



Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander Health Practice  
Chinese Medicine  
Chiropractic  
Dental  
Medical  
Medical Radiation Practice  
Nursing and Midwifery  
Occupational Therapy  
Optometry  
Osteopathy  
Pharmacy  
Physiotherapy  
Podiatry  
Psychology

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

## Communiqué

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### December meeting of the Accreditation Advisory Committee

#### 04 December 2018

The Accreditation Advisory Committee (AAC) was established by AHPRA's Agency Management Committee in early 2018 to provide oversight and leadership on accreditation governance, accountability and transparency issues, and a whole of Scheme perspective on AHPRA's management of contracts for the performance of the accreditation functions.

The AAC has met four times in 2018 and will continue to meet quarterly in 2019. The AAC has decided to issue a Communiqué after each meeting to keep stakeholders informed about its work.

This Communiqué provides information about the AAC's fourth meeting, held by teleconference on **03 December 2018**. Key topics of discussion at this meeting included:

- New accreditation agreements and terms of reference
- Interim funding and fee principles
- National Interprofessional Education Collaboration
- Governance framework for decisions about accreditation arrangements

#### New accreditation agreements and terms of reference

Following the review of accreditation assignments earlier in 2018 new accreditation agreements for external accreditation authorities and terms of reference for accreditation committees for the period 2019-2024 have been a key area of the AAC's work.. The new accreditation agreements/terms of reference will be a key way to achieve progress on priority issues and enhance accountability through reporting against new KPIs. Members considered and provided feedback on the draft new template accreditation agreement and terms of reference.

#### Interim funding and fee principles

Work on funding and fee principles will drive progress on one of the priority issues in accreditation over the next five years – improving transparency and accountability. Members discussed and considered proposed interim funding and fee principles for accreditation and agreed to include the proposed principles in the draft new agreement template and draft new TOR template for discussion with National Boards and Accreditation Authorities, via the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum.

#### National Interprofessional Education Collaboration

Members discussed and proposed to accept an invitation to join a new National Interprofessional Education Collaboration. The Securing an Interprofessional future for Australian health professional education and practice project (the SIF project) has been funded by the Office for Learning and Teaching (Commonwealth Department of Education and Training), to lead and develop a whole of system approach to the future development of Australian interprofessional education (IPE). The project is ending shortly and the proposed new Collaboration would provide an opportunity to continue national work in this important area.

## Governance framework for decisions about accreditation arrangements

The AAC considered a possible draft governance framework and mechanisms for advice that AHPRA may provide to Boards making decisions about accreditation arrangements including the option to establish an accreditation committee. The draft framework will be refined to address the AAC's feedback before discussion with National Boards and Accreditation Authorities.

### Next meeting

The next meeting of the AAC will be held on 05 February 2019.

### More information

Queries regarding the work of the AAC may be directed to Ms Helen Townley, National Director, Accreditation and Policy on [Helen.Townley@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:Helen.Townley@ahpra.gov.au) or phone 03 8708 9111.

### Membership

Michael Gorton AM (*Chair*)  
Dr Susan Young  
Dr Susan (Sue) Gould

Chair, Agency Management Committee  
Agency Management Committee  
Community member, Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia  
Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia  
Agency Management Committee  
Independent expert

Associate Professor Lynette Cusack  
Adjunct Professor Karen Crawshaw PSM  
Emeritus Professor Christine Ewan AM

### Invited experts

Dr Heather Buchan  
Dr Karen Treloar

Australian Commission on Safety & Quality in Health Care  
Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency