieldwork and Academics (ANZOFTA) and the Australian Society for Simulation in Health Care (ASSH).

Members also noted work is progressing on the Scope of practice review.

#### Cultural safety and eliminating racism considerations

Members discussed cultural safety and eliminating racism in relation to Ahpra's National Cultural Safety Accreditation and Continuing Professional Development (ACPD) framework and strategy and guidance for embedding clinical placements, simulation based learning and virtual care in initial student health practitioner education.

#### Government workforce initiatives

Members noted the update on work being progressed in response to the *Independent review of health practitioner regulatory settings* (the Kruk review). Members welcomed Dr Joanne Katsoris, Executive Officer of the Medical Board of Australia and Ms Theanne Walters AM, Deputy CEO, Australian Medical Council to provide an update on the Medical Board's proposed expedited specialist international medical graduate (SIMG) pathway.

Members also noted an update on the recently published report on the rapid review of [Prevention Approaches to End Gender-Based Violence](#) and its intersection with the work of the committee.

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

Members noted a verbal update from Dr Terry Crisp, Chair and representative of the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (HPACF) and discussed approaches to accreditation authorities publishing accreditation and monitoring decisions.

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

Members noted public consultation on the draft guidance on embedding good practice in clinical placements, simulation-based learning and virtual care in initial student health practitioner education closed on 21 June 2024. Members considered the consultation feedback, discussed additional feedback at the meeting and endorsed further changes to strengthen the connection to cultural safety and eliminating racism.

## **Embedding interprofessional collaborative practice (IPCP) in health practitioner education**

Professor Maree O'Keefe, Chair of the IPCP statement of intent working group provided the committee with an update. The working group met twice and developed a draft background paper on possible approaches to the development of the implementation activities. Members commended the work progressed by the working group to date and approved the approach.

## **National Cultural Safety Accreditation and Continuing Professional Development Framework and Strategy**

Members noted the preliminary consultation on the National Cultural Safety Accreditation and Continuing Professional Development (ACPD) Framework and Strategy closed on 26 August 2024. Members noted the Committee will have additional opportunities to submit feedback at future consultative phases. Members provided additional feedback to be submitted to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Unit (HSU) for consideration.

## **Annual updates**

### **Annual self-evaluation and review of committee charter**

Members reviewed the results of the committee's self-evaluation survey and agreed to hold two face-to-face meetings and two virtual meetings each year.

### **Annual report**

Members noted the draft 2023-24 annual report, prepared in line with the Committee Charter. The report covers the 12-month period to the end of June 2024 and highlights the Committee's activities and achievements to date. Members approved the report for submission to the Ahpra Board and publication on the Ahpra website.

## **Work planning**

Members recalled the first draft of the 2024-25 workplan and noted the feedback incorporated from last meeting. Members considered and approved the updated workplan.

## **Other business**

There was no other business raised.

## **Next meeting**

The next meeting will be held in Melbourne in **November 2024**.

## **More information**

Questions about the committee's work may be directed to the secretariat via email to: [ahpra.secretariat@ahpra.gov.au](mailto: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
<i>To be announced</i>	Australian Private Hospitals Association (Private healthcare employer) nominee
Professor Esther May	Universities Australia nominee
Ms Valerie Ramsperger	Jurisdictional representative