

## Public consultation

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February 2024

### Draft proposed principles to strengthen the involvement of consumers in accreditation

#### Introduction

The Accreditation Committee (the committee) invites feedback on its draft proposed principles to strengthen the involvement of consumers in accreditation.

Strengthening the involvement of consumers in accreditation was an issue referred to the committee by ministers in response to the [independent review of Accreditation Systems \(ASR\)](#).

The committee is seeking to use the principles to strengthen the involvement of consumers in the breadth of accreditation activities and guide National Scheme entities to improve their involvement of consumers in the design and delivery of accreditation functions. In the context of accreditation, broad and meaningful consumer involvement results in enhanced processes that meet the needs of the community.

Accreditation authorities already involve consumers in:

- developing new and revising existing accreditation standards
- non-practitioner governance positions on Boards and/or accreditation committees and accreditation teams, and
- the assessment of overseas qualified health practitioners

This document outlines draft proposed principles to strengthen the involvement of consumers in accreditation. These principles aim to:

- enhance meaningful involvement of consumers in accreditation activities in the National Scheme
- support diversity of input into the performance of accreditation functions, and
- create responsive and person-centred processes that value and respect the views of consumers.

#### About the Committee

The committee was established in 2021, by the Ahpra Board, consistent with [Ministerial Council Policy Direction 2020-1 – Independent Accreditation Committee](#). The committee's membership comprises a broad range of stakeholders and is independently chaired by Professor Andrew Wilson.

The committee provides 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.

Further information about the committee can be found on its [website](#).

#### How to give feedback

The committee is seeking your feedback on the following questions:

- Question 1: Does any content need to be added to or amended in the draft proposed principles?
- Question 2: Are there any implementation issues that the Accreditation Committee should be aware of?
- Question 3: Are there any potential unintended consequences of the draft principles?

Question 4: Do you have any general comments or feedback about the draft proposed principles?

Please use the response template to give your feedback and email the completed template to [AC\\_consultation@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:AC_consultation@ahpra.gov.au).

**Consultation closes on: 18 April 2024.**

**For further information about this project, please contact:**

- Policy and Project Officer – Accreditation, Alison Green, [AC\\_consultation@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:AC_consultation@ahpra.gov.au)

### **Publication of submissions**

We publish submissions at our discretion. We generally publish submissions on our website to encourage discussion and inform the community and stakeholders. Please advise us if you do not want your submission published.

We will not place on our website, or make available to the public, submissions that contain offensive or defamatory comments or which are outside the scope of the subject of the consultation. Before publication, we may remove any personally identifying information from submissions, including contact details.

We can accept submissions made in confidence. These submissions will not be published on the website or elsewhere. Submissions may be confidential because they include personal experiences or other sensitive information. A request for access to a confidential submission will be determined in accordance with the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (Cth), which has provisions designed to protect personal information and information given in confidence. Please let us know if you do not want us to publish your submission or want us to treat all or part of it as confidential.

**Published submissions will include the names of the individuals and/or the organisations that made the submission unless confidentiality is expressly requested.**

### **Next steps**

The committee will consider any feedback from this consultation before finalising the principles to strengthen the involvement of consumers in accreditation.