



August 2024 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Accreditation Committee meeting

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Accreditation Committee (the Committee) publishes this communiqué on the Committee's [accreditation webpage](#). Please forward it to your colleagues who may be interested.

Committee meeting

The 49th meeting of the Committee was held videoconference on 22 August 2024. The Committee will hold a face-to-face meeting in November 2024.

Some activities that were discussed at the Committee's August 2024 meeting, as well as some other key activities, are outlined below.

Accreditation assessments and monitoring activities

Intention to apply

The Committee was informed that the Department of Health Queensland Ambulance Service (U-me Koola program) plans to apply for accreditation as they are delivering the HLT40221 Certificate IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice (HLT40221 qualification) qualification in Townsville with a further cohort planned in Ipswich.

Accreditation decision

The Committee made an accreditation decision on an education provider delivering the HLT40221 qualification as graduates will complete course work in November 2024 and are eligible to apply for registration with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia (National Board) before graduation in June 2025. The National Board will consider the Committee's accreditation decision at its September 2024 meeting prior to students applying for registration.

Education providers delivering the HLT40221 qualification, will be contacted via email, to advise the Committee on when students will complete their course work and the anticipated graduation date. This will ensure enough time for the Committee to accredit the HLT40221 qualification and the National Board approving the qualification for registration purposes before students have finalised their course work/graduated.

Monitoring approved programs of study

The Committee considered monitoring responses from two education providers and their programs of study. The outcomes of the Committee's evaluations will be provided to the education provider and the National Board.

The Committee will continue to provide updates to the National Board on its monitoring of approved programs of study.

Routine monitoring

The 2024 routine monitoring package was disseminated to education providers across two tranches – in February and May 2024. The Committee considered seven 2024 routine monitoring reports at their August 2024 meeting with a further five to be considered at the November 2024 meeting.

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Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency
GPO Box 9958 Melbourne VIC 3001 atsihealthpracticeboard.gov.au (03) 8708 9709

The Committee will provide the outcomes of their findings to the education providers, and an update to the National Board, following the November 2024 meeting.

HLT40221 program

At its September 2023 meeting, the Committee agreed on a two-phase approach to monitoring education providers' transition to the HLT40221 Certificate IV in Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Practice training package (HLT40221 program). Education providers have provided their responses to the two phases. The Committee continues to monitor education providers delivering the HLT40221 program. Outcomes of the monitoring will be provided to the National Board as required.

Committee updates

Call for applications

The Committee seeks applications from registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners, from across Australia, interested in being included on a list of approved assessors who the Committee may appoint to be members of accreditation assessment teams or assessors to evaluate monitoring responses. More information will be provided on the Committee's [accreditation webpages](#) or contact the Program Accreditation team at program.accreditation@ahpra.gov.au.

Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum

The Presiding member of the Committee and Special Accreditation Advisor provided verbal updates on the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (HPACF). The Committee continues to engage in the HPACF's important work. More information can be found on the HPACF's [website](#).

2019 Accreditation standards for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice - review

The review of the 2019 Accreditation standards for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice project commenced in March 2024. The project will be conducted in conjunction with the Chinese Medicine, Medical Radiation Practice, Paramedicine and Podiatry Accreditation Committees. At the meeting the Committee noted the verbal update from the Project Team on the progress of the review, and that preliminary consultations are scheduled to take place from late 2024. The project is expected to be completed in mid-2025.

Stakeholder engagement

The Committee invited a representative from the National Association of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workers and Practitioners (NAATSIHWP) to attend the August 2024 meeting and discussed matters of common interest including topics about perspectives on the representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the health workforce and issues facing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioner workforce including scopes of practice and declining workforce numbers.

The Program Accreditation team, on behalf of the Committee, continues to engage with education providers via the Committee's [accreditation webpages](#); through correspondence via email, phone contact and videoconference meetings, and communiques.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for November 2024.

Contact information

For any queries related to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice program accreditation, please contact the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Accreditation Committee via the Program Accreditation team at program.accreditation@ahpra.gov.au.

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Ahpra and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Accreditation Committee work in partnership to accredit education and training programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice.