

## Communiqué

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May 2020

### April 2020 Podiatry Accreditation Committee meeting

#### Introduction

The Podiatry Accreditation Committee (the Committee) commenced undertaking accreditation functions for podiatry in the national scheme regulating health practitioners in July 2019.

This Communiqué provides information about the Accreditation Committee's recent activities. The Committee publishes this communiqué on the Podiatry Board of Australia's (the Board) [accreditation webpage](#). Please forward it to your colleagues and employees who may be interested.

#### Committee's response to COVID-19

The Committee and Ahpra are closely monitoring the COVID-19 pandemic and its potential impacts on accredited and approved programs. The Committee has released statements outlining its plans for its accreditation activities for the remainder of 2020, on the ['News and updates'](#) accreditation webpage of the Board's website.

#### Accreditation Committee meetings

The fifth meeting of the Committee was held on 22 April 2020 via Zoom. The Committee has three further meetings scheduled in 2020.

Some activities that were discussed at the Committee's April 2020 meeting are outlined below.

#### Review and development of accreditation standards and professional capabilities for podiatry

The Committee is responsible for developing and reviewing the accreditation standards against which education providers and their implementation of podiatry programs of study (programs) are assessed when applying for accreditation under the National Law. The Board is responsible for approving and publishing the accreditation standards.

The Expert Reference Group (ERG) established by the Committee to guide work on the professional capabilities held its inaugural meeting in February 2020. The Group comprises Committee and Board representation with relevant expertise.

At its April 2020 meeting, the Committee noted the development of the accreditation standards and professional capabilities is well underway. Due to the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on stakeholders, including education providers, the Committee has revised its timeframes for the project. It is anticipated that preliminary consultation on the accreditation standards and professional capabilities will now commence in mid-2020, with public consultation expected to commence in late 2020.

As mentioned in previous communiques, the Committee looks forward to receiving feedback from its core stakeholders, including education providers, during the consultation periods of this important project. The consultation package will be made available on the [accreditation pages](#) of the Board's website once public consultation commences.

It is anticipated that the revised/developed accreditation standards and professional capabilities will be ready for implementation in mid-late 2021.

## Development of revised accreditation processes for podiatry

At its September 2019 meeting, the Committee agreed to adopt the draft multi-professional guidelines for accreditation of education and training programs (guidelines). The guidelines are being developed in conjunction with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice, Chinese Medicine, Medical Radiation Practice and Paramedicine Accreditation Committees.

The guidelines were released for a targeted consultation and have received positive feedback from education providers and National Boards. It is expected the guidelines will be published in mid-2020. These guidelines will replace the current [Accreditation procedures for Podiatry programs](#) developed by the Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council (ANZPAC).

## Stakeholder engagement

The Program Accreditation Team on behalf of the Committee continues to engage with education providers via the Board's [accreditation webpage](#) and through correspondence on email; phone calls; and communiques via the Program Accreditation Team. The Committee will seek stakeholder input on various consultations later in 2020, including the draft accreditation standards and professional capabilities.

## Monitoring approved programs of study

Under section 50 of the National Law, the Committee has a statutory responsibility to monitor approved programs of study and the education providers offering them, to ensure the Committee continues to be satisfied the program and provider meet the approved accreditation standards.

At its April 2020 meeting the Committee continued with consideration of the first round of podiatry education providers' routine annual monitoring submissions, as part of its responsibility to monitor education providers and their programs in 2019/2020.

## Podiatry assessment teams and recruitment of accreditation assessors

At its April 2020 meeting, the Committee considered and approved its Approach to the establishment of assessment teams for the Podiatry Accreditation Committee.

Commencement of an expression of interest campaign for applications to the Committee's pool of accreditation assessors has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is anticipated that the campaign will now commence in late-2020, in line with anticipated timeframes for the accreditation standards and professional capabilities for podiatry. Further information about the commencement of the campaign will be included in future communiques.

## Schedule of accreditation fees for podiatry

At its April 2020 meeting, the Committee continued discussions about its schedule of accreditation fees for 2020 and 2021. The Committee hopes to be able to share further information regarding 2021 accreditation fees for podiatry with education providers soon.

## Contact information

For any queries related to podiatry program accreditation, please contact the Committee via the Program Accreditation Team at [program.accreditation@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:program.accreditation@ahpra.gov.au).

For more information on podiatry accreditation please visit the Board's [accreditation](#) webpage. Further information will be added to the website as the Committee's accreditation functions progress.

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