

Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (the Forum): Submission to the Accreditation Committee (the Committee) public consultation on the Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Statement of Intent

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Statement of Intent. The Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (the Forum) is a coalition of the 15 accreditation authorities for 16 regulated health professions within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the Scheme). The Forum is committed to a National Scheme that operates efficiently and effectively, and Forum members contribute individually and collectively to issues of national importance to the regulated health professions.

Over the past decade, the Forum has been working with a wide range of stakeholders to enhance the provision of interprofessional education (IPE) to Australian healthcare students to develop collaborative practitioners. In 2015 we convened a workshop titled 'Collaborating for Patient Care – Interprofessional Learning for Interprofessional Practice'.¹ Following the workshop, Forum members agreed on several actions to improve accreditation processes to embed IPE in health professions training programs. In 2018 we published a position statement on IPE that included a shared definition of IPE and collaborative practice based on the World Health Organization (WHO) definitions.² Forum members also adopted a set of IPE competencies to guide accreditation authorities in the assessment of health profession programs.³

The Forum's IPE working group has continued to progress IPE initiatives⁴ and is currently managing a nationwide project that will further enhance the development of collaborative practitioners through accreditation. The project has two components. One arm utilises a research approach to gather perspectives on collaborative practice from consumers, health service providers and education providers. Preliminary findings were shared at the Australian & New Zealand Association for Health Professional Educators (ANZAHPE) conference in June 2023.⁵ The second component will involve development of a consensus guidance that includes practical examples of IPE and collaborative practice. The Forum is committed to strengthening accreditation processes to support development of collaborative

¹ Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum. Internet. Collaborating for Patient Care – Interprofessional Learning for Interprofessional Practice. Kingston, ACT: HPACF, 2015. Available at <http://hpacf.org.au/publications/>

² World Health Organization. Internet. Framework for Action on Interprofessional Education & Collaborative Practice. Geneva, Switzerland: WHO, 2010. Available at www.who.int/publications

³ Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum. Internet. Position Statement on Interprofessional education. Kingston, ACT: HPACF, 2018. Available at <http://hpacf.org.au/publications/>

⁴ Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum. Internet. Interprofessional Education (IPE): Report on the findings of a survey of HPAC Forum members. Kingston, ACT: HPACF, 2020. Available at <http://hpacf.org.au/publications/>

⁵ Wilkinson, G. Internet. Developing a collaborative practitioner through strengthened accreditation processes. Abstract No. 320 presented at the Australian & New Zealand Association for Health Professional Educators (ANZAHPE) conference, Gold Coast, Qld, 26–29 June 2023. Available at <https://eventstudio.eventsair.com/anzahpe-2023/program>

health practitioners and the realisation of collaborative practice. Our commitment is to strengthen and enhance consumer involvement and the consumer voice in all aspects of training and education including in our accreditation processes.

We support the Committee's vision for a National Scheme Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Statement of Intent, noting that Bronwyn Clark has been attending the working group as a nominee of the Forum. We submit the following feedback for consideration.

Terminology

1) Definition of Interprofessional Collaborative Practice

The definition of the term Interprofessional Collaborative Practice is nuanced by the introduction of the phrase '...that is free of racism across settings'. This definition is not reflected in the Committee's recently concluded public consultation on the proposed initial glossary of accreditation terms.⁶ While the intent is clearly understood, linking to other National Scheme priorities, in this case cultural safety and eradication of racism, it may be useful to adhere to the proposed glossary of accreditation terms to maintain consistency and language. Highest quality of care cannot be deemed to occur in the absence of culturally safe care that is free of racism.

2) Interprofessional Collaborative Practice (IPCP)

The Forum has reservations relating to the preference of the term **Interprofessional Collaborative Practice** over **Collaborative Practice** first introduced by the WHO. We support the use of term **Collaborative Practice** over **Interprofessional Collaborative Practice**.

Our position statement in 2018 agreed to shared terminology and use of collaborative practice across all 16 regulated health professions represented in the Scheme. The WHO definitions of IPE and collaborative practice are now embedded in all accreditation standards developed by Forum members. We have been working to ensure consistency in the understanding and interpretation.

Health literature, including our ongoing research work, points to the need for a radical rebalancing of the health system with a greater focus on enabling patients and their carers and less on the roles and contributions of health professionals. This patient-centric approach places agency on the users of healthcare services rather than on the providers. In using the term 'interprofessional' alongside collaborative practice, the centrality of the patient/consumer patient is diminished, and the focus remains on the actions of the health professional. Consumers recently told us:

'Good collaborative healthcare is patient-centered care. At its most simple level, collaboration is about collaboration with the patient. So, we need to be at the center

⁶ Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency. Internet. Public consultation on the glossary of accreditation terms. Melbourne, Vic: Ahpra, 2023. Available at www.ahpra.gov.au

of every single collaboration and every single definition of collaborative healthcare you need to center us.'

...'Now, thankfully three doctors later, I finally have a doctor who actually listens, talks with nurses, talks with specialists and actually is open to what I'm thinking is going on, what I'm feeling...'

3) Interprofessional education (IPE)

The statement does not provide a link between IPE and IPCP. In fact, there is no reference to IPE or Interprofessional learning (IPL). The Committee (and the Forum) has adopted the WHO definition of IPE, which is 'Refers to educational experiences where students from two or more professions learn about, from and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes'. IPE or IPL is the pedagogy through which collaborative practice is achieved. Collaborative practice is therefore the outcome, and IPE is what is required to be embedded in health professional training to achieve the vision of collaborative practice. Throughout the document, there is reference to embedding IPCP including in training and education.

We strongly suggest revision of the statement to include IPE as a critical component of achieving the development of collaborative practitioners and thereby enabling collaborative practice (the desired outcome) to be realised.

Shared Vision

We support the Committee's aspiration to support the realisation of collaborative practice across the Australian healthcare system.

Shared Goals

While we see these goals are aspirational in the health system we want for Australia, we are wondering how some of the goals outlined in the **Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Statement of Intent**, could be achieved given the Committee's remit under the Ministerial Council Policy direction 2021.⁷

For example:

- reducing duplication, gaps and discontinuity experienced by individuals accessing health services
- enabling interprofessional collaborative practice teams to build trust with diverse communities and individuals
- ensuring healthcare services are culturally and linguistically accessible.

Accreditation authorities, including Ahpra and the National Boards, are expected to consider the Committee's advice when exercising their functions. Broad healthcare

⁷ Australian Health Practitioners Regulation Agency. Internet. Ministerial Council Policy Direction 2021-1 – Independent Accreditation Committee. Melbourne, Vic: Ahpra, 2021. Available at www.ahpra.gov.au

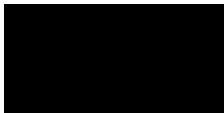
impacts may not be possible to be attributed or impacted through the role of the Accreditation Committee and the associated National Scheme bodies.

Commitment

We note the Committee's proposal for possible development of a National Scheme strategy on interprofessional collaborative practice. The Forum is supportive of this ideal, noting this would require a multisector approach beyond the health sector and the 16 health professions within the Scheme to achieve the intended outcomes for patients and their carers. The Forum will be well placed to take a lead role in this work, based on our work to date and our soon to be published research.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to respond to this statement.

Kind regards



Narelle Mills
Chair, HPAC Forum
26 July 2023



Response template for the proposed Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Statement of Intent public consultation

June 2023

This response template is the preferred way to submit your response to the public consultation on the draft proposed **Interprofessional Collaborative Practice (IPCP) Statement of Intent**.

Please provide any feedback in this document, including your responses to all or some of the questions in the text boxes on the following pages. The boxes will expand to accommodate your response. You do not need to respond to a question if you have no comment.

Making a submission

Please complete this response template and email to AC_consultation@ahpra.gov.au using the subject line 'Feedback: Proposed Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Statement of Intent'. **Submissions are due by COB 8 August 2023**

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 about consultation responses. Please let us know 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 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 if you 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.

Do you want your responses to be published?

- Yes – Please publish my response with my name
- Yes – Please publish my response but don't publish my name
- No I do not want my responses to be published

Stakeholder details

Please provide your details in the following table:

Name:	Chair, the Forum
Organisation name:	Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (the Forum)
Interest in joining as a signatory to the final statement	Yes

Your responses to the consultation questions

1. Is the content, language and structure of the proposed statement clear and relevant? Why or why not?
See attached response

2. Is there anything else the accreditation committee should consider that would be helpful to include in the proposed statement? If so, please provide details.
See attached response

3. Do you have any general comments or other feedback about the proposed statement?
See attached response