

## September 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.

### COVID-19 and the Delta variant

The Committee and Ahpra continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and its potential impacts on approved programs. Statements on, or information outlining, its plans for its accreditation activities will be published on the 'News and updates' accreditation webpage. The Committee was also party to the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum's [consensus statement on COVID-19](#), and the [National principles for clinical education during the COVID-19 pandemic](#).

The spread of the COVID-19 Delta variant has escalated, and many states and territories are experiencing lockdowns which has impacted on education providers delivering their programs of study, including students' ability to attend face-to-face classes and placements.

These are difficult times, and the Committee wishes to pass on its thoughts to all those impacted. With the situation ever changing the Committee appreciates the contact being made with Ahpra's Program Accreditation Team about the short-term changes required to programs as a result of current restrictions.

Please continue to contact the team should you have any queries, or you have further information regarding COVID-19 and your program/s that you'd like to provide to the Committee.

Keep safe.

### Committee meeting

The twelfth meeting of the Committee was held on 9 September 2021 via Zoom. The Committee anticipates holding one more meeting this year, in December.

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

### Assessment and monitoring activities for approved programs of study

The 2020 [Accreditation standards for paramedicine](#) took effect on 1 June 2021. The Committee received the first accreditation application from an education provider in August 2021 and has now commenced the process where all currently approved paramedicine programs of study will be assessed against the paramedicine accreditation standards.

At its September 2021 meeting, the Committee considered Routine annual monitoring responses from nine education providers against the paramedicine accreditation standards. Education providers are currently being advised of the outcomes of the monitoring. Routine annual monitoring responses from a further nine education providers are scheduled to be considered at the Committee's December meeting.

### Newly published accreditation resources

The Committee is very excited to announce the publication of some important accreditation resources, which it has developed in conjunction with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, Chinese Medicine, Medical Radiation Practice and Podiatry Accreditation Committees (the Committees). The development of

multi-profession approaches to accreditation processes ensures the Committee is striving towards best practice, as outlined in its key performance indicators at *Attachment G* of its [Terms of Reference](#).

### [Guidance on teaching out accredited and/or approved programs of study](#)

The [Guidance on teaching out accredited and/or approved programs of study](#) provides education providers with information on what may be provided to the Committee when an accredited and/or approved program of study (program) is discontinued for new enrolments (moves into teach-out).

In developing the guidance, the Committee undertook a period of targeted consultation with education providers delivering paramedicine programs of study. The Committee thanks those education providers who provided feedback.

If education providers have any queries about teaching out a program of study, please contact your Accreditation Officer via the [Program Accreditation Team](#) for more information.

### [Guidance on site visits and video/teleconference meetings](#)

The [Guidance on accreditation site visits and tele/videoconference meetings](#) outlines the process for site visit and tele/videoconference meetings for education providers delivering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice, Chinese medicine, medical radiation practice, paramedicine and podiatry programs of study.

This guidance was developed with consideration for the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum's (the Forum) [position statement on accreditation tools used by Forum members](#), and should be read alongside the Committee's [Guidelines for accreditation of education and training programs](#).

For access to the Committee's key accreditation resources please visit their [publications and resources webpage](#).

### **Paramedicine accreditation fees**

Earlier this year the Committee confirmed its schedule of accreditation fees for the period 2021 – 2024 following a period of targeted consultation with education providers. The Paramedicine Board of Australia has recently approved the schedule of fees, and they are now published on the [Committee's webpages](#).

### **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.

### [Meeting with the Australasian Council of Paramedicine Deans](#)

At the September 2021 meeting, the Committee met with Chair of the Australasian Council of Paramedicine Deans (ACPD) regarding the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on paramedicine programs of study and work integrated learning, and the implementation of the 2020 Accreditation standards for paramedicine. The Chair of the ACPD and the Committee agreed to continue to engage on a regular basis on issues important to paramedicine education and accreditation.

### **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](mailto:program.accreditation@ahpra.gov.au). For more information on paramedicine accreditation please visit the Committee's [accreditation webpage](#).

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