

February 2021 Paramedicine Accreditation Committee meeting

The Paramedicine Accreditation Committee (Committee) publishes this communiqué on its [accreditation webpages](#). Please forward it to your colleagues and employees who may be interested.

Committee's ongoing response to COVID-19

The Committee and Ahpra continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and its potential impacts on approved programs, including the downstream effects on current students. The Committee is finalising planning of its accreditation activities for 2021, and more details will be posted on the ['News and updates'](#) accreditation webpage when they are available.

Committee meeting

The tenth meeting of the Committee was held on 18 February 2021 via Zoom. The Committee anticipates holding at least three more meetings in 2021.

Some activities that were discussed at the Committee's February 2021 meeting, as well as some other key activities for the Committee, are outlined more thoroughly below.

Assessment activities for approved programs of study

The Committee will commence assessment of all currently approved (under section 310 of the National Law) paramedicine programs of study against the paramedicine accreditation standards from June 2021. The Program Accreditation Team has contacted all education providers to advise them of their scheduled date for an accreditation assessment.

Monitoring approved programs of study (s50)

Under section 50 of the National Law, the Committee has a statutory responsibility to monitor approved programs of study and the education providers offering them. Until such time that the accreditation standards take effect on 1 June 2021 the Committee will continue to monitor programs of study to ensure the Committee and National Board can be assured that a program of study approved under section 310 of the National Law continues to provide a qualification for the purposes of registration in paramedicine.

At its February 2021 meeting, the Committee confirmed its 2021 Routine annual monitoring package and timeframes for reporting. The 2021 Routine annual monitoring report form and associated templates will be disseminated to education providers in two rounds - either March or June 2021. The Routine annual monitoring reports will seek information from education providers on the downstream impacts of COVID-19 in 2021 and beyond.

The Committee will continue to provide advice to the National Board on its monitoring of approved programs including the downstream impacts of COVID-19.

Accreditation fees for paramedicine

The Committee is discussing with the National Board its approach to accreditation fees for paramedicine programs of study in 2021 and beyond. The Committee is considering a variety of factors, including its schedule of assessments commencing from mid-2021. Any further developments in this area will be communicated to education providers.

March 2021 Key Performance Indicators reporting to the National and Ahpra

As outlined in section 7 of its [Terms of Reference \(ToR\)](#), the Committee must provide to the National Board reports and supporting documentation in accordance with the timeframes and form and content requirements as identified in attachment F of the ToR.

The Committee will submit its March 2021 Key Performance Indicator (KPI) report to the National Board and Ahpra on 31 March 2021.

Stakeholder engagement

The Program Accreditation Team on behalf of the Committee continues to engage with education providers via the Committee's accreditation webpage and through correspondence on email and phone contact, teleconferences with the chair, and communiques via the Program Accreditation Team.

Planned focus group sessions with education providers

The Committee has contacted education providers seeking their interest in attending focus group sessions (sessions) about the accreditation standards and professional capabilities, and their implementation (including the assessment process).

At this stage, two sessions are proposed:

- Session 1: **Tuesday 30 March 2021 - 5.00pm to 7.30pm (Melbourne time)**, and
- Session 2: **Tuesday 13 April 2021 - 7.00pm to 9.30pm (Melbourne time)** (5.00pm to 7.30pm Perth time)

The purpose of the sessions is to share information about:

- the accreditation standards and allow education providers to ask questions about their implementation
- the professional capabilities and their implementation, and
- the accreditation assessment process, and what providers can expect.

The Committee also wants to provide an opportunity for education providers to ask their questions about implementation.

The Committee looks forward to seeing education providers at the sessions.

Contact information

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

For more information on paramedicine accreditation please visit the Committee's accreditation webpage.

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