

Communique

November 2021 Podiatry Accreditation Committee meeting

The Podiatry Accreditation Committee (Committee) publishes this communiqué on the Committee's [accreditation webpages](#). Please forward it to your colleagues and employees who may be interested.

Committee meeting

The eleventh meeting of the Committee was held via Zoom on 23 November 2021. The Committee anticipates holding three meetings in 2022.

Some activities that were discussed at the Committee's November 2021 meeting are outlined below.

Assessments and monitoring activities

Accreditation assessments

The Committee is scheduled to commence accreditation assessments in early 2022. Accreditation assessments for entry-level podiatry programs and podiatric surgery programs, as well as education programs leading to endorsement of registration for scheduled medicines, will be carried out according to the Committee's published [Guidelines for accreditation of education and training programs](#) (guidelines). The accreditation standards and professional capabilities for podiatry will take effect on 1 January 2022.

2021 Routine annual monitoring

At its November 2021 meeting, the Committee considered submitted 2021 Routine annual monitoring reports (including COVID-19 reporting) from education providers; and an update on education provider's 2021 graduating cohorts. The outcomes of the reports will be provided to the education providers and the National Board by January 2022.

Podiatry accreditation assessors

In November 2021, the recently appointed accreditation assessors undertook assessor training in preparation for commencing assessment and monitoring roles against the revised Podiatry accreditation standards, when they take effect on 1 January 2022.

The assessor training was held over two half day videoconferences and included sessions on conflicts of interest and assessment approaches. Assessors discussed assessment and evaluation strategies and techniques, and were asked to conduct a mock-evaluation of a fictitious education provider's response to criterion 3.2 about culturally safe practice.

November 2021 Key Performance Indicators reporting to the National Board 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 requirements as identified in attachment F of the ToR.

The Committee will submit its November 2021 Key Performance Indicator report to the National Board in early December 2021.

Stakeholder engagement

The Program Accreditation Team, on behalf of the Committee, continues to engage with education providers via the Committee's [accreditation webpages](#), and through videoconference, phone and email correspondence, and its communiques.

Meeting with the Australasian Council of Podiatry Deans (ACPD)

At the November 2021 meeting, the Committee met with the Chair and the Secretary of the Australasian Council of Podiatry Deans (ACPD) regarding the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on podiatry programs of study and work integrated learning; the implementation of the revised Accreditation standards for podiatry; and the Routine annual monitoring of education providers. The representatives of the ACPD and the Committee agreed to continue to engage on a regular basis on issues important to podiatry education and accreditation.

The Committee will continue to engage closely with education providers in 2022 regarding the impacts of COVID-19 on programs of study, to discuss topics relevant to podiatry education and training.

The Program Accreditation Team has been in communication with education providers who have assessments commencing in the first half of 2022, and is available to meet with all education providers prior to them submitting their applications, to discuss any aspect of their assessment and their submissions prior to the due date.

Contact information

For any queries related to podiatry program accreditation, please contact the Committee via the Program Accreditation Team at program.accreditation@ahpra.gov.au.

For more information on podiatry accreditation please visit the Committee's [accreditation](#) webpages.

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