

Accreditation Committee Annual Report 2021/22

Chair's introduction

In accordance with its Charter, the Accreditation Committee (the Committee) provides this annual report to the Ahpra Board for its consideration and publication on the Ahpra website. This is the Committee's first annual report and covers its activity from its inaugural meeting in September 2021 to 30 June 2022.

The Committee was established following Policy Direction 2020-1 issued by the Ministerial Council. The Committee's membership has been drawn from a broad range of accreditation stakeholders.

During its initial meetings, the Committee developed a shared understanding of its purpose, strengthened its understanding of accreditation in the National Scheme and confirmed the Committee's alignment with National Scheme objectives. Members agreed to its *ways of working*, which establishes shared expectations amongst members about key aspects of its operations, its values and relationships both within and external to the Committee. Members also affirmed their commitment to respectful, meaningful, open, and inclusive engagement with stakeholders who have an interest in or are impacted by this work.

These efforts and agreed commitments set the foundation for the Committee's initial workplan, which it agreed in March 2022. The areas of work outlined in this workplan reflect the issues referred by Health Ministers to the Committee with deliverables reflecting Ministers' response to the Accreditation Systems Review final report. Members agreed it would be most effective to focus on a smaller range of deliverables, while continuing to monitor progress on work already underway across the National Scheme through regular updates from relevant bodies.

The Committee will refresh its workplan at the end of 2022, to ensure that its efforts are focussed on and are continued to be aligned with priorities of the Scheme.

Thank you to Committee members and Ahpra staff members for their contribution to the Committee's work.

Professor Andrew Wilson – Chair, Accreditation Committee

Role of the Committee

Consistent with the Ministerial Council Policy Direction 2020-1, the Accreditation Committee provides independent and expert advice on accreditation reform and other National Scheme accreditation matters to National Scheme entities such as National Boards, Accreditation Authorities and Ahpra.

A copy of its workplan can be found on the Committee's [webpage](#).

Functions and responsibilities of the Committee

The Committee's function and responsibilities have included, but are not limited to:

- preparing independent and expert advice on accreditation reform and other National Scheme accreditation matters to National Scheme entities
- support implementation of Health Ministers' February 2020 response to the recommendations of the Independent Review of Accreditation Systems Final Report (ASR Final Report)
- provide a forum for advice on significant whole of Scheme accreditation issues including governance, accountability and transparency issues, and
- provide jurisdictions and relevant stakeholders with information on how National Scheme entities and relevant external entities are taking the Committee's advice into account.

Powers of the Committee

The Committee has no formal delegated power from the Ahpra Board. The Policy Direction's intent is that Ahpra, National Boards and Accreditation Authorities are accountable for having regard to the Committee's advice when exercising their functions under the National Law.

Membership

Membership is appointed by the Ahpra Board and consists of:

- an external accreditation/education expert
- nominee of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare
- nominee of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency
- nominee of Universities Australia
- two nominees of the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum
- two members of the Board
- two National Board representatives
- jurisdictional representative
- private healthcare employer
- consumer/community representative
- a member who identifies as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander

As mandated in the Committee charter, the Chair of the Committee (Professor Andrew Wilson) is independent (that is not a member of the Board; an office bearer, employee or agent of any nominating body; or an office bearer, employee or agent of any National Board, Accreditation Authority or Ahpra).

In March 2022, the Committee exercised the option to appoint a Deputy Chair, noting that appointment to the position must ensure a similar type of independence as the Chair. Professor Maree O'Keefe was appointed as Deputy Chair.

In addition, meetings are attended by:

- Ahpra Chief Executive Officer
- Ahpra Executive Director, Strategy and Policy
- Ahpra National Director, Policy and Accreditation
- Ahpra Secretariat

Committee members

Name	Membership status during 2021/22
Professor Andrew Wilson	Independent Chair
Professor Maree O'Keefe	Deputy Chair from March 2022 Accreditation / education expert
Ms Alison Barnes	Nominee of the National Scheme Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group
Dr Heather Buchan	Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
Adjunct Professor Veronica Casey AM	National Boards representative
Ms Deborah Frew	Jurisdictional representative
Dr Helen Gniel	Nominee of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)
Professor Brian Jolly	Nominee of Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (HPACF)
Mrs Kay Leatherland	Nominee of Australia Private Hospitals Association
Ms Narelle Mills	Nominee of Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum
Mr Jeffrey Moffet	Member of Ahpra Board
Mr Brett Simmonds	National Boards representatives
Dr Hamza Vayani	Nominee of the Community Advisory Council
Emeritus Professor Ian Wronski AO	Nominee of Universities Australia
Dr Susan Young	Member of Ahpra Board

Ahpra attendees

Name	Title
Mr Martin Fletcher	Chief Executive Officer
Mr Chris Robertson	Executive Director, Strategy and Policy
Ms Helen Townley	National Director, Policy and Accreditation
Ms Margaret Grant	Specialist Accreditation Advisor
Ms Kerryn Rozenbergs	Senior Accreditation Policy Advisor
Ms Sangeetha Masilamani	Program Manager, Government Relations (Secretariat; September 2021)
Mr Peter Knapp	Senior Government Relations Officer (Secretariat; from October 2021)

Meetings

The Committee met four times in 2021-22 – attendance at each meeting is below.

Meeting dates	Attendance
1 September 2021	Professor Andrew Wilson, Ms Alison Barnes, Mr Brett Simmonds, Professor Brian Jolly, Ms Deborah Frew, Dr Hamza Vayani, Dr Heather Buchan, Dr Helen Gniel, Emeritus Professor Ian Wronski AO, Mr Jeffrey Moffet, Mrs Kay Leatherland, Professor Maree O'Keefe, Ms Narelle Mills, Dr Susan Young, Adjunct Professor Veronica Casey AM, Ms Gill Callister PSM, Mr Martin Fletcher, Mr Chris Robertson, Ms Helen Townley, Ms Margaret Grant, Ms Kerryn Rozenbergs, Ms Sangeetha Masilamani
1 December 2021	Professor Andrew Wilson, Conjoint Professor Anne Duggan, Mr Brett Simmonds, Professor Brian Jolly, Ms Catherine Schofield, Ms Deborah Frew, Dr Helen Gniel, Emeritus Professor Ian Wronski AO, Mrs Kay Leatherland, Professor Maree O'Keefe, Ms

	Narelle Mills, Dr Susan Young, Mr Martin Fletcher, Mr Chris Robertson, Ms Helen Townley, Ms Margaret Grant, Ms Kerry Rozenbergs, Mr Peter Knapp
2 March 2022	Professor Andrew Wilson, Ms Alison Barnes, Mr Brett Simmonds, Professor Brian Jolly, Dr Heather Buchan, Emeritus Professor Ian Wronski AO, Mr Jeffrey Moffet, Mrs Kay Leatherland, Professor Maree O'Keefe, Ms Narelle Mills, Dr Susan Young, Adjunct Professor Veronica Casey AM, Mr Martin Fletcher, Mr Chris Robertson, Ms Helen Townley, Ms Kerry Rozenbergs, Ms Margaret Grant, Mr Peter Knapp
1 June 2022	Professor Andrew Wilson, Ms Alison Barnes, Mr Brett Simmonds, Professor Brian Jolly, Dr Hamza Vayani, Dr Heather Buchan, Dr Helen Gniel, Emeritus Professor Ian Wronski AO, Mr Jeffrey Moffet, Professor Maree O'Keefe, Ms Narelle Mills, Adjunct Professor Veronica Casey AM, Mr Martin Fletcher, Mr Chris Robertson, Ms Helen Townley, Ms Margaret Grant, Ms Kerry Rozenbergs, Mr Peter Knapp

Reporting

The Committee submitted a record of each meeting in 2021/22 to the next Ahpra Board meeting as well as to each of the nominating bodies. The Committee also published a communiqué on its webpage following each meeting.

Committee activities during 2021/22

The Committee's achievements during its first year of operation are outlined in the table below.

Areas of work	Deliverable	Achievements in 2021-22
All	1. Glossary of terms across the spectrum of accreditation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee agreed that initial work should focus on the development of a glossary of agreed terms and definitions across the spectrum of accreditation, recognising the importance of shared language to progressing the committee's whole-of-scheme and cross-profession advice in a range of areas. Ahpra and the HPACF prepared a joint paper for the Committee's consideration outlining a detailed project plan and preliminary list of terms to be included in the glossary. The Committee established a joint HPACF-Ahpra Working Group comprising representatives from Ahpra and the HPACF Accreditation Managers Sub-Committee to progress work in line with the Committee's agreed collaborative approach and methodology The Committee provided expert advice on and approved an initial list of proposed terms across the areas of work covered by the Committee's initial work plan. This list formed the basis for an initial tranche of terms/meanings for inclusion in the glossary
Fostering good practice and enhancing efficiency in professional capabilities and in accreditation standards and processes across National Scheme professions	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee reviewed initial work including mapping of existing commonalities in professional capabilities and accreditation standards and accreditation processes across regulated health professions
Embedding interprofessional education and collaborative	3. A glossary of common terminology and language relevant to interprofessional education (IPE) and	Work on common language relevant to IPE and IPCP is being progressed as part of Deliverable 1.

Areas of work	Deliverable	Achievements in 2021-22
practice in health practitioner education	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 encourage stakeholders across the health system to take action within their sphere of influence to further support and embed IPCP across the health system, in education, training and practice, focused on quality and safety of patient-centred care in Australia. In the future this could involve developing a National Scheme strategy on IPCP.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee has considered a 'deep dive' paper exploring issues relevant to development of the IPCP strategy statement of intent, including a range of practical challenges in further embedding IPE/IPCP in practice The Committee provided expert advice on a possible framework for the IPCP strategy statement of intent The Committee established an expert Working Group to provide subject matter advice to the Committee on this area of work, including drafts of the IPCP strategy statement of intent The expert Working Group, chaired by education and accreditation expert Professor Maree O'Keefe has met twice, in August and October 2022, to provide expert input to a draft proposed IPCP strategy statement of intent
Reducing duplication and areas of overlap between accreditation authorities and education regulators	5. A clear statement of roles and responsibilities for National Scheme entities, TEQSA and health services as they relate to accreditation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee has reviewed and provided advice on initial work and mapping of the roles of National Scheme entities, the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) and health services to enhance members' understanding of their accreditation related roles and build an understanding of where the Committee could add most value, eg by identifying areas of potential overlap and ways to clarify the respective regulatory roles of different bodies related to accreditation. In October, representatives from Ahpra met with TEQSA to progress discussion of potential areas of overlap and explore possible approaches to further work on this area.
	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)	Work on common language is being progressed as part of Deliverable 1.
Better link service delivery needs and the education system by strengthening consumer involvement in accreditation, including employers	7. Advice for National Scheme accreditation bodies on good practice guidance for strengthening the involvement of consumers in accreditation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee reviewed and provided advice on initial work including mapping of the current involvement of consumers in accreditation across different regulated health professions
Enable education to respond to changes	8. Advice for National Scheme accreditation entities on good	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee reviewed and provided advice on initial work mapping current approaches to outcome-based

Areas of work	Deliverable	Achievements in 2021-22
<p>in community need, healthcare models and innovations in health practice by maintaining the focus on outcome-based approaches in accreditation</p>	<p>practice in the use of outcome-based approaches to accreditation.</p>	<p>approaches in accreditation across National Scheme professions</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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee reviewed and provided input to early work including initial mapping of current approaches to clinical placements and evidence-based technological advances across National Scheme professions • The Committee requested a 'deep dive' paper into issues related to diverse clinical placements and evidence-based technological advances at this meeting to support discussion and inform the Committee's more detailed work • Agreed to consider possible terms and meanings relevant to this area of work as part of Deliverable 1 <p>Subject to discussion at the November meeting, it is anticipated that by 30 November 2022 the Committee will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered two deep dive papers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – a high level 'deep dive' paper into issues related to diverse clinical placements and evidence-based technological advances and pedagogical innovations in the delivery of health practitioner education (August 2022) and – more detailed work to identify recent innovations in, and good practice national/international approaches to embedding clinical placements and evidence-based technological advances in health practitioner education. • Endorsed a roadmap for further work to be undertaken in 2023.
<p>Enhancing the transparency, reporting and comparability of accreditation funding and costs</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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee has monitored progress of 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. • Following a procurement process, Ahpra has engaged BDO Australia to undertake the project. We anticipate the project will be completed by mid-2023. • In the interest of facilitating the best outcomes from the project and to enhance transparency and engagement, Ahpra and BDO Australia have agreed to establish a stakeholder reference group for the project. The stakeholder reference group membership is the same as the procurement panel. It will include a National Board Chair, accreditation council representative, accreditation committee representative and Ahpra representatives from its finance team and regulatory governance team. • The reference group will receive monthly project updates and attend a monthly meeting where BDO will present on progress of the work and next steps. The reference group will have an opportunity to clarify updates and next steps at these meetings.
<p>Enhancing the transparency of</p>	<p>11. Advice to National Scheme bodies on the publication of</p>	<p>n/a</p>

Areas of work	Deliverable	Achievements in 2021-22
accreditation assessment and monitoring activities	accreditation assessment decisions and monitoring reports.	
Outcomes of any reviews of accreditation issues by the National Health Practitioner Ombudsman and Privacy Commissioner (NHPOPC) , where appropriate	12. Review the outcomes of the NHPOPC's Independent review of the procedural aspects of accreditation processes.	n/a

Significant issues

- There were no significant issues considered during the 2021/22 reporting period which could not be handled through routine Committee procedures.

Looking ahead

The Committee has planned to conduct a refresh of its workplan at its November 2022 meeting. Proposed focus of work in 2023 includes:

- publishing the initial consolidated glossary of terms across the spectrum of accreditation
- publishing the IPCP statement of intent and progressing work on the National Scheme IPCP strategy
- publishing advice on good practice contemporary approaches to clinical education and the use of evidence-based technological advances in health practitioner education
- progressing work on accreditation costs and funding principles.

Once agreed, the Committee will publish its refreshed workplan on its [webpage](#).