

# AUSTRALIAN COMMISSION ON SAFETY AND QUALITY IN HEALTH CARE

TRIM: D18-39942

Mr Simon Spence  
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Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority  
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Dear Mr Spence

## Public Consultation – Joint Review of Draft Accreditation Standards

Thank you for your email of 5 September 2018 seeking feedback from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care (the Commission) on the joint review of *Accreditation Standards for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice, Chinese Medicine and Medical Radiation Practice*.

The Commission welcomes the Accreditation Standards' focus on public safety and the safe care of patients as requirements for practice from graduates.

The Commission notes in *Standard 3: Program design, delivery and resourcing* that programs of study need to address *legislative and regulatory requirements and interprofessional education*. It is the Commission's view that programs of study should include explicit reference to the National Safety and Quality Health Service (NSQHS) Standards. The NSQHS Standards, which were endorsed by Australian Health Ministers in 2011, are the nationally agreed mandatory standards that specify the minimum requirements for safety and quality in health services. The explicit referencing of the NSQHS Standards seeks to promote the alignment of standards on safety and quality with the knowledge, skills and behaviours required of graduates from these programs of study when working in Australian health services.

In November 2018 the Commission released the NSQHS Standards (second edition). The second edition provides an increased emphasis on the provision of comprehensive care, communicating for safety and the links between effective partnerships, good consumer experience and high-quality health care. These standards closely relate to the knowledge, skills and behaviours required of graduates from these programs of study.

In addition, the NSQHS Standards (second edition) requires health service organisations to address six actions that are specific to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These actions cover the key areas that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and health service representatives believe can improve the quality of care and health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. We are pleased to note the inclusion of specific Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander statements in your revised Accreditation Standards.

Further information about the NSQHS Standards can be found on the Commission's website at: [www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/assessment-to-the-nsqhs-standards/](http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/our-work/assessment-to-the-nsqhs-standards/)

If you would like to discuss this response, please contact me on ( [REDACTED] or [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Dr Robert Herkes  
**Chief Medical Officer**  
**Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care**

26 October 2018