

February 2021 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Accreditation Committee meeting

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Accreditation Committee (the Committee) undertakes accreditation functions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice in the national scheme regulating health practitioners.

This Communique provides information about the Committee's recent activities. The Committee publishes this communiqué on the Committee's [accreditation webpage](#). Please forward it to any colleagues 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 accredited and 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 accreditation webpage when they are available.

Accreditation Committee meetings

The 39th meeting of the Committee was held on 16 February 2021 via videoconference, and it was the Committee's first meeting for 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.

Updated 2019 accreditation standards

The Committee has recently published its updated 2019 accreditation standards for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice (accreditation standards) on the Committee's [accreditation webpages](#).

The updated definition on cultural safety included in the [National Scheme's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Cultural Safety Strategy 2020-2025](#) has now been incorporated into the 2019 accreditation standards.

The Committee has also made minor updates regarding the quality use of medicines to ensure consistency with the approach agreed to by all accreditation authorities in the National Scheme (through membership of the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum) by including a criterion in standard 3 (criterion 3.7) and including a definition of 'medicines' in the glossary.

Monitoring approved programs of study

At the February 2021 meeting, the Committee considered monitoring responses from four education providers.

The Committee has 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 May 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.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Accreditation Committee
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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 Committee continues to engage with its key stakeholders, including education providers, around a range of topics relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice accreditation.

Skills IQ consultation on the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Training Package Products

At its November 2020 meeting the Committee noted the [Skills IQ consultation](#) on the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Training Package Products (including the proposed changes relating to HLT40213 Certificate IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice qualification), and submitted a response to 'Draft 1' in January 2021. At its February 2021 meeting, the Committee noted that SkillsIQ were collating the feedback received on Draft 1 to provide to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Industry Reference Committee to inform the development of Draft 2 of the Training Package Products. The Committee looks forward to the opportunity to contribute to the validation of Draft 2, prior to its submission to the Australian Industry and Skills Committee for endorsement.

The Program Accreditation Team, on behalf of the Committee, engages with stakeholders via the Committee's [accreditation webpages](#); through correspondence via email and phone contact, and communiques.

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