

Communiqué

March 2020 meeting of the Accreditation Advisory Committee

03 March 2020

The Accreditation Advisory Committee (AAC) was established by Ahpra's Agency Management Committee (AManC) 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 communiqué after each meeting to keep stakeholders informed about its work.

This communiqué provides information about the AAC's tenth meeting, held by teleconference on 3 March 2020. The key focus of this meeting was an update in anticipation of the imminent Ministerial issue of a policy direction to Ahpra to establish an independent accreditation committee, the proposed key strategic priorities for accreditation in 2020 and an overview of Accreditation Authorities proposed workplans and funding requests for 2020-21.

Outcomes from the Accreditation Systems Review

Following the release of Health Ministers' response to the final Accreditation Systems Review Report in February 2020, members were provided with an overview of the key recommendations from the final report which will impact Ahpra, primarily the establishment of the new Independent Accreditation Committee with broad stakeholder membership to provide advice on relevant accreditation reforms. Members noted that that we anticipate Ministers will issue a policy direction to Ahpra under Section 11 of the National Law setting out more details about establishing an independent accreditation committee in due course. Work to prepare for the establishment of the independent accreditation committee is underway, including scoping work on the final report recommendations pending the issue of the policy direction and any further advice on implementation. A progress report will be provided to the next AAC meeting.

Proposed key strategic priorities for accreditation in 2020

Several key strategic priorities for accreditation in 2020 were put forward for endorsement at the meeting, most of which will be informed by the agreements and terms of reference that commenced in 2019 and the outcomes of the Accreditation Systems Review. Members endorsed all proposed key strategic priorities and noted the continued importance of working closely with key stakeholders to ensure any impact of the implementation of 2020 strategic priorities will be underpinned with a collaborative, consultative approach to accreditation work.

Highlights for 2019 accreditation authority quality framework reports

Under the accreditation arrangements that ceased on 30 June 2019, accreditation authorities were required to submit twice yearly reports to their national boards on developments relevant to the domains of the *Quality Framework for the accreditation function* (quality framework). Members were invited to provide their feedback on a high-level summary highlighting aspect of the reports submitted for the period ending 30 June 2019 and noted the summary report will be provided to AManC and National Boards following this meeting.

Overview of 2020-21 accreditation authority proposed workplans and funding requests

In December 2019, Ahpra invited each accreditation authority to submit advice on its proposed work plan

and funding request for performing agreed accreditation functions in the 2020/21 financial year. Authorities were asked to identify how they applied the agreed Funding Principles and, where relevant, the agreed Fee Setting Principles set out in the Agreements/ToR to their requests. Members were provided with an overview of the proposed workplan and funding requests submitted by accreditation authorities (councils and committees) for the 2020-21 financial year. Members also noted the timelines and activities for the remaining steps of the annual review which will lead to the updated workplans and funding arrangements being published on 01 July 2020.

Review of Procedures for development of accreditation standards

Following the issue of Policy Direction 2019-02 from Health Ministers in January 2020 which mandates National Boards consult with patient safety bodies and consumer bodies on registration standards, codes and guidelines when they are being developed or revised, Ahpra is currently updating the workplan for the scheduled review of the registration standards procedures to ensure that the proposed revised procedures will address the requirements of Policy Direction 2019-2. Members noted that due to this further work, the proposed revised accreditation standards procedures and registration standards procedures will be submitted to AManC through the AAC later in 2020.

Next meeting

The next AAC meeting will be held on 09 June 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
Professor Ian Wronski AO

Australian Commission on Safety & Quality in Health Care
Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency
University of Australia's Health Professions Education Standing Group