

Accreditation

The accreditation system provides assurance to the community that people seeking registration are suitably trained, qualified and competent to practise as health practitioners in Australia.

Accreditation authorities develop, review and submit accreditation standards to National Boards for approval. They also assess and accredit education providers and programs of study against those approved standards, and they are often responsible for assessing overseas-trained practitioners.

Accreditation authorities may be external entities, or they may be committees established by the Board. They are an important part of the scheme and work closely with each other, Boards and Ahpra.

The assignments to accreditation authorities have been reviewed twice since 2010. Currently, accreditation functions are assigned to 10 accreditation councils and five committees.

An accreditation perspective

The education and assessment of students and new entrants into health professions is a vital part of any effective regulatory scheme. In 2010, accreditation had a strong foundation, with the majority of professions entering the National Scheme having national accreditation bodies, many with several decades of experience.

Through the then-named Health Professions Accreditation Councils Forum, established in 2007, the collective expertise of these authorities was an excellent way to collaborate and support younger accreditation authorities to evolve and ensure best-practice standards and processes.

An early focus was to develop the Quality Framework as a basis for effective and transparent reporting.

Recent challenges include responding to government reviews, working with changes to the education sector and consumer expectations, outlining the value we create in the scheme and achieving ongoing assignments from our respective National Boards.

Our successes come from working collaboratively to improve the quality, efficiency and effectiveness

of accreditation and assessment functions. We have collectively implemented projects on interprofessional education, safe use of medicines, and education for cultural safety. We have strengthened our relationships with our partners in higher education and government and are now trusted partners of our National Boards.

We are excited about the prospects for our continuing role. Our strategy outlines how we will improve health outcomes through leadership, innovation, stakeholder responsiveness, and effectiveness and efficiency. By embracing new technologies and teaching methods and systems, the future is bright and full of opportunities for us to have a positive influence on the health of all Australians.



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