

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.

Meeting attendees

Members

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| 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

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| 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

Supporting the future health workforce

Supporting good practice in professional capabilities



Progressing the role of competency standards in accreditation

This work will support continued progress on common approaches to professional capabilities development, where feasible and safe, including good practice guidance for capabilities development.

Embedding interprofessional education



Enhancing interprofessional education and collaborative practice

This work will focus on how best to embed interprofessional education and prepare practitioners with the knowledge, skills and professional attributes to engage in interprofessional collaborative practice.

Strengthening consumer involvement



Strengthening the role of consumers (including employers) in accreditation systems

This work will support good practice approaches to consumer involvement in accreditation and enhance the link between service delivery needs and the education system.

Possible additional area for work plan

Streamlining assessment of overseas-qualified practitioners



Aligning qualification assessment outcomes and processes with immigration processes

This work will develop a one-step approach to the assessment of overseas trained practitioners for the purposes of skilled migration and registration

Strengthening accreditation systems

Enhancing consistency across professions



Strengthening cross-profession policies and guidelines for accreditation standards and processes

This work will support enhanced consistency in accreditation standards and processes across National Scheme professions, through the use of standardised terminology and definitions and common approaches

Focusing on outcome-based approaches



Maintaining the focus on outcome-based approaches in accreditation

This work will support accreditation standards that continue to encourage flexible and innovative approaches to education, especially in response to changes in community need, healthcare models and innovations in health practice.

Understanding costs and funding



Developing funding principles that enable the costs of accreditation functions to be measured and compared across professions.

This work will support continued progress towards strengthened transparency and accountability of the financial arrangements for accreditation.

Avoiding duplication



Clarifying the roles of accreditation authorities and education regulators

This work will enhance shared understanding of potential overlap and duplication between the roles of accreditation authorities and education regulators and aim to reduce regulatory burden.