



Communiqué: Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum – 13 July 2018 meeting

The Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (the Forum), is the Forum of accreditation authorities operating within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the Scheme).

This communiqué outlines the main discussions and decisions made at the most recent Forum meeting.

Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency (TEQSA)

At this meeting the Forum had a very fruitful engagement with TEQSA, with Mr Anthony McClaran, CEO and Dr Karen Treloar, Director Engagement Group. Discussions included the intersecting and complementary roles and responsibilities of Forum member accrediting authorities with respect to the Scheme, and TEQSA, as Australia's national quality assurance and regulatory agency for higher education. The Forum will continue to work with TEQSA on issues of mutual interest, with the next meeting scheduled for later in 2018.

National Rural Health Commissioner

The National Rural Health Commissioner, Emeritus Professor Paul Worley, was an invited guest to this meeting. Forum members engaged in a range of discussions related to rural health, including the implementation of the rural generalist program and how accreditation will assist in this development.

Forum Strategic Plan progress

The work plan of the Forum is articulated in the Forum's Strategic Plan, available on the Forum's website <http://www.hpacf.org.au/statementsandpositionpapers>. The following projects within the Strategic Plan were advanced at this July meeting:

- *Development of consensus Interprofessional Education (IPE) guidance*

Members agreed to the future development of IPE guidance documents to accompany the agreed 2015 [Interprofessional learning position statement and competencies](#). These will be supported by:

- Common processes;
- Good practice (examples/guides) and what it looks like;
- Evidence (to demonstrate compliance and what Accreditation authorities would be looking for);
- Training for panels.

This approach follows a similar pathway taken by the Forum's equivalent body in the US (<http://healthprofessionsaccreditors.org/>), which is the collaboration of 24 health profession accreditors in the US.

- **Accreditation Role in improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Outcomes**

This project is progressing with two recent surveys of accreditation decision-makers and education providers. The Forum thanks all those who have participated in these surveys, Results will be analysed and considered over the coming months.

The Forum also prepared a poster for presentation at the recent Australian & New Zealand Association for Health Professional Educators (ANZAHPE) in Hobart on this work. Ms Narelle Mills, CEO, Australian Dental Council presented this for the Forum. A copy of the poster presentation is available on the Forum's website <http://www.hpacf.org.au/news>

- **Launch of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Statement of Intent**

Forum members were present at the celebration of the shared Statement of Intent to help achieve equity in health outcomes between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and other Australians. Ms Narelle Mills, CEO, Australian Dental Council, gave a short presentation at the recent launch on behalf of the Forum on 5 July 2018 in Melbourne.

The Statement of Intent was developed by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Strategy Group. Organisations working in, or as part of, the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme are included on the statement, a copy of which is available on the Forum's website <http://www.hpacf.org.au/statementsandpositionpapers>

Comments by the Chair of the Forum regarding the shared Statement of Intent are included in the media release by AHPRA **Closing the Gap by 2031: A shared Commitment** available at <http://www.ahpra.gov.au/News/2018-07-04-closing-the-gap-by-2031-a-shared-commitment.aspx>

Next Meeting

The Forum will progress strategic priorities at its next meeting in September, and looks forward to discussions with two guests, Mr Ian Bluntish, Co-Convenor, Forum of NRAS Chairs and Mr Chris Robertson, Executive Director Strategy and Policy, AHPRA.

Ms Bronwyn Clark

Chair

Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum

July 2018

Future communiqués will be published on the Forum's website and sent to interested stakeholders. Please feel free to forward the communiqués to colleagues who may be interested in the Forum's work, or email info@hpacf.org.au for inclusion in our mailing list.

<http://www.hpacf.org.au/>