

Communiqué

May 2020

April 2020 Paramedicine Accreditation Committee meeting

The Paramedicine Accreditation Committee (the Committee) undertakes accreditation functions for paramedicine in the national scheme regulating health practitioners.

The Committee publishes this communiqué on the Paramedicine 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 a statement outlining its plans for its accreditation activities for the remainder of 2020, on the ['News and updates'](#) accreditation webpage of the Board's website.

2020 Accreditation Committee activities

The sixth meeting of the Committee was held on 9 April 2020 via Zoom. The Committee has scheduled three further meetings in 2020.

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

Accreditation standards development

The Committee is responsible for developing the paramedicine accreditation standards (accreditation standards) against which education providers and their implementation of paramedicine 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.

In mid-2019 the Committee commenced work on the development of the accreditation standards. A targeted preliminary consultation commenced in August 2019 and closed in early October 2019. Feedback was received from stakeholders and analysed by Ahpra's appointed project team. Public consultation commenced in mid-December 2019 and closed on 13 March 2020.

At its April 2020 meeting, and due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Committee agreed to a revised timeline and will provide the final draft accreditation standards to the Board for approval in mid-2020.

Following approval and implementation of the accreditation standards, the Committee will commence assessment of all Board-approved (under section 310 of the National Law) paramedicine programs of study against the accreditation standards from 2021.

Monitoring approved programs of study

As per its agreed approach to monitoring, the Committee continues its inaugural round of routine annual monitoring of all 27 paramedicine programs approved by the Board under section 310 of the National Law. Due to COVID-19, the Committee has revised its monitoring activities in 2020, including deferring due dates for the next routine annual monitoring responses.

The Committee encourages all education providers to read its updated [statement](#) on the accreditation pages of the Board's webpages. The Program Accreditation Team will write to all education providers

advising them of the monitoring requirement to submit information about any changes to their programs in response to COVID-19.

Accreditation fees for Paramedicine

The Committee is responsible for setting accreditation assessment and annual fees for education providers delivering Paramedicine programs of study that leads to a qualification suitable for registration. The Committee must submit its schedule of fees to the Board for approval. The fees are reviewed on a regular basis and may change from time to time.

The accreditation authorities (Councils and Committees) for all professions in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme, except occupational therapy, cover the costs of performing accreditation functions under the National Law through two revenue streams – registrant fees contributed by the relevant National Board and education providers fees.

All accreditation authorities, National Boards and Ahpra have agreed to apply the funding and fee principles that are set out in Attachments D and E of the Committee's [Terms of Reference \(ToR\)](#).

The Committee has set its 2020 annual accreditation fees, and the Program Accreditation Team, on behalf of the Committee, will provide further details to education providers in May 2020 about the 2020 annual accreditation fees.

Stakeholder engagement

[Meeting with the Australasian Council of Paramedicine Deans](#)

At its April 2020 meeting, the Committee met, via Zoom, with the President and two other members of the Australasian Council of Paramedicine Deans regarding the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the paramedicine workforce and education. The meeting was a valuable opportunity to meet and discuss important issues relevant to the profession, and the Committee looks forward to continuing to build and foster strong collaborative relationships with its key stakeholders.

[Paramedicine information sessions – February 2020](#)

At its April 2020 meeting the Committee discussed the overwhelming success of the paramedicine information sessions, held in Melbourne, Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide and Perth in February 2020.

The information sessions provided an opportunity for Committee members to meet with stakeholders; present information on the Committee's role to undertake paramedicine accreditation functions under the National Law; and introduce the draft accreditation standards. There were plenty of opportunities for stakeholders to ask questions in relation to the Committee's role in the National Scheme, and the draft accreditation standards.

New arrangements for reporting to the Board and Ahpra

In November 2019, Ahpra's Agency Management Committee finalised the initial reporting model for the current accreditation agreements and terms of reference, due dates for reports during the period of the current agreements and terms of reference, and initial report templates. The Committee has submitted its first report against the new requirements in early 2020. The reporting obligations are outlined in Attachment F and Attachment G of the Accreditation Committee's [Terms of Reference](#).

Call for accreditation assessor applications

The Committee commenced a campaign to recruit accreditation assessors in March 2020. The campaign has now closed. Due to COVID-19, the timeframe for selection and appointment of accreditation assessors has been extended. The Selection Advisory Panel appointed by the Committee will consider accreditation assessor applications, and interviews will commence in mid-2020. All successfully appointed accreditation assessors will be required to undergo assessor training in late 2020/early 2021.

Contact information

For any queries related to paramedicine program accreditation, please contact the Paramedicine Accreditation Committee via the Program Accreditation Team at program.accreditation@ahpra.gov.au.

For more information on paramedicine 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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