

June 2023 meeting of the Accreditation Committee

The Ahpra Board established the Accreditation Committee (the committee) consistent with [Ministerial Council Policy Direction 2020-1](#) to provide independent and expert advice on accreditation reform and other National Scheme accreditation matters to National Scheme entities (National Boards, Accreditation Authorities and Ahpra). Other external entities performing accreditation roles as part of the National Scheme, such as specialist colleges and postgraduate medical councils should have regard for the committee's advice, where relevant.

The committee issues a communiqué after each meeting to keep stakeholders informed about its work.

The committee held its eighth meeting on 15 June 2023 in Melbourne. This was its first in-person meeting and the key areas considered by the committee reflected its work plan.

Cultural safety considerations

Members noted the Ahpra Board has expanded the Committee's scope to include the key area of reform: *building capacity of the Australian health workforce to provide culturally safe health services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, and eliminate racism in health care*. Members noted specific work is required to fully understand how the education and health systems are intertwined and the approaches available to the Committee in addressing this area of reform. Members agreed to establish a dedicated working group comprising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People to provide advice on how the Committee can best address cultural safety and racism issues through its workplan.

Update on National Cabinet review and related work on health workforce strategies

Members noted an update on the National Cabinet commissioned independent review of regulatory settings for health professionals led by Ms Robyn Kruk AO (the Kruk review). First Ministers endorsed Ms Kruk's interim report, including its key reform priorities and initial recommendations, and have asked Health Ministers to report back to National Cabinet with a full-costed implementation plan in mid-2023. Members considered recommendations related to streamlining pathways for assessing overseas qualified practitioners for registration and agreed that the Committee would have some engagement with this work and requested that Ahpra continue to provide updates.

Implementation of the committee's advice

Ministers' policy direction requires the committee's advice to be addressed within existing National Scheme mechanisms relating to accreditation, such as the accreditation authority agreements and terms of reference and associated reporting against key performance indicators, revised funding principles and Ahpra's procedures for the development of accreditation standards. National Scheme entities, including National Boards, accreditation authorities and Ahpra will be required to report on how they have considered and implemented the committee's advice.

Members agreed the committee will have an active role in monitoring how these entities apply its advice and the approach to this should include opportunities to identify and share good practice in a timely way.

Embedding clinical placements and evidence-based technological advances in health practitioner education

Deliverable 9 in the committee's published work plan is the development of advice for National Scheme accreditation entities to support good practice in embedding diverse clinical placements and evidence-based technological advances in health practitioner education. Members agreed that that information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student 'training in place' should be separated from this guidance because this topic is complex and has been extensively published on and discussed over several decades, including by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners. Specific detailed work and guidance on this topic will be added to the committee's workplan as deliverables against *Embedding cultural safety in education and practice and improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and eliminating racism in health care*.

Members approved the draft proposed guidance on embedding good practice in clinical placements and evidence-based technological advances in health practitioner education for release for preliminary consultation, subject to some editorial amendments and clearance processes.

Advice on use of outcome-based approaches in accreditation

Deliverable 8 of the committee's work plan is to provide advice for National Scheme accreditation entities on good practice in the use of outcome-based approaches to accreditation. Members engaged in a more in-depth discussion of a 'deep dive' paper from April 2023, and considered an initial draft of proposed good practice guidance on the use of outcome-based approaches in accreditation. Members requested further detailed work on relevant issues including: clarifying what the 'outcomes' are; exploring the 'quasi-barriers' to implementing outcomes-based approaches in accreditation; identifying what type of advice will be most helpful for stakeholders; and clarifying the purpose of this advice. The committee will discuss the further detailed work on these issues at its next meeting.

Strengthening consumer involvement in accreditation

Deliverable 7 of the Committee's published work plan is to provide advice for National Scheme accreditation bodies on good practice guidance for strengthening the involvement of consumers in accreditation. After discussing a 'deep dive' paper at its April 2023 meeting, members considered feedback from Ahpra's Community Advisory Council (CAC) on draft proposed shared principles to enhance meaningful consumer involvement in accreditation. Members agreed to release the draft proposed principles for preliminary consultation, subject to amendments in response to the CAC feedback.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held by video-conference in **September 2023**.

More information

Questions about the committee's work may be directed to the secretariat via email to: ahpra.secretariat@ahpra.gov.au.

Members

Professor Andrew Wilson AO	Independent Chair
Ms Alison Barnes	Member identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
Associate Professor Carmen Parter	Member identifying as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
Mr Brett Simmonds	National Boards representative
Professor Brian Jolly	Nominee of the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (HPACF)
Dr Hamza Vayani	Nominee of Ahpra's Community Advisory Council
Dr Heather Buchan	Nominee of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
Ms Katrina Quinn	Nominee of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA)
Emeritus Professor Ian Wronski AO	Nominee of Universities Australia
Mr Jeffrey Moffet	Member of Ahpra Board
Mrs Kay Leatherland	Nominee of the Australian Private Hospitals Association (Private healthcare employer)
Professor Maree O'Keefe	Accreditation/education expert
Ms Narelle Mills	Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (HPACF)
Dr Susan Young	Member of Ahpra Board
Adjunct Professor Veronica Casey AM	National Boards representative