

Public consultation report on the proposed Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Statement of Intent

November 2023

About us

The Accreditation Committee was established in 2021, in line with [Ministerial Council Policy Direction 2020-1](#) to give 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, must also consider the Committee's advice, where relevant.

More information about the committee and its terms of reference can found on the Ahpra [website](#).

Background

The committee's priority areas of work reflect the [Health Ministers' response to the Independent Review of Accreditation Systems Final Report](#) and includes embedding interprofessional collaborative practice.

The committee is seeking to use the interprofessional collaborative practice statement of intent to further embed interprofessional collaborative practice in the 16 professions within the National Scheme. The committee aims to gain a joint commitment from stakeholders across the health and education sectors to take action.

Preliminary and public consultation

Two periods of consultation were undertaken on a draft proposed Interprofessional Collaborative Practice (IPCP) Statement of Intent (the statement).

Preliminary consultation on the statement commenced on 11 January 2023 and closed on 28 February 2023. The purpose of preliminary consultation was to test and refine the draft statement and consultation materials with key stakeholders before proceeding to public consultation. The Committee invited key stakeholders to participate in the preliminary consultation process. A total of 20 submissions were received from National Boards, accreditation authorities, Australian Commission of Safety and Quality Health Care, Ahpra's advisory groups and jurisdictions.

Public consultation opened on 13 June 2023 and closed on 08 August 2023. The committee invited stakeholders to provide feedback and express interest in signing the statement.

Respondents were asked to respond to three questions. These are:

Question 1: Is the content, language and structure of the proposed statement clear and relevant? Why or why not?

Question 2: Is there anything else the Accreditation Committee should include in the proposed statement? If so, please provide details.

Question 3: Do you have any general comments or other feedback about the proposed statement?

How we consulted

Targeted e-mails, a published news item on the Ahpra website, and a social media campaign raised awareness of the consultation. We accepted submissions via e-mail.

Who we heard from

We received 26 submissions from public consultation. A breakdown of submissions is outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Breakdown of submissions

Stakeholder group	Number of submissions
Accreditation authorities	1
Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum	1
Government departments/agencies	6
Statutory bodies	3
Educational institutions/departments	4
Professional associations/peak bodies	11
Total	26

What we heard

The overwhelming majority of stakeholders supported the statement. Key themes from public consultation were:

- updating the content, structure, and language of the statement, including reducing repetition
- using the definition for interprofessional collaborative practice so it aligns with the definition in the committee's glossary of accreditation terms, and
- updating the statement to include various forms of discrimination, not just racism.

Various submissions queried the 'next steps' after endorsement of the statement and sought clarification on how the goals will be operationalised. An implementation plan will address these comments.

Several stakeholders commented on how important interprofessional collaborative practice is within the health and education system and acknowledged the need for the committee's leadership and commitment to further embedding interprofessional collaborative practice.

Signatories of the statement

The final statement will be signed by stakeholders who have agreed to publicly commit to it, including the 15 national health practitioner boards (the National Boards), the 15 accreditation authorities within the National Scheme, Ahpra, stakeholders that nominate members to the committee, and other health and education sector leaders and organisations.

During public consultation 22 stakeholders expressed interest in becoming signatories.

What we are doing next

Finalising the statement for signing and publication

The committee will be taking steps to finalise and publish the statement, including releasing the statement to interested stakeholders for signing.

The committee expects the statement will be published in late 2023.

Next steps

The committee will consider next steps including to address matters raised during the consultation.