Communique

December 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**
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> 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.
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> The spread of the COVID-19 Omicron variant escalated quickly late in 2021, and many states and territories experienced new restrictions. The Committee will continue to monitor the COVID-19 Omicron variant and its impact on education providers and students.

Committee meeting

The thirteenth meeting of the Committee was held on 16 December 2021 via Zoom. The Committee anticipates holding three meetings in 2022.

Some activities that were discussed at the Committee's December 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 has commenced the process where all currently approved paramedicine programs of study will be assessed against the paramedicine accreditation standards. There are currently three programs undergoing an accreditation assessment and the Committee anticipates receiving a further ten accreditation applications in 2022.

At its December 2021 meeting, the Committee considered routine annual monitoring responses from nine education providers, and responses to requests for further information from five education providers. Education providers are currently being advised of the outcomes of the monitoring.

The Committee is currently confirming its approach to routine annual monitoring in 2022, based on feedback from education providers and the Australasian Council of Paramedicine Deans. The final approach will be confirmed in early 2022 and communicated to education providers in the first half of the year.

November 2021 Key Performance Indicators reporting to the National and Ahpra

As outlined in section 7 of its current 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 submitted its November 2021 Key Performance Indicator report to the National Board and Ahpra in early December 2021.

Paramedicine Accreditation Committee
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Ahpra and the Paramedicine Accreditation Committee work in partnership to accredit education and training programs for paramedicine.

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

The Chair and co-Deputy Chairs of the Committee attended the November 2021 meeting of the Australasian Council of Paramedicine Deans for a question and answer session, including a discussion on the provision of student data and terminology. The Chair and co-Deputy Chairs provided a report of the meeting to the Committee and agreed to incorporate the feedback into future reporting requirements.

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. For more information on paramedicine accreditation please visit the Committee's accreditation webpage.

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