



## September 2021 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.

### COVID-19 and the Delta variant

The Committee and Ahpra continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and its potential impacts on accredited and approved programs. Statements on, or information outlining, its plans for its accreditation activities will be published on the 'News and updates' accreditation webpage. The Committee was also party to the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum's [consensus statement on COVID-19](#), and the [National principles for clinical education during the COVID-19 pandemic](#).

The spread of the COVID-19 Delta variant has escalated, and many states and territories are experiencing various stages of lockdown which has impacted on education providers delivering their programs of study, including students' ability to attend face-to-face classes and placements.

These are difficult times, and the Committee wishes to pass on its thoughts to all those impacted. With the situation ever changing the Committee appreciates the contact being made with Ahpra's Program Accreditation Team about the short-term changes required to programs as a result of current restrictions.

Please continue to reach out to the team should you have any queries, or further information regarding COVID-19 and your program/s that you'd like to provide the Committee.

Keep safe.

### Committee meeting

The 41<sup>st</sup> meeting of the Committee was held on 23 September 2021 via videoconference.

Some activities that were discussed at the Committee's September 2021 meeting, as well as some other key activities for the Committee, are outlined more thoroughly below.

### Monitoring approved programs of study

Section 3.3 of the [Guidelines for accreditation of education and training programs](#) outlines the Committee's responsibility to monitor approved programs of study and the education providers offering them, to ensure the Committee continues to be satisfied the program and provider meet the accreditation standards.

### Routine annual monitoring in 2021

2021 Routine annual monitoring reports from education providers are now being submitted. As well as standard collection of key data, the routine annual monitoring reports will also seek information from education providers on the current and downstream impacts of COVID-19 in 2021 and beyond. The Committee will be in contact with education providers in the second half of 2021 regarding the impacts of the current restrictions on programs and current cohorts, particularly the 2021 graduating cohort.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Accreditation Committee  
Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency  
GPO Box 9958 Melbourne VIC 3001 [atsihealthpracticeboard.gov.au](http://atsihealthpracticeboard.gov.au) (03) 8708 9709

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.

The outcomes of the routine annual monitoring responses will be provided to the education providers and the National Board after each meeting.

### **Newly published accreditation resources**

The Committee is very excited to announce the publication of some important accreditation resources, which it has developed in conjunction with the Chinese Medicine, Medical Radiation Practice, Paramedicine and Podiatry Accreditation Committees (the Committees). The development of multi-profession approaches to accreditation processes ensures the Committee is striving towards best practice, as outlined in its key performance indicators at *Attachment G* of its [Terms of Reference](#).

#### [Guidance on teaching out accredited and/or approved programs of study](#)

The [Guidance on teaching out accredited and/or approved programs of study](#) provides education providers with information on what may be provided to the Committee when an accredited and/or approved program of study (program) is discontinued for new enrolments (moves into teach-out).

In developing the guidance, the Committee undertook a period of targeted consultation with education providers delivering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice programs of study. The Committee thanks those education providers who provided feedback.

If education providers have any queries about teaching out a program of study, please contact your Accreditation Officer via the [Program Accreditation Team](#) for more information.

#### [Guidance on site visits and video/teleconference meetings](#)

The [Guidance on accreditation site visits and tele/videoconference meetings](#) outlines the process for site visit and tele/videoconference meetings for education providers delivering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice, Chinese medicine, medical radiation practice, paramedicine and podiatry programs of study.

This guidance was developed with consideration of the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum's (the Forum) [position statement on accreditation tools used by Forum members](#), and should be read alongside the Committee's [Guidelines for accreditation of education and training programs](#).

For access to the Committee's key accreditation resources please visit their [publications and resources webpage](#).

### **Stakeholder engagement**

The Committee continues to engage with its key stakeholders, including education providers, around a range of topics relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practice accreditation.

The Program Accreditation Team, on behalf of the Committee, engages with stakeholders via the Committee's [accreditation webpages](#); through correspondence via email; phone or videoconference meetings, and communiques.

#### [SkillsIQ Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Health Worker training package review – Committee engagement in consultations](#)

The Australian Industry and Skills Council (AISC) approved SkillsIQ, at the direction of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Worker Industry Reference Committee (IRC), to undertake a thorough review of all nationally recognised Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander health worker training package products included in the HLT Health Training Package.

A number of consultation phases on proposals to revise the training package products occurred from late 2020 – August 2021.

The Committee provided feedback on Drafts 1 and 2 of the proposed revised HLT Health Training Package, and during an additional phase of targeted consultation. The Chair of the Committee and Manager, Program Accreditation continue to interact with SkillsIQ and the IRC on the progress of the review, and proposals for change to be presented to the AISC.

The Committee will continue to engage with SkillsIQ and the IRC a on this very important topic.

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