

Public consultation on the proposed initial glossary of accreditation terms

April 2023

Proposed initial glossary of terms across the spectrum of accreditation to support the Accreditation Committee's advice

Background to development of the proposed initial glossary

The Accreditation Committee (the committee) has agreed its initial work should focus on developing a consolidated glossary of terms across the spectrum of accreditation. This work recognises the importance of shared language to making the committee's whole-of-scheme and cross-profession advice understandable in a range of areas. 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. Not only does the use of different language create barriers to communication and mutual understanding between professions and between stakeholders, it can also create confusion for education providers delivering programs across multiple professions and for workplaces that provide placements across multiple providers and professions.

This variation in language may affect stakeholder interpretation of the committee's published advice, so a common language through a glossary of agreed terms and meanings will support consistent approaches to interpreting and implementing the committee's advice.

Ahpra and the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (HPACF) worked collaboratively to develop a proposed initial glossary that covers a first tranche of terms across the areas of the committee's work plan. 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.

About this document

The committee is consulting on this proposed initial glossary of terms relevant to its areas of work. The glossary includes the [definition of cultural safety for the National Scheme](#) and builds on the terms already defined in the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law) and the HPACF's *Glossary of terms for annual program monitoring reports*. The committee's 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.

The committee seeks feedback on the terms and meanings provided in Table 1 of the draft initial glossary. The committee's glossary includes 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 and the Committee is not seeking feedback on these.

The tables identify the source of the proposed meaning for each term. The primary source of terms that are already defined in the HPACF's glossary is also identified, where relevant.

Table 1: Terms and meanings for consultation		
Term	Proposed meaning	Source
Augmented reality	Augmented reality (AR) is a form of simulation. It is the overlay of digital information (auditory, visual and haptic) onto a person's real-world field of vision, aligning both real and virtual objects with one another in a complementary manner (Milgram et al., 1994).	Milgram, P., Takemura, H., Utsumi, A & Kishino, F 1994, 'Augmented reality: A class of displays on the reality-virtuality continuum', <i>Telem manipulator and Telepresence Technologies</i>, vol. 2351, pp. 282-292.
Clinical placement <i>also known as work-integrated learning, work-based learning, professional experience placement (PEP), professional experience, work placement, midwifery practice experience (MPE), clinical experience, clinical attachments or practice placements</i>	The component of an accredited program, undertaken with supervision, in a clinical environment which assists students to put theoretical knowledge into practice.	Clinical placements , Peninsula Health
Clinical supervisor <i>also known as work-integrated learning supervisor, clinical placement supervisor, preceptor, supervisor, work placement supervisor, professional experience placement supervisor,</i>	A person who supervises students doing their clinical placement and is generally responsible for the patient's clinical care.	Adapted from a range of sources including professional accreditation authority documents, TEQSA glossary of terms and education provider resources.

Table 1: Terms and meanings for consultation

Term	Proposed meaning	Source
<i>midwifery professional experience supervisor</i>		
Consumer/s <i>also known as patients, clients, family, community, carers and secondary consumers</i>	A person who has lived experience of receiving care from health practitioners either directly or in a secondary capacity as a family member, carer or community.	Adapted from the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare Glossary
Course accreditation	The assessment of a course of study (by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) or by a self-accrediting provider) against the course requirements specified in relevant national legislation.	Adapted from Universities Australia Joint Statement of Principles for Professional Accreditation
Faculty/academic and other staff	Refers to education provider staff who teach into approved programs of study, meet relevant standard requirements, have input into curriculum design and review, and are engaged in teaching, supervising, supporting and/or assessing students' acquisition and demonstration of requisite professional skills, knowledge, attitudes and graduate outcomes.	Based on the Osteopathic Accreditation Standards 2021
Interprofessional collaborative practice <i>also known as interprofessional collaboration and collaborative practice</i>	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.	World Health Organization

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Term	Proposed meaning	Source
Interprofessional education <i>also known as interprofessional learning</i>	Refers to educational experiences where students from two or more professions learn about, from and with each other to enable effective collaboration and improve health outcomes.	World Health Organization
Intraprofessional collaboration	Intraprofessional collaborative practice involves multiple members of the same profession working together and learning from each other to deliver quality care.	College of Registered Nurses of Nova Scotia, Effective utilization of RNs and LPNs in a collaborative practice environment. Halifax, NS; 2012.
Learning outcomes	The expression of the set of knowledge, skills and the application of the knowledge and skills a person has acquired and is able to demonstrate as a result of learning.	TEQSA Glossary of terms
Outcome-based approaches	An accreditation approach that focuses on graduating students with the professional capabilities required for safe practice as registered health practitioners in Australia and encourages flexible and innovative approaches to education in response to changes in community need, healthcare models and innovations.	Based on Payzin AE, Platin, BE from ENAEE conference, (12-13 Nov 2012) A Decade of Experience of Outcome-Based Accreditation: Still a long way to go, Brussels: ENAEE
Person-centred care <i>also known as patient-centred care and woman-centred care</i>	Care that is respectful of, and responsive to, the preferences, needs and values of the individual patient and recognises the role of family and community. It involves seeking out and understanding what is important to the patient and their family, community and/or carer, fostering trust, establishing mutual respect and working together to share decisions and plan care.	Based on the meaning in Person-centred care , Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare
Professional accreditation	The evaluation and monitoring of a program undertaken by National Scheme entities where the quality of an education program is assessed against defined standards for the purpose of registration as a health practitioner. It may include a combination of self-assessment and external peer review.	Communication between accreditation authorities and National Boards about accreditation and program approval decisions and changes to accreditation standards - a guidance document about good practice. , Ahpra Accreditation publications

Table 1: Terms and meanings for consultation

Term	Proposed meaning	Source
<p>Professional accreditation assessment team</p>	<p>An assessment team (also known as site evaluation team or panel) is formed by the accreditation authority. The assessment team comprises individuals with the skills, knowledge and experience required to undertake rigorous accreditation assessments. Its tasks may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - reviewing the self-evaluation report completed by the education provider and other sources of data as appropriate - undertaking meetings and/or reviewing submissions from learners, staff, clinicians and other stakeholders - visiting education and/or clinical sites either virtually or in person (sometimes over multiple days) to confirm information provided in the self-evaluation report and collect additional information such as information about facilities, teaching staff, clinical supervision, corporate and student records, and program and curriculum details - developing an assessment report and proposing recommendations and reasons for accreditation status 	<p>Based on Accreditation System Review, final report 2017</p>
<p>Professional capability/capabilities</p> <p><i>also known as 'professional competence/competencies'</i></p>	<p>Used by National Scheme entities to identify the measurable or observable knowledge, skills, and professional attributes needed to safely and competently practice as a health practitioner in Australia.</p>	<p>Based on existing documents used within the National scheme</p>
<p>Program monitoring report(s)</p> <p><i>NB Not all accreditation authorities require reports annually</i></p>	<p>Report completed by education providers to the accreditation authorities by the agreed timeframe to allow authorities to monitor whether education providers meet accreditation standards.</p>	<p>Meaning modified from HPACF glossary</p>

Table 1: Terms and meanings for consultation

Term	Proposed meaning	Source
<p><i>also known as Annual report/Annual monitoring report/Progress report/Monitoring report/Annual declaration/Monitoring submission/Program monitoring framework/Routine annual monitoring reports</i></p>		
<p>Simulation-based learning <i>also known as simulation-based education and training (SBET), and evidence-based technological advances</i></p>	<p>Interactive educational methods or clinical experiences that evoke or replicate real-life characteristics of an event or situation as the basis for developing skills, confidence and problem-solving abilities in a safe, controlled and monitored environment (Solymos et al., 2015).</p>	<p>Adapted from Solymos O., O’Kelly P & Walshe C 2015, ‘Pilot study comparing simulation-based and didactic lecture-based critical care teaching for final-year medical students’, <i>BMC Anesthesiology</i>, vol. 15, no. 15, pp. 1-5.</p>
<p>Social accountability/social responsibility</p>	<p>When a health practitioner:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • places the care of the patient first • delivers care in a culturally safe, responsive, person-centred, environmentally responsible, ethical and professional manner that is free from bias and discrimination • contributes to the ongoing improvement of individual and societal health outcomes • advocates to protect and promote the health of their community. <p>When an education provider:</p>	<p>Based on the National Boards’ shared Code of conduct and the Australia Pharmacy Councils Accreditation Standards</p>

Table 1: Terms and meanings for consultation

Term	Proposed meaning	Source
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • references the needs of Australian communities in the design and delivery of programs • ensures graduates can practice in a culturally safe, responsive, person-centred, environmentally responsible, ethical and professional manner that is free from bias and discrimination • undertakes research and service activities targeted toward addressing the current and future priority health concerns of society, and • advocates for, contributes to, and leads practice change for the ongoing improvement of individual and societal health outcomes. 	
Student progress rates	Measures successful student subject load and used as an indicator of educational achievement and the effectiveness of educational delivery.	<p>Meaning modified from HPACF glossary.</p> <p><i>Note: primary source of term and meaning is TEQSA Glossary of terms.</i></p> <p><i>Note: and used as an indicator of educational achievement and the effectiveness of educational delivery' added to HPACF glossary meaning</i></p>
Training sites/campuses	The physical location from where a program of study is being delivered. This location may or may not be owned by the education provider which enrolls the student. For e-learning (online) or other distance education programs this would be the location at where the electronic course material is maintained.	TEQSA Glossary of terms
Virtual care	Any interaction between patients and/or members of their care team occurring remotely, using technology with the aim of	'Virtual Care in Practice' – NSW Agency for Clinical Innovation

Table 1: Terms and meanings for consultation

Term	Proposed meaning	Source
	facilitating or maximising the quality and effectiveness of patient care.	
Virtual learning <i>also known as online learning, technology enhanced learning, e-learning</i>	Any learning that occurs through the use of digital technology or resources, combined with pedagogical principles and practices, to deliver and support specific teaching and learning aims/outcomes.	Adapted from TEQSA Glossary of terms (see term 'e-learning') and Guidance note: Technology enhanced learning , TEQSA
Woman-centred practice/care	A collaborative and respectful partnership built on mutual trust and understanding through good communication. Each woman is treated as an individual with the aim of respecting women's ownership of their health information, rights and preferences while protecting their dignity and empowering choice. Woman-centred practice recognises the role of family and community with respect to cultural and religious diversity.	Based on Australian Nursing & Midwifery Accreditation Council – Registered Nurse Accreditation Standards 2019 and Australian Nursing & Midwifery Accreditation Council - Midwife Accreditation Standards 2021

As outlined above, 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.

Table 2: Terms and meanings for information only – not being consulted on

Term	Proposed meaning	Source
Accreditation authority	An entity performing professional accreditation functions under the National Law and may be an external accreditation entity (usually an accreditation council); or an accreditation committee.	Based on Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law)
Accreditation refused	The accreditation authority determines a program of study, and the education provider that provides the program of study, has not met an approved accreditation standard for the profession.	Term and meaning from HPACF glossary Note: primary source of term and meaning is an adaption from the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law), s48 (Accreditation of programs of study)
Accreditation revoked	The accreditation authority determines a program of study, and the education provider that provides the program of study, no longer meets an approved accreditation standard for the profession and it is no longer accredited.	Term and meaning from HPACF glossary Note: primary source of term and meaning is an adaption from the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law), s50 (Accreditation authority to monitor approved programs of study)
Accreditation standard(s)	A standard(s) used by an accreditation authority to assess whether a program of study, and the education provider that provides the program of study, provide persons who complete the program with the knowledge, skills and professional attributes necessary to practise the profession in Australia.	Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law)
Accreditation submission	Evidence provided to the accreditation authority by the education provider to show how the program of study, and the education provider that provides the program of study, meets the standards.	Term and meaning from HPACF glossary. <i>Note: primary source of term and meaning is from the glossary in the Guidelines for accreditation of education and training programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait</i>

Table 2: Terms and meanings for information only – not being consulted on

Term	Proposed meaning	Source
		Islander Health Practice, Chinese medicine, medical radiation practice, paramedicine and podiatry
Accredited with conditions	<p>Is a status applied by an accreditation authority when the program of study, and the education provider that provides the program of study, substantially meet an approved accreditation standard for the profession and the imposition of conditions on the accreditation will ensure the program meets the standard within a reasonable time.</p>	<p>Term and meaning from HPACF glossary</p> <p><i>Note: primary source of term and meaning is an Interpretation of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law), s50 (Accreditation authority to monitor approved programs of study) and s48 (1b) (Accreditation of programs of study)</i></p>
Approved accreditation standard	<p>An accreditation standard—</p> <p>(a) approved by a National Board under section 47(3); and</p> <p>(b) published on the Board’s website under section 47(6).</p>	<p>Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law)</p>
<p>Approved program</p> <p><i>also known as an approved program of study</i></p>	<p>An accredited program of study—</p> <p>(a) approved under section 49(1) by the National Board established for the health profession; and</p> <p>(b) included in the list published by the National Agency under section 49(5).</p>	<p>Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law)</p>
Approved qualification	<p>A qualification obtained by completing an approved program of study for the profession or relevant to an endorsement of registration.</p>	<p>Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law)</p>
Benchmarking	<p>A structured, collaborative, learning process for comparing practices, processes or performance outcomes. Its purpose is to identify comparative strengths and weaknesses, as a basis for developing improvements in academic quality. Benchmarking can</p>	<p>Term and meaning from HPACF glossary</p>

Table 2: Terms and meanings for information only – not being consulted on

Term	Proposed meaning	Source
	also be defined as a quality process used to evaluate performance by comparing institutional practices to sector good practice.	<i>Note: primary source of term and meaning is an adaption from the TEQSA Glossary of terms</i>
<p>Cultural safety</p> <p><i>Note: only cultural safety is defined in this glossary, given there is an agreed National Scheme definition of this term developed by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group.</i></p>	<p><i>Principles</i></p> <p>The following principles inform the definition of cultural safety:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. prioritising the Ministerial Council's goal to deliver healthcare free of racism supported by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013-2023 2. improved health service provision supported by the Safety and Quality Health Service Standards User Guide for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health 3. provision of a rights-based approach to healthcare supported by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 4. ongoing commitment to learning, education and training. <p><i>Definition</i></p> <p>Cultural safety is determined by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals, families and communities. Culturally safe practice is the ongoing critical reflection of health practitioner knowledge, skills, attitudes, practising behaviours and power differentials in delivering safe, accessible and responsive healthcare free of racism.</p> <p><i>How to</i></p>	<p>The National Scheme's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Cultural Safety Strategy 2020-2025, Ahpra.</p>

Table 2: Terms and meanings for information only – not being consulted on

Term	Proposed meaning	Source
	<p>To ensure culturally safe and respectful practice, health practitioners must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. acknowledge colonisation and systemic racism, social, cultural, behavioural and economic factors which impact individual and community health 2. acknowledge and address individual racism, their own biases, assumptions, stereotypes and prejudices and provide care that is holistic, free of bias and racism 3. recognise the importance of self-determined decision-making, partnership and collaboration in healthcare which is driven by the individual, family and community 4. foster a safe working environment through leadership to support the rights and dignity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and colleagues. 	
<p>Delivery mode <i>also known as mode of delivery or mode of study</i></p>	<p>The means by which programs are made available to students, for example: on-campus or in mixed-mode, by distance or by e-learning methods.</p>	<p>Term and meaning from HPACF glossary</p>
<p>Education provider <i>also known as provider or provider organisation</i></p>	<p>A university; or a tertiary education institution, or another institution or organisation, that provides vocational training; or a specialist medical college or other health profession college.</p>	<p>Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law)</p>
<p>Explanatory notes</p>	<p>Guidance for education providers that clarify and/or provide additional information about statements made within the accreditation standards. Also known as guidance notes.</p>	<p>Term and meaning from HPACF glossary</p>

Table 2: Terms and meanings for information only – not being consulted on

Term	Proposed meaning	Source
Full time equivalent (FTE)	Full-time equivalence, as defined in the Department of Education and Training's HEIMS-HELP glossary .	Term and meaning from HPACF glossary <i>Note: primary source of term and meaning is the TEQSA Glossary of terms</i>
Material change	Changes or events that will or may significantly affect the way the education provider meets the requirements of the approved accreditation standard under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory.	Adapted from the HPACF glossary <i>Note: primary source of term and meaning is an adaption from the TEQSA Glossary of terms</i>
Monitoring	Activities by an accreditation authority so it continues to be satisfied a program and its provider meet the approved accreditation standards for the profession under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory.	Adapted from the HPACF glossary <i>Note: primary source of term and meaning is an adaption from the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory, s50(Accreditation authority to monitor approved programs of study)</i>
National Board	A National Health Practitioner Board continued or established by regulations made under the National Law	Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law)
Program or program of study <i>also known as course</i>	A program of study provided by an education provider.	Term and meaning from HPACF glossary <i>Note: primary source of term and meaning is the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law)</i>
Statement of intent	Notification to the accreditation authority that an education provider plans to start a new program of study.	Term and meaning from HPACF glossary
Student attrition rates	The proportion of students commencing a course of study in a given year who neither complete nor return in the following year. It	Term and meaning from HPACF glossary

Table 2: Terms and meanings for information only – not being consulted on

Term	Proposed meaning	Source
	does not identify those students who defer their study or transfer to another institution.	<i>Note: primary source of term and meaning is the TEQSA Glossary of terms</i>
Student contact hours	Time spent by students in timetabled teaching and learning activities, such as: face-to-face lectures, tutorials, supervised study, field trips, work-integrated learning activities, clinical and other placements.	Term and meaning from HPACF glossary <i>Note: primary source of term and meaning is the TEQSA Glossary of terms</i>
Subject (unit/course) <i>Note: the terms 'unit', 'course', or 'topic' may also be used by education providers</i>	A separate unit of study. A combination of subjects makes up a program of study.	Term and meaning from HPACF glossary <i>Note: primary source of term and meaning is the TEQSA Glossary of terms</i>
Withdrawals	The number of students not completing the academic year or withdrawing for any reason not covered by the student attrition rate definition.	Term and meaning from HPACF glossary Note: primary source of term and meaning is an adaption of accreditation authority policy documents