



Ahpra Board
**Accreditation
Committee**

Accreditation Committee 2023 workplan

Agreed April 2023

Due for review by December 2023

Overview

The 2023 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 and eliminating racism in health care. The areas of work covered by each priority reflect the issues referred by Health Ministers to the Committee and the deliverables reflect Ministers' responses to the Accreditation Systems Review final report.

The Committee held its first meeting in September 2021. In March 2022, the Committee approved an [initial work plan](#) including deliverables for each work plan item, and milestones for progressing the work in 2022. The Committee reviewed the work plan in November 2022 to consider the deliverables for 2023 and beyond and agreed the deliverables for most items would continue into 2023. The Committee will continue to monitor the progress of other work across the National Scheme that may inform its work by seeking six-monthly updates from relevant bodies (such as the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum).

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>Focus of work and proposed key activities in 2023:</p> <p>The Committee will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • undertake preliminary consultation on draft initial terms • analyse preliminary consultation feedback and undertake public consultation on revised documents • consider public consultation feedback and publish the initial glossary • consider possible approaches to adding new terms and meanings to the glossary as required

Priority: Cultural safety

Areas of work	Deliverables and agreed approach
Embedding cultural safety in education and practice , and improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and eliminating racism in health care	The Committee will seek advice from members who identify as Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander Peoples on opportunities for each deliverable in its workplan to address this area.

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>Focus of work and proposed key activities in 2023:</p> <p>The Committee will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> develop and consult on good practice guidance on developing professional capabilities. The good practice guidance will provide a high level framework along similar lines to the <i>Procedures for the development of registration standards, codes and guidelines</i> and the <i>Procedures for the development of accreditation standards</i>, supplemented by more specific guidance on key aspects of capabilities development as appropriate <p>Continue work as part of deliverable 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and consult on 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>Continue to monitor progress of other work planned and underway within the National Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One of the four pillars in the HPACF 2023–25 Strategic Plan is to lead collaborative work with member accreditation authorities and other stakeholders to promote and improve accreditation and assessment services to support a sustainable health workforce. The HPACF has: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> engaged external consultants to develop and implement fit-for-purpose cultural safety training that is specific to and tailored to the accreditation context for accreditation assessment teams across accreditation authorities advised the Committee it is developing common training materials for accreditation assessment teams for use across accreditation authorities <p>Possible subsequent work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a draft statement about the benefits of consistent approaches to developing documents that set out professional capabilities and accreditation standards and 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 to interprofessional education (IPE) and interprofessional collaborative practice (IPCP) for use in accreditation standards, professional capabilities/competencies and accreditation processes (this has 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 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>Focus of work and proposed key activities in 2023:</p> <p>The Committee will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • undertake preliminary consultation on draft IPCP statement of intent • analyse preliminary consultation feedback and undertake public consultation on a revised statement • consider public consultation feedback and finalise the statement • invite interested stakeholders to sign before publishing the statement <p>Continue work as part of deliverable 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Propose and consult on shared definitions for IPE and IPCP, drawing on the common definitions adopted by the HPACF. • Identify and consult on other common terms and draft shared definitions relevant to this area of work. <p>Continue to monitor progress of other work planned and underway within the National Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HPACF has advised the Committee that its IPE Steering Group has examined and collated IPE learning outcomes that are applicable across the regulated health profession and will identify how different professions identify a practitioner as 'collaborative'. In 2023, the HPACF will progress work to identify appropriate exemplars of IPE and IPCP and will make these available as an outcome of the project. <p>Possible subsequent work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee will work with stakeholders to implement the statement of intent. • Updated deliverables will be considered as part of the workplan refresh in November 2023.

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 (this has commenced as part of deliverable 1). <p>Focus of work and proposed key activities in 2023:</p> <p>The Committee will continue its engagement with TEQSA and other stakeholders to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify synergies and complementary regulatory roles • identify possible data sharing opportunities, and • identify possible joint principles to clarify respective regulatory roles <p>Continue work as part of deliverable 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and consult on 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>Continue to monitor progress of other work planned and underway within the National Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Scheme entities are working collaboratively with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare (Commission) on a 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. • TEQSA is reviewing their participation in MOUs with the HPACF and most accreditation authorities. • The HPACF has identified the potential for reciprocity or recognition of the processes and standards of accreditation authorities by ASQA and TEQSA. <p>Possible subsequent work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update work identifying areas of potential overlap between accreditation authorities and education regulators. • Develop and consult on 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>Focus of work and proposed key activities in 2023:</p> <p>The Committee will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop and consult on a definition of the term 'consumer' in the context of accreditation and the Committee's work • explore potential good practice approaches, including those within the National Scheme, international examples and those identified in literature • develop and consult on draft shared principles for strengthening the involvement of consumers in accreditation to ensure consumer involvement is meaningful • engage with the HPACF and accreditation authorities to reconfirm the current involvement of consumers in accreditation <p>Continue work as part of deliverable 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and consult on 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>Continue to monitor progress of other work planned and underway within the National Scheme:</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. <p>Possible subsequent work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Committee will work with stakeholders to implement the shared principles. • Further work will be considered as part of the workplan refresh in November 2023.

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>Focus of work and proposed key activities in 2023:</p> <p>The Committee will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider detailed work to clarify what is meant by and included in the scope of 'outcome-based approaches to accreditation' develop and consult on draft guidance on good practice in the use of outcome-based approaches to accreditation <p>Continue work as part of deliverable 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose and consult on a shared definition of what is meant by 'outcome-based approaches' to accreditation. Identify and consult on other common terms and possible shared definitions relevant to this area of work. <p>Continue to monitor progress of other work planned and underway within the National Scheme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The HPACF has advised that it continues to engage with Universities Australia on outcomes of a joint workshop with the National Alliance of Self-Regulating Health Professions and Universities Australia in March 2022. This workshop 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. The HPACF has advised its 2023–25 Strategic Plan includes greater emphasis on access, rural and remote, disability, short form learning, as well as continued focus on IPE and cultural safety. <p>Possible subsequent work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee will work with stakeholders to implement the guidance on good practice. Further work will be considered as part of the workplan refresh in November 2023.
	<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>

Areas of work	Deliverables and agreed approach
	<p data-bbox="526 197 1279 228">Focus of work and proposed key activities in 2023:</p> <p data-bbox="526 253 748 276">The Committee will:</p> <ul data-bbox="526 301 2056 472" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="526 301 2056 355">• continue to consider relevant issues and best available information to establish a sound evidence base for the draft proposed advice on embedding diverse clinical placements and evidence-based technological advances in health practitioner education <li data-bbox="526 371 2056 426">• develop and consult on guidance to support good practice in embedding diverse clinical placements and evidence-based technological advances in health practitioner education <li data-bbox="526 442 1704 472">• publish advice to accreditation authorities to support implementation of the guidance on good practice <p data-bbox="526 499 1099 529">Continue work as part of deliverable 1:</p> <ul data-bbox="526 563 1653 593" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="526 563 1653 593">• Identify and consult on common terms and possible shared definitions relevant to this area of work.

Priority: Enhancing transparency and accountability

Areas of work	Deliverables and agreed approach
<p data-bbox="136 794 495 879">Enhancing the transparency, reporting and comparability of accreditation funding and costs</p>	<p data-bbox="526 794 703 825">Deliverable:</p> <p data-bbox="526 844 2011 898">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 data-bbox="526 927 1279 957">Focus of work and proposed key activities in 2023:</p> <p data-bbox="526 992 2022 1046">Following a procurement process, Ahpra engaged BDO Australia to complete a project to enhance reporting about accreditation function income and expense information, and inform further development of the funding principles and fee setting principles.</p> <p data-bbox="526 1082 1641 1104">The Committee will consider BDO's findings, analysis and recommendations in the second half of 2023.</p> <p data-bbox="526 1144 1099 1174">Continue work as part of deliverable 1:</p> <ul data-bbox="526 1209 1653 1240" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="526 1209 1653 1240">• Identify and consult on common terms and possible shared definitions relevant to this area of work. <p data-bbox="526 1272 922 1302">Possible subsequent work:</p> <ul data-bbox="526 1337 1469 1367" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="526 1337 1469 1367">• Further work will be considered as part of the workplan refresh in November 2023.

Areas of work	Deliverables and agreed approach
<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>Focus of work and proposed key activities in 2023:</p> <p>The Committee will provide advice to National Scheme bodies on publishing accreditation assessment decisions and monitoring reports. Work is due to start in late 2023.</p> <p>Possible subsequent work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further work will be considered as part of the workplan refresh in November 2023.
<p>Outcomes of any reviews of accreditation issues by the National Health Practitioner Ombudsman and Privacy Commissioner (NHPOPC), where appropriate</p>	<p>Deliverable:</p> <p>12. Review the outcomes of the NHPOPC's Independent review of the procedural aspects of accreditation processes.</p> <p>Focus of work and proposed key activities in 2023:</p> <p>The report on the outcomes of the NHPO's <i>Independent review of the procedural aspects of accreditation processes</i> is anticipated for release in the second half of 2023.</p> <p>The Committee will consider the outcomes of the review when Ministers release the NHPO report, or earlier if the report is provided to the Committee.</p> <p>Possible subsequent work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further work will be considered as part of the workplan refresh in November 2023.

Priority: Facilitating efficient, responsive assessment for registration & migration

Areas of work	Deliverables and agreed approach
<p>Streamline processes, reduce duplication and avoid unnecessary costs by developing a one-step approach to assessment of practitioners for the purposes of skilled migration and registration</p>	<p>The Committee's initial work plan also contained a deliverable to streamline pathways for the assessment of internationally qualified practitioners. After progressing initial work in this area, the Committee noted priority work being progressed by the Australian Government in conjunction with state and territory governments. In August 2022, the Committee agreed that the work to streamline current pathways is best undertaken in the context of the intergovernmental work. The Committee agreed that it would provide further advice to governments as required, but otherwise will not progress further work in this area at this time.</p> <p>Focus of work and proposed key activities in 2023:</p> <p>The Committee will monitor National Cabinet related work including the National Cabinet commissioned Independent review of regulatory settings (Kruk review) and consider implications for this Committee.</p>