

Communiqué

June 2020 Medical Radiation Practice Accreditation Committee meeting

The Medical Radiation Practice Accreditation Committee (the Committee) undertakes accreditation functions for medical radiation practice in the national scheme regulating health practitioners.

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

Accreditation Committee meeting

The 51st meeting of the Committee was held on 5 June 2020 via zoom. The Committee has scheduled two further meetings in 2020.

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

Monitoring approved programs of study

The Committee reaffirmed its focus remains ensuring accredited and approved programs continue to produce graduates with the knowledge, skills and professional attributes necessary to practise as a registered medical radiation practitioner.

In line with its approaches [published](#) in March and May 2020, in the second half of 2020, the Committee will require all education providers to report on changes made to the program as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, including:

- changes that may impact on the ability of an accredited program to produce graduates with the knowledge, skills and professional attributes necessary to practise as registered health practitioners, even if this potential impact is only on its 2020 graduates, and/or
- changes that are likely to impact on the ongoing ability of an accredited program to meet the accreditation standards after the COVID-19 situation abates.

Guidelines for accreditation of education and training programs (multi-profession guidelines)

The Committee agreed to adopt the Guidelines for accreditation of education and training programs (multi-profession guidelines). The multi-profession guidelines provide an opportunity to address some of the priorities in the new terms of reference/agreements for accreditation authorities, such as: achieving greater consistency; strengthening governance, transparency and accountability; and reducing regulatory burden and duplication. The multi-profession guidelines will be published in July 2020. Profession-specific accreditation guidance (for example the Committee's approach to establishing assessment teams) will be published alongside the guidelines.

COVID-19 response and status – standing agenda item

The Committee has enacted a standing agenda item at its meetings in response to COVID-19. The standing agenda item provides an update to the Committee on a range of issues arising from COVID-19 and its impact on accredited and approved programs of study and students enrolled in those programs.

Revised 2020 activities

The Committee confirmed its revised activities for 2020, based on the approaches adopted by the Committee in May 2020. This includes:

- deferring the 2020/2021 routine annual monitoring, and instead requiring each education provider to submit information about specific COVID-19 changes in the second half of 2020
- deferring all requirements for education providers to transition to accreditation against the 2019 accreditation standards
- deferring any specific monitoring that was due in 2020 by 6-12 months
- delaying planned accreditation assessments that have not yet commenced from 2020 to 2021, and
- rescheduling any 2020 site visits to 2021, with option for videoconference if an accreditation decision is required in 2020.

Stakeholder engagement

Communication regarding the Committee's revised accreditation activities in 2020

Education providers have been advised, via letter, about the Committee's revised accreditation activities in 2020. This information is more thoroughly explained under the heading "Revised 2020 activities". The Committee also advised education providers that, as a result of COVID-19, it will seek information from education providers on changes that may impact on the ability of an accredited program to produce graduates with the knowledge, skills and professional attributes necessary to practise as registered health practitioners.

Meeting with the Medical Radiations Australia

On 16 June 2020, the Chair and two Committee members met, via Zoom, with the members of Medical Radiations Australia regarding the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on the medical radiation practice workforce and education. The meeting also provided an opportunity to present the 2019 accreditation standards and the relationship to the professional capabilities. The meeting proved a valuable opportunity to discuss important issues relevant to the profession, and the Committee looks forward to continuing to build and foster strong collaborative relationships with key stakeholders in the provision of education in this field.

Contact information

For any queries related to medical radiation practice program accreditation, please contact the Medical Radiation Practice Accreditation Committee via the Program Accreditation Team via email at program.accreditation@ahpra.gov.au.

For more information on medical radiation practice accreditation please visit the Board's [accreditation](#) webpage.

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Ahpra and the Medical Radiation Practice Accreditation Committee work in partnership to accredit education and training programs for medical radiation practice.