



Accreditation Committee

Initial workplan

Agreed 2 March 2022

Due for review December 2022

Overview

The initial workplan presents the Accreditation Committee's (committee) proposed work by priorities that reflect the objectives, guiding principles and priorities for the National Scheme including improving access to services, particularly in rural and remote areas, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and cultural safety. The areas of work covered by each priority reflect the issues referred by Health Ministers to the committee and the deliverables reflect Ministers' response to the Accreditation Systems Review final report.

The committee has agreed that it will be most effective if it focuses initial work on a smaller range of deliverables, while continuing to monitor progress on work already underway across the National Scheme in other areas, with a view to revisiting these later. This initial work plan reflects this approach and provides opportunities for early work to contribute to progress across the spectrum of areas referred to the committee by Health Ministers.

Committee members agreed that initial work should focus on the development of a glossary of agreed terms and definitions across accreditation and related issues, building on the terms already defined in the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (HPACF)'s [Glossary of Terms](#) and promoted through other work progressed by the HPACF. This initial work recognises the importance of shared language to progressing the committee's whole-of-scheme and cross-profession advice in a range of areas. Shared language will build a shared understanding of the committee's advice across different professions, different National Scheme entities and external stakeholders, including the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) and the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare. It will also support consistent approaches to implementing the committee's advice and ensure that the committee's work builds on the significant progress already made in many areas.

The committee has agreed it will monitor the progress of other work underway across the National Scheme that may inform its work by seeking six-monthly updates from relevant bodies (such as the HPACF).

Priority: All

Areas of work	Deliverables and agreed approach
All	<p>Deliverable:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A consolidated glossary of terms across the spectrum of accreditation, building on the terms already defined in the HPACF Glossary of Terms. This deliverable comprises an initial glossary of terms that will be added to over time as work progresses in other areas. <p>Initial work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A joint paper by Ahpra and the HPACF for consideration at the committee's next meeting that includes a detailed project plan and preliminary list of terms to be included in the consolidated glossary.

Priority: Building a flexible, responsive, sustainable workforce of the future

Areas of work	Deliverables and agreed approach
<p>Fostering good practice and enhancing efficiency in professional capabilities and in accreditation standards and processes across National Scheme professions</p>	<p>Deliverable:</p> <p>2. Advice for National Scheme entities on fostering good practice and enhancing efficiency in the development of professional capabilities and in accreditation standards and processes</p> <p>Initial work:</p> <p>Papers for the committee's consideration that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> map existing commonalities in professional capabilities and accreditation standards and accreditation processes across regulated health professions <p>Initial work as part of deliverable 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify common terms and possible shared definitions around professional capabilities and accreditation standards that could be used across the National Scheme, including terms already defined in the Glossary of Terms developed through the HPACF <p>Monitor progress of other work planned and underway within the National Scheme that may inform the committee's work plan refresh in December 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HPACF has signalled its intention to undertake further work related to this issue as part of its Strategic Plan for the period 2020 to 2023, which states that the HPACF will lead collaborative work across Accreditation Authorities and with external partners to improve accreditation and assessment processes, for example by developing cross profession standards and policies. The HPACF is developing common training materials for accreditation assessment teams for use across Accreditation Authorities. The HPACF's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Outcomes Working Group is also developing fit-for-purpose cultural safety training that is specific to and tailored to the accreditation context for accreditation assessment teams across Accreditation Authorities. <p>Possible subsequent work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a draft statement about the benefits of consistency in approaches to developing documents that set out professional capabilities and accreditation standards as well as in use of common language and consistent processes, acknowledging some professions may apply different emphases to commonality Explore areas of consistency, areas of difference, and examples of good practice in approaches that support cross-profession consistency

Areas of work	Deliverables and agreed approach
<p>Embedding interprofessional education and collaborative practice in health practitioner education</p>	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. A glossary of common terminology and language relevant interprofessional education (IPE) and interprofessional collaborative practice (IPCP) for use in accreditation standards, professional capabilities/competencies and accreditation processes (to be commenced as part of Deliverable 1) 4. A National Scheme IPE and IPCP statement of intent with a commitment between the 15 national health practitioner boards (the National Boards), Accreditation Authorities, Ahpra and health and education sector leaders and organisations. The statement could provide a platform for considering a whole of Scheme strategy to encourage stakeholders across the health system to take action within their sphere of influence to further support and embed IPCP in education, training and practice, focused on quality and safety of patient-centred care in Australia's health system. <p>Initial work:</p> <p>Papers for the committee's consideration that cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • further exploration of the barriers to embedding IPCP in education, training and practice including stakeholder views on the barriers to preparing practitioners for effective IPCP <p>Initial work as part of deliverable 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping terms relevant to IPE and IPCP currently used in accreditation • Proposed shared definitions for IPE and IPCP, drawing on the common definitions adopted by the HPACF • Identify other common terms and draft shared definitions relevant to this area of work <p>Monitor progress of other work planned and underway within the National Scheme that may inform the committee's work plan refresh in December 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Accreditation Liaison Group (ALG) workplan includes a project that aims to contribute to a whole of Scheme IPE and IPCP strategy • This project will build on the ALG project to explore opportunities for National Scheme bodies to work collaboratively to support and encourage IPE and IPCP for better health outcomes for health consumers, including barriers to embedding IPCP in education, training and practice. • The HPACF has advised that its IPE Working Group has commenced a project that builds upon its previous extensive work to embed IPE in accreditation functions and is consulting with members on the next steps, which include the development of guidance material to assess IPE across the professions, and adopting the "learn about, with and from" principles of IPE in HPACF work <p>Possible subsequent work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To be confirmed as part of the workplan refresh in December 2022, subject to the outcomes of the ALG and HPACF projects.

Areas of work	Deliverables and agreed approach
<p>Reducing duplication and areas of overlap between Accreditation Authorities and education regulators</p>	<p>Deliverables:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. A clear statement of roles and responsibilities for National Scheme entities, TEQSA and health services as they relate to accreditation. 6. A glossary of common terminology and shared language relevant to accreditation across National Scheme entities, TEQSA and health services (to be commenced as part of deliverable 1) <p>Initial work:</p> <p>Papers for the committee's consideration that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • map the roles of the National Scheme, TEQSA and health service accreditation processes <p>Initial work as part of deliverable 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify common terms used in accreditation across National Scheme entities, TEQSA, ASQA and the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, and possible shared definitions <p>Monitor progress of other work planned and underway within the National Scheme that may inform the committee's work plan refresh in December 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TEQSA is reviewing their participation in MOUs with the HPACF and a number of Accreditation Authorities • The HPACF has identified there are opportunities for reciprocity or recognition of the processes and standards of Accreditation Authorities by ASQA and TEQSA • ALG is working collaboratively with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare (Commission) on a 2022 project to develop a cross-profession good practice framework on communication for safety, that considers the role of the Commission, Accreditation Authorities and national boards <p>Possible subsequent work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify any areas of potential overlap, including draft principles that could clarify respective regulatory roles • provide an overview of work to date on mutual recognition of roles and responsibilities, reducing duplication and the sharing of data by National Scheme entities, TEQSA and the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care

Priority: Improving access to better, safer care for the community, particularly in rural and remote areas

Areas of work	Deliverables and agreed approach
<p>Better link service delivery needs and the education system by strengthening consumer involvement in accreditation, including employers</p>	<p>Deliverable:</p> <p>7. Advice for National Scheme accreditation bodies on good practice guidance for strengthening the involvement of consumers in accreditation.</p> <p>Initial work:</p> <p>Papers for the committee's consideration that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> map current involvement of different consumers in accreditation across different regulated health professions <p>Initial work as part of deliverable 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify common terms used to refer to consumers in accreditation within the National Scheme and possible shared definitions of consumers in accreditation (patients, students, employers, rural communities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples) <p>Monitor progress of other work planned and underway within the National Scheme that may inform the committee's work plan refresh in December 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Australian Dental Council (ADC) is leading innovative work to expand the role of consumers in the design and delivery of its assessments and examinations, with the goal of increasing the authenticity and validity of the examination process The HPACF has advised that Accreditation Authorities have indicated that the engagement with consumers has been enhanced since the Accreditation Systems Review <p>Possible subsequent work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide an overview of work to date to strengthen the consumer involvement in accreditation, including rural communities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples explore potential good practice approaches, including those within the National Scheme, international examples and those identified in the literature. propose possible shared principles to ensure consumer involvement is meaningful.

Priority: Fostering flexible, innovative approaches to education and service delivery to respond to priorities for the National Scheme (such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and cultural safety)

Areas of work	Deliverables and agreed approach
<p>Enable education to respond to changes in community need, healthcare models and innovations in health practice by maintaining the focus on outcome-based approaches in accreditation</p>	<p>Deliverable:</p> <p>8. Advice for National Scheme accreditation entities on good practice in the use of outcome-based approaches to accreditation.</p> <p>Initial work:</p> <p>Papers for the committee's consideration that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> map current "outcome-based approaches" across the National Scheme <p>Initial work as part of deliverable 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose a shared definition of what is meant by "outcome-based approaches" Identify other common terms and possible shared definitions relevant to this area of work <p>Monitor progress of other work planned and underway within the National Scheme that may inform the committee's work plan refresh in December 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the HPACF has advised that a recent joint workshop with the National Alliance of Self-Regulating Health Professions and Universities Australia has laid the ground for future joint discussion on the changes in health profession education and training during COVID-19 and where changes in standards and outcomes might be necessary as a result
	<p>Deliverable:</p> <p>9. Advice for National Scheme accreditation entities to support good practice in embedding diverse clinical placements and evidence-based technological advances in health practitioner education.</p> <p>Initial work:</p> <p>Papers for the committee's consideration that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> map current approaches to clinical placements across National Scheme professions and technological advances map descriptions of diverse clinical placements and evidence-based technological advances in accreditation standards and processes within the National Scheme <p>Initial work as part of deliverable 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify common terms and possible shared definitions relevant to this area of work (to be developed as part of Deliverable 1) <p>Possible subsequent work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> draw on national/international practice to identify good practice approaches to facilitating diversity in clinical placements and exposure to evidence-based technological advances

Priority: Enhancing transparency and accountability

Areas of work	Deliverables and agreed approach
<p>Enhancing the transparency, reporting and comparability of accreditation funding and costs</p>	<p>Deliverable:</p> <p>10. Advice to Ahpra to inform further development of the funding and fee principles in accreditation agreements and terms of reference, founded on principles of transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness.</p> <p>Initial work as part of deliverable 1:</p> <p>A paper for the committee's consideration that identifies common terms and possible shared definitions relevant to this area of work.</p> <p>Monitor progress of other work planned and underway within the National Scheme that may inform the committee's work plan refresh in December 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ALG has endorsed an Ahpra-led project to engage a subject matter expert to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – progress work to enhance clarity and comparability about accreditation function income and expense information being reported by Accreditation Authorities to National Boards and Ahpra, and – inform further development of the funding principles and fee setting principles. <p>Possible subsequent work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee may wish to seek advice from the ALG or ask the ALG to progress expert advice on costs comparability to support the committee's consideration of funding and fee principles. • mapping how the funding and fee principles in accreditation agreements and terms of reference are applied by Accreditation Authorities
<p>Enhancing the transparency of accreditation assessment and monitoring activities</p>	<p>Deliverable:</p> <p>11. Advice to National Scheme bodies on the publication of accreditation assessment decisions and monitoring reports.</p> <p>Initial work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A paper for the committee's consideration that maps current practices across National Scheme professions. • The committee may wish to ask the HPACF or the ALG to provide advice on current practices.

Priority: Facilitating efficient, responsive assessment for registration & migration

Areas of work	Deliverables and agreed approach
Streamline processes, reduce duplication and avoid unnecessary costs by developing a onestep approach to assessment of practitioners for the purposes of skilled migration and registration	<p>Deliverable:</p> <p>12. Streamlined process for assessment of internationally qualified practitioners for the purposes of skilled migration and registration with Ahpra</p> <p>Initial work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Committee to ask ALG to compare approaches across professions to assessment for purposes of skilled migration and registration and provide this to the committee for further discussion.