

Media Release: Ensuring Interprofessional Education in the training of health professionals, 6 May 2020

The Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (the Forum) has released the [final report](#) of a survey of its members on Interprofessional Education (IPE).

The Forum developed the survey to see how its members assess education providers on IPE. They will use the findings to inform development of consensus IPE guidance for the Forum.

“Our goal is to ensure that health professional graduates are ready for interprofessional collaborative practice,” said Ms Clark, HPAC Forum Chair.

“More and more patients have multiple conditions that require skills of different healthcare professionals. Treatment of such patients requires healthcare professionals to work collaboratively and effectively”.

“Enabling collaborative practice in the real world starts with ensuring health professional students learn about, from and with each other during their training”.

“We want to do all we can to help Forum members embed IPE in their accreditation standards and assessment practices,” said Ms Clark.

Key findings of the survey:

- All but three accrediting authorities had published accreditation standards that emphasised IPE requirements. Others were in the process of doing so.
- Most respondents reported having embedded IPE criteria in their accreditation standards which was assessed through cyclical accreditation assessments, regular monitoring or both.
- IPE accreditation criteria appeared to largely focus on training curriculum and student assessment strategies.
- Majority of respondents also reported that they rated the following criteria as either critical or important:
 - evidence of defined IPE learning outcomes for students
 - leadership and commitment to IPE
 - involvement of other health professions in delivery of IPE activities
 - The Forum is a coalition of 15 accreditation authorities for the regulated health professions who have been appointed by the respective National Boards under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law.

This survey was led by an IPE Technical Working Group supported by the Australian Pharmacy Council.

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