

## Communiqué

### September 2021 meeting of the Accreditation Committee

The Agency Management Committee established the new, independently chaired Accreditation Committee consistent with [Ministerial Council Policy Direction 2020-1](#) to provide independent and expert advice on accreditation reform and other National Scheme accreditation matters to National Scheme entities (National Boards, Accreditation Authorities and Ahpra). Other external entities performing accreditation roles as part of the National Scheme, such as specialist colleges and postgraduate medical councils should have regard for the committee's advice, where relevant.

The Accreditation Committee issues a communiqué after each meeting to keep stakeholders informed about its work.

The first meeting of the Accreditation Committee was held via videoconference on 1 September 2021. The meeting provided an opportunity for members to get to know each other and develop a shared understanding of the Committee's purpose. The key focus was sharing perspectives on the areas of work referred by Ministers including priorities and next steps.

#### Committee's purpose

Members reviewed the Committee's Charter (terms of reference) which were developed to reflect the Policy Direction and Ministers' February 2020 response to the Accreditation Systems Review final report. The Charter details the Committee's functions, priority areas of work referred to the Committee by Ministers, membership, reporting and accountability requirements.

#### Priority areas of work

Members were briefed about the areas of work referred to the Committee by Health Ministers, including:

- further development of funding principles that allow for the costs of accreditation functions to be measured and compared
- the establishment of cross-profession policies and guidelines for accreditation standards development and assessment
- clarification of the roles of accreditation bodies and education regulators to avoid duplication
- strengthening the role of consumers (including employers) as a key stakeholder in accreditation systems
- maintaining the focus on outcomes-based approaches to accreditation
- the role of competency standards in accreditation
- interprofessional education and collaborative practice.

Members were also briefed on possible work in streamlining the assessments of overseas-qualified practitioners. Further information about the areas discussed by members is provided in [Attachment 1](#).

Members discussed each of the areas of work, including work undertaken to date or currently underway by National Scheme entities, priorities and next steps. Members agreed to consider a draft work plan at the next meeting.

Members agreed it was important to recognise that accreditation is a core element of the National Scheme and plays a key role in supporting the future health workforce and contributing to the quality of patient care. The committee agreed to consider the alignment between its work and the objectives of the National Scheme at its next meeting.

#### Next meeting

The next meeting of the Accreditation Committee will be held in December 2021.

## More information

Questions about the work of the Committee may be directed to the secretariat via email to: [ahpranationalexecutivesecretariat@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:ahpranationalexecutivesecretariat@ahpra.gov.au).

## Meeting attendees

### Members

Professor Andrew Wilson	Independent Chair
Professor Maree O'Keefe	Accreditation / education expert
Dr Heather Buchan	Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
Dr Helen Gniel	Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)
Emeritus Professor Ian Wronski AO	Universities Australia
Ms Narelle Mills	Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (HPACF)
Professor Brian Jolly	HPACF
Mr Jeffrey Moffet	Agency Management Committee
Dr Susan Young	Agency Management Committee
Adjunct Professor Veronica Casey AM	National Boards representative
Mr Brett Simmonds	National Boards representative
Ms Alison Barnes	Nominee of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group
Ms Deborah Frew	Jurisdictional representative
Mrs Kay Leatherland	Private healthcare employer
Dr Hamza Vayani	Consumer representative

### Ahpra

Ms Gill Callister PSM	Chair, Agency Management Committee
Mr Martin Fletcher	Chief Executive Officer, Ahpra
Mr Chris Robertson	Executive Director, Strategy and Policy
Ms Helen Townley	National Director, Policy and Accreditation
Ms Margaret Grant	Specialist Accreditation Adviser
Ms Kerryn Rozenbergs	Senior Policy Officer
Ms Sangeetha Masilamani	Secretariat

# Areas referred by Ministers

