

Accreditation Committee Annual report 2023/24

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 third annual report and covers its activities for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

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. In October 2023, the Committee published its first deliverable – the glossary of accreditation terms, which is designed to create a shared understanding of the terms used in the Committee's guidance among stakeholders.

In March 2024, the Committee published its interprofessional collaborative practice (IPCP) statement of intent. The statement represents a joint commitment from 53 stakeholders across the health and education sectors to take action and embed IPCP across the Australian health system, in education, training, clinical governance, research and practice. The statement is a fundamental step towards achieving effective team-based and coordinated care across Australia. It is a commitment to improving the outcomes for patients and consumers by reducing the risk of fragmented and uncoordinated care.

The committee has also undertaken preliminary and public consultation on draft principles for strengthening the involvement of consumers in accreditation and its draft guidance on embedding good practice in clinical placements, simulation-based learning and virtual care in initial student health practitioner education. It is expected that both key pieces of work will be finalised and delivered by the end of 2024.

The Committee has also continued to 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:

- continuing the focus on outcome-based approaches to accreditation, to enable education providers to respond to changes in community need and innovations in health practice
- enhancing efficiency in the development of professional capabilities and in accreditation standards and processes
- reducing duplication and areas of overlap between accreditation authorities and education regulators

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.

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 2023/24
Professor Andrew Wilson AO	Independent Chair
Professor Maree O'Keefe	Deputy Chair External accreditation / education expert
Ms Alison Barnes	Member who identifies as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person
Associate Professor Carmen Parter	Member who identifies as an Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander person <i>(from 18 April 2023)</i>
Dr Heather Buchan	Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
Adjunct Professor Veronica Casey AM	National Boards representative
Mr Brett Simmonds	National Boards representatives
Dr Terry Crisp	Nominee of Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum <i>(from 1 January 2024)</i>
Mr Anton Barnett-Harris	Nominee of Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum <i>(from 1 January 2024)</i>
Ms Narelle Mills	Nominee of Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum <i>(until 31 December 2023)</i>
Professor Brian Jolly	Nominee of Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum <i>(until 31 December 2023)</i>
Mr Jeffrey Moffet	Member of Ahpra Board
Dr Susan Young	Member of Ahpra Board <i>(until 27 October 2023)</i>
Professor Trish Davidson	Member of Ahpra Board <i>(from 13 February 2024)</i>
Mrs Kay Leatherland	Nominee of Australia Private Hospitals Association
Ms Katrina Quinn	Nominee of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) <i>(until 20 January 2024)</i>
Dr Mary Russell	Nominee of the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA) <i>(from 13 February 2024)</i>
Dr Hamza Vayani	Nominee of the Community Advisory Council
Ms Valerie Ramsperger	Jurisdictional representative <i>(from 24 August 2023)</i>
Emeritus Professor Ian Wronski AO	Nominee of Universities Australia <i>(until 19 September 2023)</i>
Professor Esther May	Nominee of Universities Australia <i>(from 19 September 2023)</i>

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
Mr Michael Carpenter	Specialist Accreditation Advisor <i>(from 17 October 2023)</i>
Ms Kerryn Rozenbergs	Senior Accreditation Policy Advisor
Ms Tiffany Hui	Senior Government Relations Officer (Secretariat) <i>(from 4 January 2024)</i>
Mr Peter Knapp	Senior Government Relations Officer (Secretariat) <i>(until 1 November 2023)</i>

Meetings

The Committee met four times in 2023/24 – attendance at each meeting is below:

Meeting dates	Attendance
6 September 2023	Professor Andrew Wilson AO, Professor Maree O'Keefe, Ms Alison Barnes, Associate Professor Carmen Parter, Mr Brett Simmonds, Adjunct Professor Veronica Casey AM, Ms Narelle Mills, Professor Brian Jolly, Dr Hamza Vayani, Dr Heather Buchan, Ms Katrina Quinn, Emeritus

	Professor Ian Wronski AO, Mrs Kay Leatherland, Dr Susan Young, Mr Jeffrey Moffet, Ms Valerie Ramsperger, Mr Martin Fletcher, Mr Chris Robertson, Ms Helen Townley, Ms Kerry Rozenbergs, Ms Genevieve Mati, Mr Peter Knapp
29 November 2023	Professor Andrew Wilson AO, Professor Maree O’Keefe, Ms Alison Barnes, Associate Professor Carmen Parter, Mr Brett Simmonds, Ms Narelle Mills, Professor Brian Jolly, Dr Hamza Vayani, Dr Heather Buchan, Professor Esther May, Mrs Kay Leatherland, Mr Jeffrey Moffet, Ms Valerie Ramsperger, Ms Susan Kelly, Mr Martin Fletcher, Mr Chris Robertson, Ms Helen Townley, Mr Michael Carpenter, Ms Kerry Rozenbergs, Ms Genevieve Mati, Ms Alison Green
5 April 2023	Professor Andrew Wilson AO, Ms Alison Barnes, Mr Brett Simmonds, Dr Heather Buchan, Adjunct Professor Veronica Casey AM, Dr Terry Crisp, Professor Trish Davidson, Professor Esther May, Dr Mary Russell, Dr Hamza Vayani, Ms Susan Kelly, Ms Richelle McCausland (guest), Mr Chris Robertson, Ms Helen Townley, Mr Michael Carpenter, Ms Kerry Rozenbergs, Ms Tiffany Hui
15 June 2023	Professor Andrew Wilson AO, Professor Maree O’Keefe, Mr Anton Barnett-Harris, Mr Brett Simmons, Associate Professor Carmen Parter, Professor Esther May, Dr Hamza Vayani, Dr Heather Buchan, Mr Jeffrey Moffet, Dr Mary Russell, Dr Terry Crisp, Professor Trish Davidson, Ms Valerie Ramsperger, Adjunct Professor Veronica Casey AM, Professor Mark Cormack (guest), Ms Siobhan Dickinson (guest), Mr Chris Robertson, Ms Helen Townley, Mr Michael Carpenter, Ms Kerry Rozenbergs, Ms Genevieve Mati, Ms Sara Shulman, Ms Tiffany Hui

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 2023/24

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

Areas of work	Deliverable	Achievements in 2023/24
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.	The Committee published its Glossary of accreditation terms on 6 October 2023.
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.	The Committee has considered each of its agenda items from a cultural safety and racism perspective at the commencement of each meeting. The Committee also seeks advice and input from Ahpra’s Health Strategy Unit before releasing any of its draft guidance for consultation. These processes are strengthening the contribution that the Committee’s work makes to the National Scheme’s objectives of cultural safety and the elimination of racism.
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 finalised draft good practice guidance on developing professional capabilities for preliminary consultation in February 2024 and is scheduled to undertake public consultation in early 2024/25.

Areas of work	Deliverable	Achievements in 2023/24
Embedding interprofessional education and collaborative practice in health practitioner education	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 deliverable has been 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 Committee published its interprofessional collaborative practice (IPCP) statement of intent in March 2024. The statement represents a joint commitment from 53 stakeholders across the health and education sectors to take action and embed IPCP across the Australian health system, in education, training, clinical governance, research and practice. The statement is a fundamental step towards achieving effective team-based and coordinated care across Australia. It is a commitment to improving the outcomes for patients and consumers by reducing the risk of fragmented and uncoordinated care.</p> <p>The Committee has also established an implementation working group for the statement of intent and held its first meeting on 17 June 2024.</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 continued to meet to explore possible areas of regulatory overlap and discuss possible draft principles to clarify the roles of National Scheme entities and TEQSA. A joint Ahpra-TEQSA workshop is scheduled to be held in early 2024/25 to progress this work.
	A glossary of common terminology and shared language relevant to accreditation across National Scheme entities, TEQSA and health services.	This deliverable has been 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 undertook two phases of consultation on its draft principles for strengthening the involvement of consumers in accreditation. Preliminary consultation took place in September 2023 and public consultation occurred in February 2024.</p> <p>The Committee has considered the feedback from consultation and finalised the principles for publication. It is anticipated the principles will be published in the second half of 2024.</p>
Enable education to respond to changes in community need, healthcare models and innovations in health practice by maintaining the focus on	Advice for National Scheme accreditation entities on good practice in the use of outcome-based approaches to accreditation.	The Committee has considered a range of issues associated with the implementation of an outcome-based approach to accreditation and undertaken an initial period of targeted consultation. Further work will now be undertaken to develop guidance for accreditation authorities on the measurement

Areas of work	Deliverable	Achievements in 2023/24
outcome-based approaches in accreditation		and use of outcome-based approaches. It is anticipated that further consultation will be undertaken in 2025.
	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>The Committee published an information paper on diverse clinical placements and evidence-based technological advances in initial health practitioner education in November 2023. The information paper details the comprehensive evidence-base that was used to inform the Committee's draft guidance on good practice approaches to embedding clinical placements, pedagogical innovations and evidence-based technological advances in health practitioner education.</p> <p>The Committee undertook preliminary consultation on its draft guidance in November-December 2023, and public consultation in June-July 2024. The revised guidance is expected to be finalised in early 2024-25.</p>
Enhancing the transparency, reporting and comparability of accreditation funding and costs	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>Following approval from the Ahpra Board, funding and fee setting principles have been updated in the accreditation agreements and terms of reference as part of the new accreditation arrangements that come into place from 1 July 2024.</p> <p>The committee will consider any further work on costs issues that Ahpra progresses with other Scheme bodies following completion of the work by BDO.</p>
Enhancing the transparency of accreditation assessment and monitoring activities	Advice to National Scheme bodies on the publication of accreditation assessment decisions and monitoring reports.	<p>The Health Practitioners Accreditation Collaborative Forum (HPACF) has undertaken a review of accreditation reports with a view to developing a best practice, consistent approach to the publication of accreditation assessment decisions and monitoring reports across professions.</p> <p>The Committee will work with the HPACF to progress this work in 2024-25.</p>
Outcomes of any reviews of accreditation issues by the National Health Practitioner Ombudsman and Privacy Commissioner (NHPOPC), where appropriate	Review the outcomes of the NHPOPC's Independent review of the procedural aspects of accreditation processes.	The Committee considered the outcomes of part one of the NHPO's <i>Processes for progress review - A roadmap for greater transparency and accountability in specialist medical training site accreditation</i> in March 2024. The Committee will considered any further work once part two of the Ombudsman's review has been finalised.
Streamline processes, reduce duplication and avoid unnecessary costs by developing a one-step	The Committee is continuing to monitor National Cabinet related work including the National Cabinet commissioned Independent review of regulatory settings (Kruk review) and consider implications for its work.	

Areas of work	Deliverable	Achievements in 2023/24
approach to assessment of practitioners for the purposes of skilled migration and registration		

Significant issues

There were no significant issues considered during the 2023/24 reporting period which could not be handled through routine Committee procedures.

Looking ahead

In the coming 12 months, the Committee expects to deliver:

- final principles for strengthening the involvement of consumers in accreditation
- final guidance on embedding good practice in clinical placements, simulation-based learning and virtual care in initial student health practitioner education, together with case studies to assist those responsible for implementing the guidance
- final principles to clarify the roles of National Scheme entities and TEQSA in the accreditation of health practitioner education
- final good practice guidance on developing professional capabilities
- final guidance for accreditation authorities on the use of outcome-based approaches in accreditation
- an implementation plan on the National Scheme interprofessional education and interprofessional collaborative practice statement of intent
- advice to National Scheme entities on the publication of accreditation assessment decisions and monitoring reports.