

# Accreditation in the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (NRAS): **A snapshot 2017/18**



Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander health practice  
Chinese medicine  
Chiropractic  
Dental  
Medical  
Medical radiation practice  
Nursing and Midwifery  
Occupational therapy  
Optometry  
Osteopathy  
Pharmacy  
Physiotherapy  
Podiatry  
Psychology

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

# Introduction

**The National Registration and Accreditation Scheme** (the Scheme) was established by the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (the National Law) in July 2010

The Scheme is multi-professional, regulating over 700,000 health practitioners across 15 professions. The accreditation functions in the National Law include developing accreditation standards, accrediting programs of study against approved accreditation standards and assessing overseas-qualified practitioners.

**Accreditation** is integral to the Scheme as it is the key way to ensure that individuals seeking registration have the knowledge, skills and professional attributes to safely and competently practice their profession in Australia.

**Snapshot of Accreditation** is a yearly summary of whole of scheme information about accreditation activities. This version is current at 30 June 2018.

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## Contact us

Please contact AHPRA on **1300 419 495** or visit our website **[www.ahpra.gov.au](http://www.ahpra.gov.au)**.

This document was prepared by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency in collaboration with National Boards and the Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum



# Accreditation

## What is it?

### Program Accreditation

Program accreditation is the process of assessing whether an educational program of study and the education provider that provides the program produce graduates who have the knowledge, skills and professional attributes to safely and competently practice the profession in Australia.

### Practitioner Assessment

Practitioner assessment is the process of assessing whether an overseas-qualified practitioner has demonstrated the knowledge, clinical skills, and professional attributes to safely and competently practice the profession in Australia.

There are 11 external accreditation entities and three accreditation committees exercising accreditation functions in the National Scheme (see: [www.ahpra.gov.au/Education/Accreditation-Authorities](http://www.ahpra.gov.au/Education/Accreditation-Authorities)):

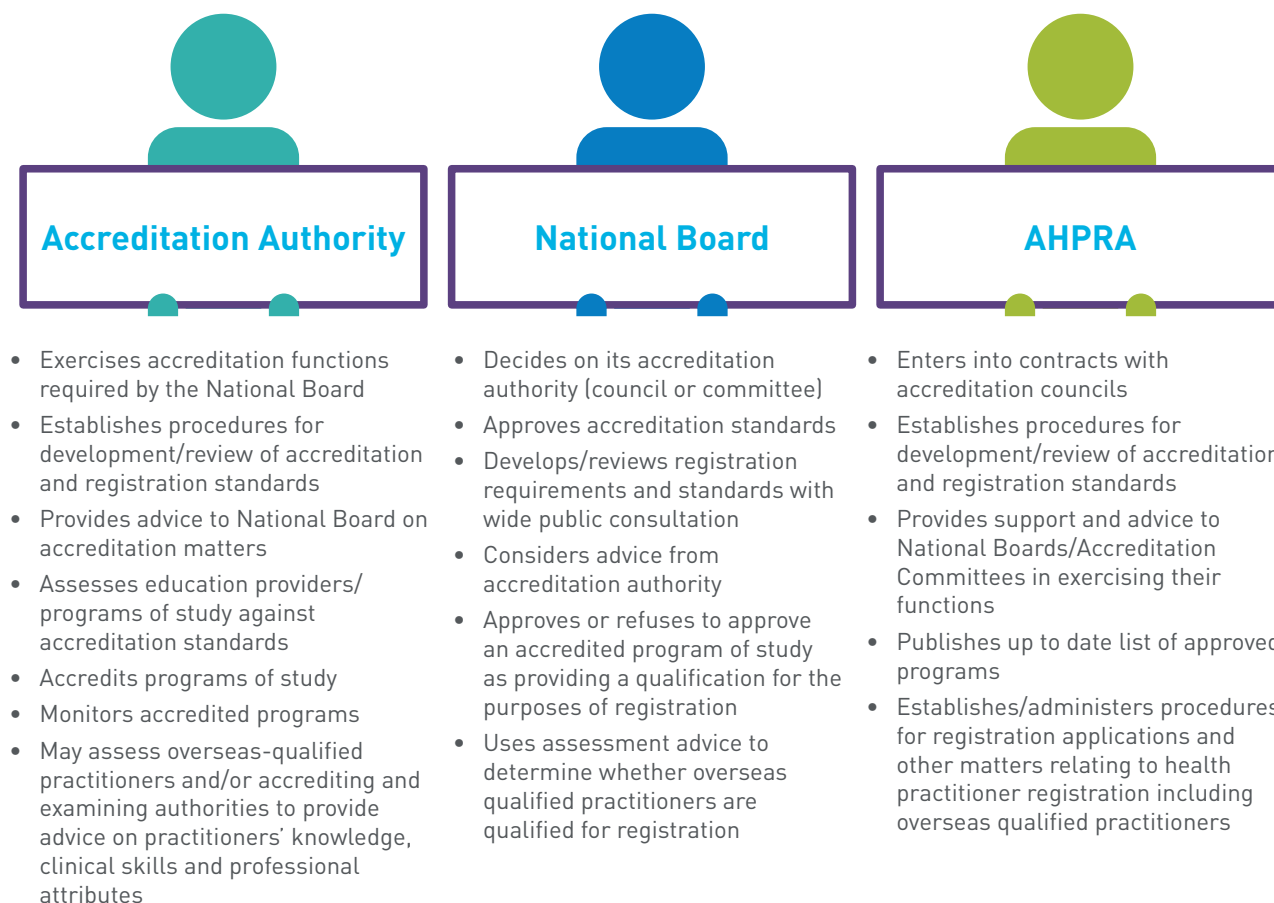
### Accreditation Committees:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Accreditation Committee
- Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee
- Medical Radiation Practice Accreditation Committee

### Accreditation Councils:

- Council of Chiropractic Education Australasia
- Australian Dental Council
- Australian Medical Council
- Australian Nursing & Midwifery Accreditation Council
- Occupational Therapy Council of Australia Ltd
- Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand
- Australasian Osteopathic Accreditation Council
- Australian Pharmacy Council
- Australian Physiotherapy Council
- Australian Psychology Accreditation Council
- Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council

## Accreditation in the National Scheme: Who does what?



## Other bodies involved in accreditation



### Accreditation Liaison Group

The National Boards, accreditation authorities and AHPRA have established an Accreditation Liaison Group (ALG) to facilitate effective delivery of accreditation within the National Scheme. The ALG is a committee of the Forum of NRAS Chairs and, as an advisory group, it provides an important mechanism to consider shared issues in accreditation across National Boards, accreditation authorities and AHPRA. The ALG has developed a number of reference documents to promote consistency and good practice in accreditation while taking into account the variation across entities. These documents have been approved by National Boards and Accreditation Authorities. Examples include the *Quality framework for the accreditation function*.



### The Health Professions' Accreditation Collaborative Forum

The Health Professions' Accreditation Collaborative Forum (HPACF), formerly known as the Health Professions' Accreditation Councils' Forum, is the coalition of the entities appointed by the National Boards as accreditation authorities for the professions regulated under the National Law. The HPACF has been meeting regularly since 2007, prior to the commencement of the Scheme, to consider matters of common interest, principally matters concerning the accreditation of education and training programs in the regulated health professions and advocating for good accreditation practices. The HPACF engages with AHPRA and the National Boards.

# Accreditation and the lifecycle of health practitioners

## Lifecycle of a health practitioner

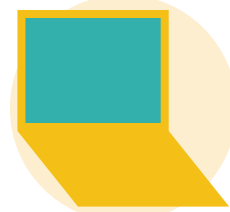
Student graduates from an Australian accredited and approved program of study



Overseas-qualified practitioner successfully completes assessment



Qualified for registration (subject to any examination required)



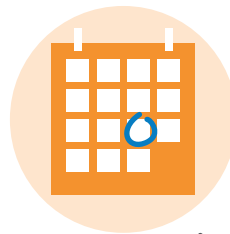
Australian graduate or overseas-qualified practitioner applies for registration



Australian graduate or overseas-qualified practitioner meets the registration standards and eligibility requirements, including being qualified



Australian graduate or overseas-qualified practitioner is registered with their National Board. Once on the national register, they are able to use title



Annual renewal of registration. Practitioner provides statutory declaration that they continue to adhere to registration standards



If AHPRA has received a notification about a practitioner's performance, conduct or health, AHPRA will work with the National Board to assess what regulatory action is required

### How does accreditation fit into the lifecycle of a health practitioner and contribute to safety and quality of the health system?

Accreditation contributes to the safety and quality of the health system by providing a framework for evaluating whether individuals seeking registration have the knowledge, skills and professional attributes to safely and competently practice their profession in Australia. This is a crucial quality assurance and risk management mechanism for the National Scheme.

# Accreditation activities 2017/18

## Program accreditation

42 new programs accredited

137 programs re-accredited

359 programs monitored

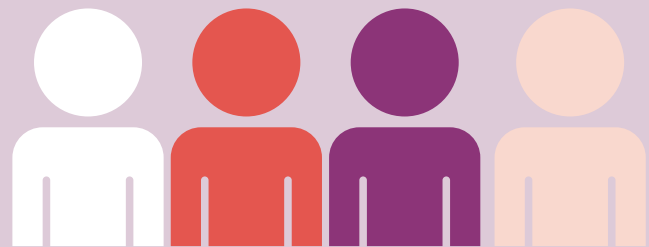
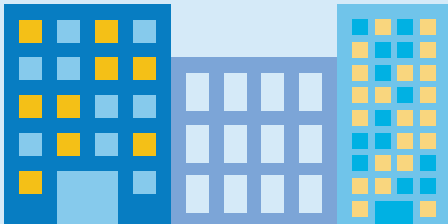
46 site visits undertaken



## Program accreditation

Over 900 accredited programs

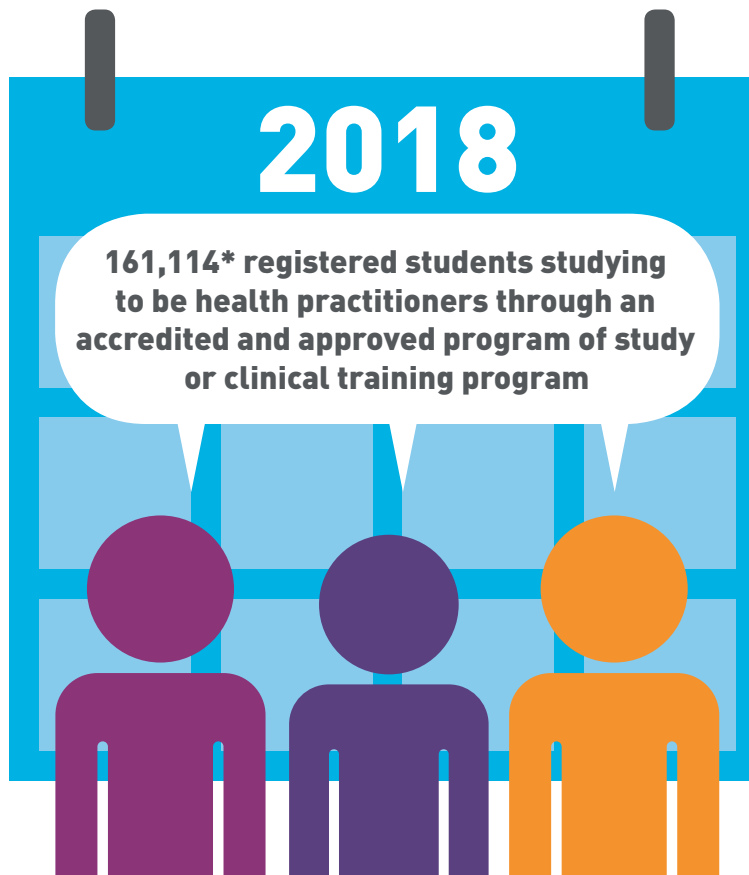
Over 300 providers offering  
accredited programs



## Practitioner assessment activities

Over 6,000 overseas-qualified health  
practitioners assessed

# What's new in accreditation



## Program assessment

**6 new standards published in 2017/18**

**9 standards currently under review**

## Assessment of overseas qualified practitioners

**Two accreditation authorities reviewing aspects of examinations**

## New accreditation standards: What are they?

Accreditation standards are used to assess whether a program of study, and the education provider that provides the program of study, provides graduates of the program with the knowledge, skills and professional attributes to practise the profession

## Links to new standards

[Accreditation Standards and Evidence Guide for Entry-Level Optometry Programs - Part 2 \(2017\)](#)

[Accreditation Standards for programs of study leading to endorsement of registration of medical practitioners for acupuncture \(2017\)](#)

[Accreditation Standards for Chiropractic Programs and Competency Standards for Graduating Chiropractors \(2017\)](#)

[Enrolled Nurse Accreditation Standards \(2017\)](#)

[Accreditation Standards and Evidence Guide for Programs of Study in Ocular Therapeutics \(effective 1 January 2018\)](#)

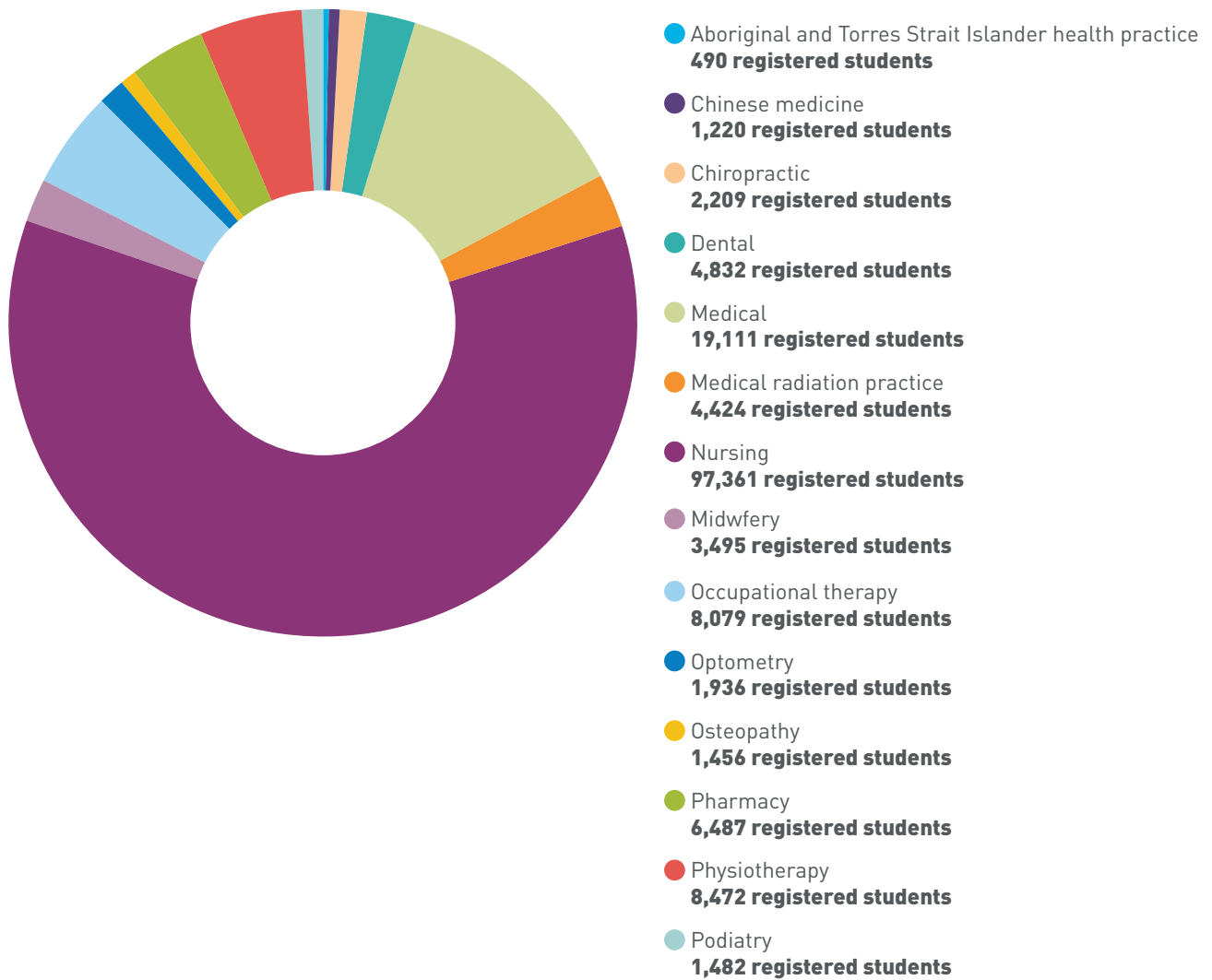
[Accreditation Standards for Psychology Programs \(effective 1 January 2019\)](#)



\*students in pre-registration programs

# Student registrations

## A breakdown by profession at 30 June 2018





# Overseas qualified practitioner assessments



**9 accreditation authorities assess overseas-qualified practitioners seeking registration in a registered health profession in Australia**

**Council of Chiropractic Education Australasia**

**Australian Dental Council**

**Australian Medical Council**

**Occupational Therapy Council of Australia Ltd**

**Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand**

**Australasian Osteopathic Accreditation Council**

**Australian Pharmacy Council**

**Australian Physiotherapy Council**

**Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council**

## Further details about work in accreditation

Each accreditation authority, the HPACF, and AHPRA publishes information on their websites:

### Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Accreditation Committee

<https://www.atsihealthpracticeboard.gov.au/Accreditation/ATSIHP-Accreditation-Committee.aspx>

### Chinese Medicine Accreditation Committee

<https://www.chinesemedicineboard.gov.au/Accreditation/Committee.aspx>

### Council on Chiropractic Education Australasia

<http://www.ccea.com.au/>

### Australian Dental Council

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

### Australian Medical Council

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

### Medical Radiation Practice Accreditation Committee

<https://www.medicalradiationpracticeboard.gov.au/Accreditation/Accreditation-Committee.aspx>

### Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council

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

### Occupational Therapy Council of Australia Ltd

<http://otcouncil.com.au/>

### Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand

<http://www.ocanz.org/>

### Australasian Osteopathic Accreditation Council

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

### Australian Pharmacy Council

<http://pharmacycouncil.org.au/>

### Australian Physiotherapy Council

<http://www.physiocouncil.com.au/>

### Australian and New Zealand Podiatry Accreditation Council

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

### Australian Psychology Accreditation Council

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

### Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum

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

### Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency

<https://www.ahpra.gov.au/Publications/Accreditation-publications.aspx>