

Quick guide to the draft guidance on developing professional capabilities

August 2024

Who we are

The Ahpra Board established the independently chaired Accreditation Committee (the committee) consistent with [Ministerial Council Policy Direction 2020-1 – Independent Accreditation Committee](#) issued to the National Boards and Ahpra on 4 February 2021.

The committee is chaired by Professor Andrew Wilson. Consistent with Ministers' policy direction, Professor Wilson is an independent chair (external to the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme)).

You can read more about the committee on [its webpage](#).

What we do

The committee provides independent and expert advice on accreditation reform and other National Scheme accreditation matters to National Boards, accreditation authorities and Ahpra. The committee's priority areas of work reflect the issues that Australia's Health Ministers referred to it. Supporting good practice in professional capabilities is one of those priorities.

Accreditation is a key part of the National Scheme. It helps ensure that individuals seeking registration to work in the health workforce have the knowledge, skills and professional attributes to safely and competently practise their profession in Australia. Accreditation functions in the National Scheme include developing accreditation standards and accrediting programs of study that lead to registration.

More information on accreditation under the National Scheme is available on [the Ahpra website](#).

Why we consult

The committee undertakes wide ranging consultation on accreditation reform issues. Your feedback helps the committee get important information from different groups, including accreditation authorities, professional associations, and education providers as well as members of the public and registered health practitioners. This feedback helps the committee understand people's views, concerns and expectations.

What is this draft guidance about?

This guidance is about the knowledge and skills registered health practitioners need to practise in their profession.

Every profession regulated by the National Scheme has a document outlining the knowledge, skills and professional attributes required to practice as a registered health practitioner in that profession in Australia. Some professions call these professional capabilities, while others call them professional competencies, graduate outcomes or standards for practice. However they are named, their purpose is to describe the knowledge, skills and professional attributes needed to safely and competently practise as a registered health practitioner in Australia.

The purpose of this draft guidance on developing professional capabilities is to foster good practice and enhance efficiency and consistency in the development of new or revised professional capabilities across health professions regulated under the National Scheme.

The draft guidance outlines draft processes for the development of professional capabilities, consistent with Ahpra's [Procedures for the development of accreditation standards](#). It also discusses important issues about the governance and ownership of professional capabilities documents and the potential for

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core capabilities to be shared across professions. The committee wants to hear what you think about the draft guidance on professional capabilities.

Where can you find more information about the draft guidance?

You can find more information, including the draft guidance, a public consultation paper and a response template on the committee's ['Current consultations'](#) webpage.

How can you provide feedback?

There are some specific questions on pages 1 and 2 of the consultation paper, but you can also just provide general feedback on the draft guidance.

Please use the response template (Word document) and email your feedback to:
AC_consultation@ahpra.gov.au

Will we publish your feedback?

The committee publishes the feedback it receives so that people see the feedback received. We publish your name and the feedback you provide, but we do not publish your contact details or other information that may identify people.

You can ask us not to publish your feedback or to take your name off the feedback you give us.

We will not publish submissions that have offensive comments or are about things we are not consulting on.

What happens next?

The committee will consider all of the feedback when it drafts the final version of the guidance on professional capabilities.

Who to contact

If you have questions about this draft guidance, or the role of the committee, please email
AC_consultation@ahpra.gov.au