



HEALTH
PROFESSIONS
ACCREDITATION
COLLABORATIVE
FORUM

Australia's accreditation authorities
for regulated health professionals

Communiqué: Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum – August 2020 meeting

The Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (the Forum), is the Forum of the 15 accreditation authorities with the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the Scheme).

This Communiqué outlines activity from the most recent Forum meeting held on 8 August 2020, which was held via ZOOM.

Recognition of the impact of COVID-19 on education and accreditation

This was the first meeting held of the Forum since the pandemic hit Australian shores and time was spent discussing and reflecting on the impact of the pandemic on Forum members, education providers, students, health professionals and the community as a whole. The Forum expresses its gratitude to all our health professionals who are caring for our communities at this time.

The Forum recognises the heavy toll that the pandemic has placed on all and discussed and shared how each profession is managing to ensure the pipeline of new professionals is maintained at the standard required for safe and effective care.

Monitoring of accreditation programs during COVID-19

During the pandemic, all accreditation authorities have applied further flexibility in their accreditation activities, including postponing accreditation visits during 2020 and varying monitoring activities. Monitoring of accreditation programs during the COVID-19 pandemic vary across the 15 professions to meet the profession-specific requirements and have been discussed at many levels of government, education meetings and with regulatory authorities including the Forum. Forum members agreed that the Forum's Accreditation Managers Sub-committee would review these current monitoring activities across the professions to consider the activities and innovations in progress, consider where harmonization might be appropriate, and compile some recommendations for the Forum to consider.

In the meantime, the Forum has written to the Federal Minister for Education, the Honorable Dan Tehan MP outlining what the 15 professions have done to date collectively in adapting processes in accreditation due to COVID-19.

Forum's Strategic Plan 2020-2025

The Forum is delighted to have finalised the next Strategic Plan for 2020-2025. This plan was confirmed following workshop development and consultation with members from late 2019 into 2020. COVID-19 pandemic has required re-prioritisation of some activities to meet the needs of stakeholders during this time.

The new [Strategic Plan](#) is available on the Forum's website.

Accreditation Prescribing Safe Medicine Framework

The Framework developed by the working group was unanimously endorsed by Forum members at its February 2020 meeting. Members have now indicated if the Framework has been endorsed by each of the accreditation authority or if it is waiting to be discussed due to, again, the disruption of usual work due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Further information on this project will be available later this year.

Presentation

The Chair and Deputy Chair were invited to present an overview of the work of the Forum to one of the Forum members, the Optometry Council of Australia and New Zealand (OCANZ), at their recent Board of Directors.

Next Meeting

The Forum will progress strategic priorities at its next meeting in November 2020.

Ms Bronwyn Clark

Chair

Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum

August 2020

Future communiqués will be published on the Forum's website <http://www.hpacf.org.au> 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 or to unsubscribe from this mailing list.