



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

February meeting of the Accreditation Advisory Committee

05 February 2019

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

This Communiqué provides information about the AAC's fifth meeting, held by teleconference on **05 February 2019**. Key topics of discussion at this meeting included:

- New accreditation agreements and terms of reference
- Responding to the Accreditation Systems Review consultation
- Routine review of *Procedures for development of accreditation standards*

New accreditation agreements and terms of reference

Following the review of accreditation assignments 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 discussed issues raised by stakeholders about the draft new agreement template and draft new terms of reference template.

Responding to the Accreditation Systems Review consultation

In August 2015, after considering recommendations from the final report of the *Independent Review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health professionals* (NRAS Review), Health Ministers asked the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council (AHMAC) to commission an independent review of accreditation systems (the Review). Professor Mike Woods was appointed as the independent reviewer, and undertook the Review from late 2016 to late 2017. Health Ministers released the final report of the Review in late 2018 and decided to undertake further stakeholder consultation on the costs, benefits and risks of implementing the Review recommendations including proposed governance models. A consultation paper is due for release in February 2019, and members discussed a potential approach to developing a response to the consultation.

Routine review of *Procedures for development of accreditation standards*

Agency Management Committee approved the current [Procedures for the development of accreditation standards](#) (accreditation standards procedures) and the [Procedures for the development of registration standards](#) (registration standards procedures) in November 2014. A routine review of the accreditation standards procedures and the registration standards procedures will be undertaken as a project commencing in early 2019. Members discussed aspects of the project plan for this work including seeking feedback on the current procedures, an environmental scan and consulting with stakeholders on proposed revisions to the current documents.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the AAC will be held on 14 May 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 or phone 03 8708 9111.

Membership

Michael Gorton AM (*Chair*)

Dr Susan Young

Dr Susan (Sue) Gould

Associate Professor Lynette Cusack

Adjunct Professor Karen Crawshaw PSM

Emeritus Professor Christine Ewan AM

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

Invited experts

Dr Heather Buchan

Dr Karen Treloar

Mr Ian Bluntish

Australian Commission on Safety & Quality in Health Care

Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency

Co-convenor, Forum of NRAS Chairs, Interim Co-Chair

Accreditation Liaison Group, Chair, Optometry Board of

Australia