

# Public consultation on the proposed initial glossary of accreditation terms

April 2023

## Public consultation paper

### Background

The independently chaired [Accreditation Committee](#) (The committee) invites you to provide feedback on its draft proposed initial glossary of accreditation terms.

The committee has agreed to develop a glossary to establish a shared language and understanding of its advice across different professions, National Scheme entities, and external stakeholders.

At present, different language is used across different National Scheme professions, entities and external stakeholders to describe various aspects of accreditation and the issues referred by Health Ministers to the committee. For example, several areas of work referred to the committee intersect with student learning in the workplace; current documents within and outside the National Scheme use a range of terms for this including: work-integrated learning, clinical placement or attachment and professional experience or professional experience placements. This can create confusion for education providers delivering programs across multiple professions and for workplaces that provide placements across multiple providers and professions.

This proposed first version of the glossary focuses on providing an initial tranche of terms across the areas of work in the committee's work plan. It builds on the terms already defined in the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (National Law) and the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum's (HPACF) *Glossary of Terms for annual program monitoring reports*.

The glossary is intended to be a dynamic or 'living' document that the committee will continue to update as it consults on and approves subsequent tranches of terms and meanings, and as each area of its work progresses.

**The glossary is not intended to be comprehensive, replace the HPACF's glossary, or be applied in a prescriptive way by accreditation authorities and other stakeholders.**

### We want your feedback

The committee invites you to provide feedback on the draft proposed initial glossary. The committee seeks feedback on the terms and meanings provided in Table 1 of the draft initial glossary. The table identifies the source of the proposed meanings for these terms.

The committee's glossary will include the [definition of cultural safety for the National Scheme](#) and several terms and meanings already defined in the National Law and the HPACF's Glossary. These are provided in Table 2 and the committee is not seeking feedback on these.

### How to give feedback

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

Question 1: Do you have any comments on the terms and/or meanings in Table 1 of the draft proposed initial glossary?

Question 2: Are there any other terms you believe may be relevant to the areas of the committee's advice and that you would like to see included in a future version of the glossary?

Question 3: Do you have any general comments or other feedback about the draft proposed initial glossary?

We encourage you to use the [response template](#) published on the consultation web page to record your feedback. Please email the completed template to [accreditation.policy@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:accreditation.policy@ahpra.gov.au).

**Consultation closes on: COB 23 June 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.**

# Public consultation on the proposed initial glossary of accreditation terms

## Overview

### Introduction

The committee has agreed that a common language established through a glossary of agreed terms is critical to supporting the committee's work. The glossary of terms across the spectrum of accreditation will establish a shared language and understanding of the committee's advice across different professions, National Scheme entities, and external stakeholders.

**Note that the glossary is not intended to be comprehensive, replace the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum's (HPACF) glossary, or be applied in a prescriptive way.**

This consultation paper invites comments on the committee's draft proposed initial glossary. It provides background on the establishment of the committee and the issues that led to its decision to develop this glossary. It provides an overview of this project and the scope for public consultation.

### Background

The committee was established in 2021, consistent with [Ministerial Council Policy Direction 2020-1 – Independent Accreditation Committee](#). The committee gives 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.

The committee is independently chaired by Professor Andrew Wilson. The committee's membership comprises 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 Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare
- A consumer / community representative
- An external accreditation / education expert
- A jurisdictional representative
- National Boards
- A private healthcare employer
- Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency
- The Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum; and
- Universities Australia.

The committee agreed to an [Initial Work Plan](#) that included initial work on **a consolidated glossary of terms across the spectrum of accreditation**, building on terms already defined in the National Law and the HPACF's Glossary of Terms for annual program monitoring reports.

At present, different language is used across different National Scheme professions, entities and external stakeholders to describe various aspects of accreditation and the issues referred to the committee. For example, several areas of work referred to the committee intersect with student learning in the workplace. Current documents within and outside the National Scheme use a range of terms for this including work-integrated learning, clinical placement or attachment and professional experience or professional experience placements. There are also a range of terms used for people who have responsibility for students engaged in learning in those settings, including clinical supervisor, clinical educator, preceptor, among others.

These language differences can create barriers to communication and mutual understanding between professions, and between stakeholders. These differences can also create confusion for education providers delivering programs across multiple professions, and for workplaces that provide clinical placements across multiple providers and professions. A common language through a glossary of agreed terms is therefore critical to supporting the committee's work.

The committee recognises that effective development, consultation and consideration of the committee's whole-of-scheme, cross-profession advice will be facilitated by shared language. This will enhance the shared understanding of the advice across different professions and National Scheme entities and external stakeholders including the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency and the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare. It will also ensure the committee's work builds on the significant progress already made in many areas.

This first version of the glossary focuses on providing an initial list of terms across the areas of work covered by the committee's current work plan. These areas include:

Fostering **good practice** and **enhancing efficiency** in **professional capabilities and accreditation standards** and processes across the National Scheme professions

Embedding **interprofessional education and collaborative practice** in health practitioner education

**Reducing duplication** and areas of overlap **between Accreditation Authorities and education regulators**

Better link service delivery needs and the education system by **strengthening consumer involvement in accreditation**, including employers

**Strengthening outcomes-based approaches in accreditation** to ensure that education responds to changes in community needs, healthcare models and innovations in health practice, and

Enhancing the **transparency, reporting and comparability** of accreditation **funding and costs**.

The glossary is intended to be a dynamic or 'living' document that can continue to be updated as subsequent lists of terms are approved by the committee and as its other areas of work progress.

### Consultation phases

The committee conducted a preliminary phase of **confidential** consultation on its draft proposed initial glossary from January to March 2023 to test and refine the initial glossary 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 initial glossary. 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 glossary following preliminary consultation.

### Scope of consultation

The committee invites you to provide your feedback on the terms provided in Table 1 of the draft initial glossary. The table identifies the source of the proposed meanings for these terms.

The committee's glossary will include the [definition of cultural safety for the National Scheme](#) and several terms and meanings that are already defined in the National Law and the HPACF's Glossary. These are provided in Table 2 of the draft initial glossary and the committee is not seeking feedback on these.

### Next steps

Once the public consultation period ends, the committee will consider the consultation feedback and any proposed refinements to the draft proposed initial glossary before publishing the document. The glossary will be published on the committee's website and circulated to nominating bodies and impacted National Scheme entities and other external stakeholders, where relevant.