



# Health Council

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Ms Renee Owen, Chair, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia  
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Dr Wayne Minter AM, Chair, Chiropractic Board of Australia  
Dr Murray Thomas, Chair, Dental Board of Australia  
Dr Anne Tonkin, Chair, Medical Board of Australia  
Mr Mark Marcenko, Chair, Medical Radiation Board of Australia  
Adjunct Professor Veronica Casey AM, Chair, Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia  
Ms Julie Brayshaw, Chair, Occupational Therapy Board of Australia  
Mr Ian Bluntish, Chair, Optometry Board of Australia  
Dr Nikole Grbin, Chair, Osteopathy Board of Australia  
Associate Professor Stephen Gough ASM, Chair, Paramedicine Board of Australia  
Mr Brett Simmonds, Chair, Pharmacy Board of Australia  
Ms Kim Gibson, Chair, Physiotherapy Board of Australia  
Dr Cylie Williams, Podiatry Board of Australia  
Ms Rachel Phillips, Chair, Psychology Board of Australia

Dear colleagues

## **Ministerial Council Policy Direction 2020-1 – Independent Accreditation Committee advice**

I am writing to provide a policy direction is given under section 11 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory.

On 9 December 2020, the Ministerial Council resolved to issue this policy direction to support its response to the Independent Review of Accreditation Systems Final Report.

The Ministerial Council published its response to the Accreditation Systems Review on 12 February 2020 as outlined in a communique and *Consultation report on implementation of recommendations from Australia's Health Workforce: strengthening the education foundation*.

Consistent with Health Ministers' response, Ahpra will convene an independent accreditation committee with broad stakeholder membership to provide independent and expert advice on accreditation reform and other National Scheme accreditation matters as determined in its terms of reference. The committee will be established by the Ahpra Agency Management Committee (or its equivalent under the National Law) with an independent chair (external to Ahpra) and broad membership appointed from accreditation stakeholders.

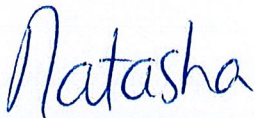
The committee's advice will be addressed within existing Scheme mechanisms relating to accreditation such as Ahpra's and National Boards' development of Accreditation Authority contracts/terms of reference and associated reporting against key performance indicators, revised funding principles and production of procedures for the development of accreditation standards.

The intent of the policy direction is that all National Scheme entities (Ahpra, National Boards and their Accreditation Authorities) are accountable for having regard to the independent accreditation committee's advice when exercising their functions under the National Law. Other external entities performing accreditation roles as part of the National Scheme, including specialist colleges and postgraduate medical councils, should also have regard for the committee's advice, where relevant.

The policy direction is as follows:

1. Ahpra and the National Boards are to:
  - a. take into account the independent accreditation committee's advice when exercising their functions under the National Law;
  - b. document the outcome of that consideration in meeting minutes, communiques or other relevant formats; and
  - c. require Accreditation Authorities to take into account the independent accreditation committee's advice when exercising their functions for the purpose of the National Law and also document the outcome of their consideration of advice.
2. Ahpra Jurisdictional Advisory Committee (or its equivalent) members may request copies of the above records or other evidence of compliance with this policy direction.

Yours sincerely



Hon Natasha Fyles MLA  
Chair  
Health Council

- 4 FEB 2021

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