

## Accreditation Committee Annual Report 2022/23

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### 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 second annual report and covers its activities for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

The Committee was established in September 2021 following Policy Direction 2020-1 issued by the Ministerial Council. The Committee's membership has been drawn from a broad range of accreditation stakeholders.

I am pleased to advise the Committee has made significant progress on its workplan deliverables over the past 12 months, including consulting on both the proposed Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Statement of Intent as well as consulting on the initial glossary of accreditation terms. It is expected that both key pieces of work will be finalised and delivered by the end of 2023. This will mark the first formal advice issued by the Committee to the National Scheme.

Over the last 12 months, the Committee has also continued to sharpen its focus on reform in light of current health workforce pressures and how it can deliver solutions in the accreditation context. The Committee's priority areas for reform include:

- strengthening interprofessional education and collaborative practice
- expanding the diversity of clinical placements to better prepare the future workforce and facilitate better workforce distribution
- enabling safe use of simulation to expand clinical education capacity and reduce the impact on health service delivery
- speeding up the streamlining assessment pathways for overseas qualified practitioners.

In addition, and in response to amendments to the National Law, the Committee endorsed an update of its Charter to include the key area of reform of building the 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. I am pleased to advise the Committee is actively seeking advice from its members who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People on opportunities to embed this reform area within each of the Committee's deliverables.

The Committee is well on track to deliver many of its other deliverables over the next 12-months.

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

**Professor Andrew Wilson AO**  
**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 Ahpra Board
- two National Board representatives
- jurisdictional representative
- private healthcare employer
- consumer/community representative
- two members who identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person

As mandated in the Committee charter, the Chair of the Committee (Professor Andrew Wilson AO) 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). Professor Maree O'Keefe is appointed Deputy Chair, noting she has a similar level of independence as the 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 2022/23
Professor Andrew Wilson AO	Independent Chair
Professor Maree O'Keefe	Deputy Chair External accreditation / education expert
Ms Nicole Argall	Jurisdictional representative ( <i>from 23 November 2022 to 14 June 2023</i> )
Ms Alison Barnes	Member who identifies as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person
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 ( <i>until 31 August 2022</i> )
Professor Brian Jolly	Nominee of Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum
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
Associate Professor Carmen Parter	Member who identifies as an Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander person ( <i>from 18 April 2023</i> )
Ms Katrina Quinn	Nominee of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) ( <i>from 5 August 2022</i> )
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

Accreditation Committee meetings are regularly attended by the following Ahpra staff:

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
Mr Peter Knapp	Senior Government Relations Officer (Secretariat)

## Meetings

The Committee met four times in 2022-23 – attendance at each meeting is below:

Meeting dates	Attendance
31 August 2022	Professor Andrew Wilson AO, Mr Brett Simmonds, Ms Deborah Frew, Dr Hamza Vayani, Dr Heather Buchan, Ms Katrina Quinn, Emeritus Professor Ian Wronski AO, Mrs Kay Leatherland, Ms Narelle Mills, Dr Susan Young, Adjunct Professor Veronica Casey AM, Ms Bronwyn Clark (for Professor Brian Jolly), Mr Chris Robertson, Ms Helen Townley, Ms Margaret Grant, Ms Kerryn Rozenbergs, Mr Peter Knapp
30 November 2022	Professor Andrew Wilson AO, Ms Alison Barnes, Mr Brett Simmonds, Professor Brian Jolly, Dr Hamza Vayani, Dr Heather Buchan, Ms Katrina Quinn, 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 Chris Robertson, Ms Margaret Grant, Ms Kerryn Rozenbergs, Mr Peter Knapp
5 April 2023	Professor Andrew Wilson AO, Ms Alison Barnes, Mr Brett Simmonds, Professor Brian Jolly, Dr Hamza Vayani, Dr Heather Buchan, Ms Katrina Quinn, Mr Jeffrey Moffet, Professor Maree

	O’Keefe, Ms Narelle Mills, Adjunct Professor Veronica Casey AM, Associate Professor Carmen Parter (observer), Mr Martin Fletcher, Mr Chris Robertson, Ms Helen Townley, Ms Margaret Grant, Ms Kerry Rozenbergs, Mr Peter Knapp
15 June 2023	Professor Andrew Wilson AO, Professor Maree O’Keefe, Associate Professor Carmen Parter, Mr Brett Simmonds, Ms Narelle Mills, Professor Brian Jolly, Dr Hamza Vayani, Dr Heather Buchan, Emeritus Professor Ian Wronksi AO, Mrs Kay Leatherland, Dr Susan Young, Mr Martin Fletcher, Mr Chris Robertson, Ms Helen Townley, Ms Margaret Grant, Mr Simon Spence, Ms Kerry Rozenbergs, Ms Genevieve Mati, Ms Rajneet Arora, Ms Alison Green, Ms Sara Shulman, Mr Peter Knapp

## Reporting

The Committee-approved record of each meeting was provided to the next available 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 2022/23

The Committee’s achievements during the year are outlined in the table below.

Areas of work	Deliverable	Achievements in 2022/23
All	A glossary of accreditation terms, 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The joint HPACF-Ahpra working group met twice in late 2022 to prepare the glossary for preliminary consultation.</li> <li>The Committee approved the glossary for release for preliminary consultation in January 2023. Preliminary consultation occurred from January to March 2023.</li> <li>The joint HPACF-Ahpra working group met in March 2023 to consider the feedback from preliminary consultation and prepare the glossary for public consultation.</li> <li>The Committee approved the glossary for release for public consultation in April 2023. Public consultation occurred from April to June 2023. The Committee is scheduled to consider the feedback from public consultation and publish the glossary in the second half of 2023.</li> </ul>
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.	This deliverable was added to the workplan in response to amendments to the National Law. The Committee is actively seeking advice from its members who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander People on opportunities to embed this reform area within each of the Committee’s deliverables.
Fostering good practice and enhancing efficiency in professional capabilities and in accreditation standards and processes across National Scheme professions	Advice for National Scheme entities on fostering good practice and enhancing efficiency in the development of professional capabilities and in accreditation standards and processes.	The Committee developed draft good practice guidance on the development of professional capabilities and shared this with the Forum of National Chairs and accreditation authorities through the HPACF.

Areas of work	Deliverable	Achievements in 2022/23
Embedding interprofessional education and collaborative practice in health practitioner education	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.	This deliverable is being addressed as part of deliverable 1 – the glossary of accreditation terms.
	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>The IPCP statement of intent working group met twice in the second half of 2022 to prepare the statement for preliminary consultation.</p> <p>The Committee approved the statement for release for preliminary consultation in January 2023. Preliminary consultation occurred from January to end of February 2023.</p> <p>The IPCP statement of intent working group met in March, April and May 2023 to consider the feedback from preliminary consultation and prepare the statement for public consultation.</p> <p>The Committee approved the IPCP statement of intent for release for public consultation out of session in May 2023. Public consultation will occur from June to August 2023.</p> <p>The Committee is scheduled to consider the feedback on the statement from public consultation and approve its release for signing at its September 2023 meeting.</p>
Reducing duplication and areas of overlap between accreditation authorities and education regulators	A clear statement of roles and responsibilities for National Scheme entities, TEQSA and health services as they relate to accreditation.	Ahpra and TEQSA met five times to explore possible areas of regulatory overlap and discuss possible draft principles to clarify the roles of National Scheme entities and TEQSA.
	A glossary of common terminology and shared language relevant to accreditation across National Scheme entities, TEQSA and health services.	This deliverable is being addressed as part of deliverable 1 – the glossary of accreditation terms.
Better link service delivery needs and the education system by strengthening consumer involvement in accreditation, including employers	Advice for National Scheme accreditation bodies on good practice guidance for strengthening the involvement of consumers in accreditation.	<p>The committee considered a deep dive paper exploring how consumers are involved in the accreditation of health care services in Australia, and accreditation of health education programs both in Australia and in the UK.</p> <p>The committee also considered the definition of the consumer in the context of accreditation, the challenges to consumer involvement – particularly for rural and remote communities, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and people from diverse cultural backgrounds, and how</p>

Areas of work	Deliverable	Achievements in 2022/23
		<p>consumers can be supported to be involved in accreditation.</p> <p>The committee sought feedback on the deep dive and input to the draft principles from Ahpra's Consumer Advisory Council.</p> <p>The draft principles for strengthening the involvement of consumers in accreditation were approved for release for preliminary consultation with key stakeholders.</p>
<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>Advice for National Scheme accreditation entities on good practice in the use of outcome-based approaches to accreditation.</p>	<p>The committee has considered initial exploratory work on outcome-based approaches to accreditation.</p>
	<p>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>The committee considered a deep dive paper and more detailed work on good practice in embedding diverse clinical placements and evidence-based technological advances in health practitioner education in late 2022 and early 2023. The committee subsequently undertook further work on the use of virtual health care delivery, including telehealth.</p> <p>The committee is using the detailed work to inform the development of draft guidance on good practice in embedding diverse clinical placements and evidence-based technological advances in health practitioner education.</p>
<p>Enhancing the transparency, reporting and comparability of accreditation funding and costs</p>	<p>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>The Committee continues to monitor progress of the Ahpra led project with BDO.</p> <p>The project reference group met once at the end of 2022, and five times throughout the first half of 2023. At these meetings BDO have presented on progress of the work and next steps, with input from the reference group.</p> <p>As of early June 2023, BDO have completed the first three stages of the project.</p> <p>In mid-June 2023, BDO commenced stage 4 of the project and are seeking comments from Accreditation Authorities (via the HPACF), on the research findings, analysis and proposed recommendations, before providing it to Ahpra and National Boards in August 2023.</p>
<p>Enhancing the transparency of accreditation assessment and monitoring activities</p>	<p>Advice to National Scheme bodies on the publication of accreditation assessment decisions and monitoring reports.</p>	<p>Work on this deliverable is scheduled to commence in late 2023.</p>
<p>Outcomes of any reviews of accreditation issues by the National Health Practitioner Ombudsman and Privacy</p>	<p>Review the outcomes of the NHPOPC's Independent review of</p>	<p>The report on the outcomes of the NHPO's <i>Independent review of the procedural aspects of accreditation processes</i> is</p>

Areas of work	Deliverable	Achievements in 2022/23
Commissioner (NHPOPC), where appropriate	the procedural aspects of accreditation processes.	<p>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>
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>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>The Committee will monitor National Cabinet related work including the National Cabinet commissioned <a href="#">Independent review of regulatory settings</a> (Kruk review) and consider implications for this Committee.</p>	

### Significant issues

There were no significant issues considered during the 2022/23 reporting period which could not be handled through routine Committee procedures.

### Looking ahead

The Committee will start formally issuing guidance towards the end of 2023, using multiple ways to maximise its impact and influence. When published, its advice will be available to all stakeholders to help drive accountability and expectations.

In the coming 12 months, the Committee expects to have delivered a:

- finalised a statement of intent for interprofessional collaborative practice
- finalised its glossary of key terms
- undertaken consultation with key stakeholders and finalised guidance on good practice in clinical placements and evidence-based technological advances in health practitioner education
- undertaken consultation on and finalised principles for strengthening consumer involvement in accreditation
- completed consultation on principles to clarify the roles of National Scheme entities and TEQSA in the accreditation of health practitioner education
- completed consultation on good practice guidance in the use of outcome-based approaches to accreditation
- completed consultation on good practice development of professional capabilities.

The Committee will conduct an annual refresh of its workplan at its November 2023 meeting to ensure that it remains responsive to current workforce pressures and priorities.