



COAG Health Council

Communiqué

12 February 2020

Response to the Independent Accreditation Systems Review Final Report

Today Australian Health Ministers responded to the Independent Accreditation Systems Review Final Report, *Australia's Health Workforce: strengthening the education foundation*.

The review was commissioned by Health Ministers in response to the 2014 Independent Review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health professions, to address concerns about cost, transparency, duplication and prescriptive approaches to accreditation functions.

The review was undertaken by independent reviewer Professor Michael Woods between 2016 and 2017.

Health Ministers released the Final Report in October 2018 and asked AHMAC to undertake further targeted stakeholder consultation on the costs, benefits and risks of implementing the recommendations and the proposed governance models.

Following consultation Health Ministers agreed (either in-full, in-part or in-principle) to recommendations for accreditation reforms to improve efficiency, effectiveness and responsiveness across accreditation systems.

Health Ministers agreed to not accept accreditation governance recommendations for formation of a new statutory entity to lead health accreditation, removal of accreditation functions from National Boards and formal separation of Boards and accreditation authorities.

However, to support existing Scheme entities in delivery of reform Health Ministers agreed that the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency should establish an independent accreditation committee with broad stakeholder membership to provide advice on relevant accreditation reforms.

Key areas for implementation of recommendations from the final report include the following:

- further development of funding principles that allow for the costs of accreditation functions to be measured and compared
- the establishment of cross-profession policies and guidelines for accreditation standards development and assessment
- clarification of the roles of accreditation bodies and education regulators to avoid duplication
- strengthening the role of consumers (including employers) as a key stakeholder in accreditation systems
- extending the role of the National Health Practitioner Ombudsman and Privacy Commissioner to accept appeals from certain decisions made by accreditation entities.

Health Ministers' responses to the recommendations are summarised below and included in a *Consultation report on implementation of recommendations from Australia's Health Workforce: strengthening the education foundation*.

The report is available at:

www.coaghealthcouncil.gov.au/Projects/Accreditation-Systems-Review

<p>Funding and Cost Effectiveness 1 – Accepted in part 2 – Accepted with amendment 3 – Accepted in principle</p>	<p>Improving Efficiency 4, 5 & 6 – Accepted in principle</p>
<p>Relevance and Responsiveness of Education 7 – Accepted in principle 8 & 9 – Accepted 10 & 11 – Accepted in part 12, 13 & 14 - Accepted in principle</p>	<p>Governance – Foundation Principles 15 & 16 – Not accepted 17 & 18 – Accepted in principle</p>
<p>A Governance Model for more Efficient and Effective Accreditation 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 & 24 – Not accepted</p>	<p>Other Governance Matters 25 – Accepted in principle 26 – Accepted in principle 27 & 28 – Accepted in principle 29 – Accepted in part 30 – Accepted 31 – Accepted 32 – Accepted in principle</p>