

COVID-19

Update on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Accreditation Committee's response to COVID-19

11 May 2020

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Accreditation (Committee), together with the Accreditation Councils and Committees for all professions regulated within the National Scheme, has adopted the [collective position](#) of the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum with respect to accredited programs and the impact of COVID-19.

Ahpra and the National Boards, together with the Australian Government and the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum, have set [national principles for clinical education](#) to guide decisions of professions, Accreditation Authorities, education providers and health services about student clinical education during the COVID-19 pandemic response.

As foreshadowed in its update released on 20 March 2020, the Committee now provides an update on site visit schedules and other accreditation activities.

The Committee has decided to:

- defer due dates for the next routine annual monitoring responses to a date to be determined
- require each education provider to submit information about changes to the program in response to COVID-19 later in 2020
- defer any planned approaches to transition education providers across to the 2019 accreditation standards until 2021
- subject to a risk assessment of each program and provider, defer due dates for upcoming specific monitoring responses by 6 - 12 months
- postpone any accreditation assessments that have not yet commenced from 2020 to 2021 unless an accreditation decision is required in 2020, and
- reschedule any 2020 site visits to 2021, with an option for videoconference if an accreditation decision is required in 2020.

Ahpra's Program Accreditation Team will provide written advice to each education provider about proposed changes to their accreditation and monitoring activities.

The Committee and the Program Accreditation Team look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with all education providers during this challenging time, and for the remainder of 2020.