



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

June 2023

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### Background

The independently chaired [Accreditation Committee](#) (the committee) invites you to provide feedback on its draft proposed Interprofessional Collaborative Practice (IPCP) Statement of Intent (the statement).

Achieving interprofessional collaborative practice is fundamental to effective team-based and coordinated care. This will benefit individuals and healthcare consumers by enhancing their healthcare experiences and health outcomes. The committee is seeking to contribute to embedding interprofessional collaborative practice in the 16 professions within the National Scheme by gaining a joint commitment from stakeholders across the health and education sectors to take action.

The statement will further embed interprofessional collaborative practice across the health system, in education, training, clinical governance and practice, subject to the signatories in the final version. In the future, this could involve developing a National Scheme strategy on interprofessional collaborative practice.

The committee invites stakeholders across the health and education sectors to express interest in signing the statement and recognises that broad support across both sectors is key to achieving its intent.

### We want your feedback

The committee invites you to give your feedback on the following questions:

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?

We encourage you to use the [response template](#) published on the consultation webpage to record your feedback, and express interest in joining National Scheme entities as a signatory to the statement. Please email [AC\\_consultation@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:AC_consultation@ahpra.gov.au) the completed template by the closing date (below).

**Consultation closes on: 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. 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 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.**

# Public consultation paper

## Overview

### Introduction

The Accreditation Committee (the committee) is consulting on a proposed Interprofessional Collaborative Practice (IPCP) Statement of Intent (the statement). The statement will be a joint commitment between the signatories to use their leadership to take action and further embed interprofessional collaborative practice across the Australian health system, in education, training, clinical governance and practice, with a focus on quality and safety of person-centred care that is free of racism.

This consultation paper provides background on the committee, information about the statement, outlines the content in the draft proposed statement, and provides questions for your consideration.

### Background

#### Who is the Accreditation Committee?

The 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 be found on the Ahpra [website](#).

The committee is independently chaired by Professor Andrew Wilson. The committee's membership is comprised of a diverse range of stakeholders, including nominees and representatives from the following categories:

- members who identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander
- Ahpra Board
- the National Boards
- the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum
- the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare
- Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency
- Universities Australia
- an external accreditation / education expert
- a consumer / community representative
- a jurisdictional representative; and
- a private healthcare employer.

#### Why is the committee developing an interprofessional collaborative practice statement of intent?

Interprofessional education and collaborative practice were issues referred to the committee by Ministers in response to the independent review of Accreditation Systems (ASR). 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, by gaining a joint commitment from stakeholders across the health and education sectors to take action.

## Who has contributed to the draft statement?

The committee developed the draft proposed statement with input from subject matter experts. These include representatives from the Health Professions Accreditation Collaboration Forum, the National Board Chairs, Ahpra's Community Advisory Council, jurisdictional health services, Ahpra and experts in interprofessional collaborative practice in health profession education.

## Signatories of the statement

The final statement will be signed by stakeholders who agree to make a public commitment to it. The committee expects this will include 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.

The signatories to the final statement have not been confirmed. The committee invites stakeholders to express interest in joining National Scheme entities as signatories to the statement through this consultation. Ahpra will circulate the committee's statement to interested stakeholders for signing when it's finalised.

## Content in the draft Interprofessional Collaborative Practice Statement of Intent

The draft proposed statement includes:

### Shared vision

This section includes a joint statement on the shared vision for embedding interprofessional collaborative practice across the health system, in education, training, clinical governance and practice. This statement will provide more effective, efficient, culturally safe and person-centred care, improve collaboration within the health workforce, and benefit individuals and healthcare consumers by enhancing their healthcare experiences and health outcomes.

### Shared goals

This section includes shared goals for National Boards, accreditation authorities, Ahpra and health education sector leaders and organisations to work towards when embedding interprofessional collaborative practice. This includes building a shared understanding of, and commitment to, interprofessional collaborative practice within the National Scheme and self-regulated/non-National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS) professions.

### Shared values

This section includes the following shared values being respect, commitment, collaboration, leadership and innovation.

### Joint commitment

This section includes a joint commitment by the signatories to use their leadership to take action and further embed interprofessional collaborative practice across the Australian health system, focusing on quality and safety of person-centred care that is free of racism, to achieve the vision and goals set out in the statement.

## Other relevant consultations

The committee is also [consulting on a draft proposed initial glossary of accreditation terms](#). The following meaning for interprofessional collaborative practice draws on the definition from the World Health Organization, and has been proposed as part of the glossary:

*'Interprofessional collaborative practice refers to health care practice where multiple health workers from different professional backgrounds work together with patients, families, carers and communities to deliver the highest quality of care across settings.'*

This text has been included in the proposed statement of intent and will be updated, subject to any feedback from public consultation on the glossary and the statement.

## Consultation phases

The committee conducted a preliminary phase of **confidential** consultation on its draft proposed interprofessional collaborative practice statement of intent from January to March 2023. The purpose of preliminary consultation was to test and refine the initial statement and consultation materials with key stakeholders before proceeding to **public consultation**.

The committee is now undertaking a phase of **public consultation** on the draft proposed interprofessional collaborative practice statement of intent. This phase of consultation is open to any interested stakeholders, including those consulted in the preliminary phase of consultation. The purpose of public consultation is to test and refine the updated statement following preliminary consultation.

## Next steps

We will consider any feedback from this consultation before finalising the interprofessional collaborative practice statement of intent. Ahpra will circulate the committee's statement to interested stakeholders for signing when it's finalised.