

Communiqué

November 2019 meeting of the Accreditation Advisory Committee

29 November 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 issues a Communique after each meeting to keep stakeholders informed about its work.

This Communique provides information about the AAC's ninth meeting, held by teleconference on 29 November 2019. The key focus of this meeting was the endorsement of the proposed initial reporting model for new accreditation agreements and terms of reference to the Agency Management Committee for approval in December 2019.

Reporting model for new accreditation agreements and terms of reference

Accreditation agreements and terms of reference that commenced in July require all accreditation authorities to report six-monthly against a template based on the same key performance indicators (KPIs) and key activity data to be agreed between the accreditation authorities, National Boards and AHPRA.

At previous meetings, members discussed the proposed approach to the initial reporting model for new agreements and terms of reference and provided feedback on a draft model which included timeframes and proposed report templates, prior to seeking feedback from National Boards and accreditation authorities. At this meeting, members considered feedback from National Boards and accreditation authorities, including outcomes from a special Accreditation Liaison Group workshop convened to discuss the proposed approach to the initial reporting model.

Members discussed updates to the proposed approach to the initial reporting model, including a 12 month transition period from the previous approach of reporting against the Quality Framework, and agreed to submit the proposed initial reporting model and templates to AHPRA's Agency Management Committee for endorsement. Subject to Agency Management Committee's approval, the final version will be circulated to National Boards and Accreditation Authorities in early 2020.

Review of Procedures for development of accreditation standards

The AAC considered an updated draft of proposed revised *Procedures for the development of accreditation standards* (accreditation standards procedures), following consultation with National Boards, accreditation authorities, jurisdictions and key stakeholders. Members approved the proposed revised accreditation standards procedures be submitted to Agency Management Committee for endorsement in early 2020, subject to additional edits.

External discussion with guests from the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum

Members welcomed the Chair and Deputy Chair from the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (HPACF) to their second AAC meeting as regular guest attendees, to discuss mutual items of relevance to the Committee and the HPACF. The Chair and Deputy Chair of the Forum updated members on several Forum projects including a recent report on the role of accreditation in improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health outcomes, continuing work on interprofessional education and initiatives to

enhance consistency. Following attendance by the Forum Chair and Deputy Chair, members reflected on the information presented and noted the importance of engagement between the HPACF and the AAC.

Key achievements in accreditation in 2019

The AAC is proud to have oversight and leadership of the following key achievements:

- establishment of new accreditation agreements with all external accreditation authorities to apply for a five year period effective from 1 July 2019. These agreements provide a contemporary framework for addressing key accreditation issues such as cultural safety, safety and quality, reducing regulatory burden, multi-profession collaboration to meet evolving health care needs, and strengthened accountability and transparency.
- publication of the accreditation agreements and terms of reference for each profession within the National Scheme for the first time. The Accreditation Authorities supported this as part of the agreed approach to strengthening governance, transparency and accountability.
- establishing an initial set of funding and fee principles to be applied to funding requests to National Boards and fees set for accreditation of programs of study and assessment of overseas qualified health practitioners. There is scope for further work on implementation of the initial funding and fee principles during the five year term of the agreements and terms of reference.
- development of an initial reporting model for accreditation authorities to provide six-monthly reports against the key performance indicators in the new agreements and terms of reference.
- review of the *Procedures for the development of Accreditation Standards* and updates to address priority accreditation issues and stakeholder feedback.

Next meeting

The next AAC meeting will be held on 3 March 2020 by teleconference.

More information

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

Membership

Gill Callister PSM (*Chair*)
Dr Susan Young
Dr Susan (Sue) Gould

Chair, Agency Management Committee
Agency Management Committee
Community member, Medical Radiation Practice Board of Australia

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

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

Professor Ian Wronski AO

University of Australia's Health Professions Education
Standing Group