

## Communiqué

---

### June 2020 Podiatry Accreditation Committee meeting

The Podiatry Accreditation Committee (the Committee) commenced undertaking accreditation functions for podiatry in the national scheme regulating health practitioners in July 2019.

This Communiqué provides information about the Accreditation Committee's recent activities. The Committee publishes this communiqué on the Podiatry Board of Australia's (the Board) [accreditation webpage](#). Please forward it to your colleagues and employees who may be interested.

#### **Committee's response to COVID-19**

The Committee and Ahpra continue to monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and its potential impacts on accredited and approved programs. The Committee has released statements outlining its plans for its accreditation activities for the remainder of 2020, on the ['News and updates'](#) accreditation webpage.

#### **Congratulations to Queen's Birthday 2020 Honouree Dr Sara Jones**

The Committee is proud to recognise and congratulate member Dr Sara Jones, who was the recipient of a Queen's Birthday Honour for 2020, as a *Member of the Order in the General Division (AM)*, for significant service to medical education, to podiatry, and to professional groups.

### **Accreditation Committee meeting**

The sixth meeting of the Committee was held on 18 June 2020 via Zoom. The Committee has two remaining meetings scheduled in 2020.

Some activities that were discussed at the Committee's June 2020 meeting are outlined below.

#### **Review and development of accreditation standards and professional capabilities for podiatry**

The Committee is responsible for developing and reviewing the accreditation standards against which education providers and their implementation of podiatry programs of study (programs) are assessed when applying for accreditation under the National Law. The Board is responsible for approving and publishing the accreditation standards.

At its June 2020 meeting, the Committee considered drafts of the respective accreditation standards and professional capabilities in preparation for its targeted preliminary consultation period, expected to commence in mid-2020. Public consultation is anticipated to commence in late 2020, and the consultation package will be made available on the Committee's [accreditation pages](#) once public consultation commences.

The revised/developed accreditation standards and professional capabilities will be ready for implementation in mid-late 2021.

## **Guidelines for accreditation of education and training programs (revised accreditation process)**

The Committee has recently concluded a project to review its accreditation process. The revised accreditation process, the [Guidelines for accreditation of education and training programs](#) (guidelines) were recently published, and were developed in conjunction with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice, Chinese Medicine, Medical Radiation Practice and Paramedicine Accreditation Committees.

The guidelines replace the *Accreditation procedures for Podiatry programs* developed by the Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council (ANZPAC).

## **Stakeholder engagement**

The Program Accreditation Team on behalf of the Committee continues to engage with education providers via the Committee's [accreditation webpage](#) and through correspondence on email and phone contact, teleconferences with the chair, and communiques via the Program Accreditation Team. The Committee will seek stakeholder input on various consultations later in 2020, including the draft accreditation standards and professional capabilities.

## **Monitoring approved programs of study**

Under section 50 of the National Law, the Committee has a statutory 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 approved accreditation standards.

At its June 2020 meeting the Committee continued with consideration of the first round of podiatry education providers' routine annual monitoring submissions, as part of its responsibility to monitor education providers and their programs in 2019/2020.

As advised in the [11 May 2020 statement](#), the Committee anticipates some form of COVID-19 reporting to be submitted from all podiatry education providers in the second half of 2020. The Program Accreditation Team will contact education providers with the relevant information shortly.

## **Contact information**

For any queries related to podiatry program accreditation, please contact the Committee via the Program Accreditation Team at [program.accreditation@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:program.accreditation@ahpra.gov.au).

For more information on podiatry accreditation please visit the Board's [accreditation](#) webpage. Further information will be added to the website as the Committee's accreditation functions progress.

## **Follow Ahpra on social media**

Connect with Ahpra on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#) to receive information about important topics for your profession and participate in the discussion.

