



## HEALTH PROFESSIONS ACCREDITATION COLLABORATIVE FORUM

Australia's accreditation authorities  
for regulated health professionals

# Communiqué: Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum – 3 December 2021 meeting

The Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (the Forum), is the coalition of the 15 accreditation authorities for the regulated health professions in Australia with the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the Scheme).

This Communiqué outlines activity from the most recent Forum meeting held on 3 December 2021.

Discussions were in alignment with the pillars of the current [HPAC Forum 2020 - 2025 Strategic Plan](#). The plan is available on the Forum's website.

### Presentations

Ms Richelle McCausland, Ombudsman and Commissioner, National Health Practitioner Ombudsman and Ms Alice Henderson, Senior Investigator, attended the meeting providing Members with an update on the Independent Review of the Procedural Aspects of Accreditation Processes. The review is continuing through the consultation stages and once finalised the report will be shared with the Health Chief Executive Forum (HCEF) and it expected to be made available in approximately June 2022.

### Strategic Activities

The Health and Disability Interface Section of the Commonwealth Department of Health has invited the Chair of the Forum, to be a member of the Roadmap for Improving the Health of People with Intellectual Disabilities Governance Group (RIGG). The Group had its inaugural meeting in late November 2021.

The Forum was also invited to nominate a representative from the Forum to the Intellectual Disability Health Curriculum Development Advisory Group who will have their inaugural meeting in early December 2021. The Advisory Group will support the implementation of the actions relevant to education and training under the [Roadmap](#), which was released by the Minister for Health and Aged Care on 13 August 2021. Ms Glenys Wilkinson, Executive Director Professional Standards, Australian Pharmacy Council is the representative for the Forum on the Advisory Group.

As part of the Forum's ongoing commitment to improve health outcomes and care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by way of enabling a culturally safe health workforce, the Forum is looking to develop a fit for purpose cultural safety training module tailored to the accreditation context for accreditation assessment teams across the accreditation authorities. In early November a Request for Proposed (RFP) was published followed by an addendum. The closing date was given as 26 November 2021. The Forum will now review submissions received.

The Universities Australia Health Professions Education Standing Group (UA/HPESG), the National Alliance of Self Regulating Health Professions (NASRHP) and the Forum held joint accreditation and health profession education workshops across October 2021. The workshops were facilitated by Emeritus Professor Christine Ewan AM and were designed to explore some of the positive interactions between education providers and accreditation during COVID-19 with a view to fostering

shared understanding and learnings across stakeholders. The outcomes from the workshops are currently being discussed by UA/HPESG, NARSHP and the Forum.

Forum members discussed an options paper for consideration of the optimal governance model of the Forum. Members are committed to ensuring the Forum continues to be seen as the community of practice and expert voice on health program accreditation and assessments. Outcomes of this work will continue to be reported over the next 18 months.

### **Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting is for February 2022.

### **Ms Narelle Mills**

**Chair**

**Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum**

**8 December 2021**

Our Vision is “*Better health outcomes through high quality accreditation and assessment services for all regulated health professions within Australia*”.

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](mailto:info@hpacf.org.au) for inclusion or to unsubscribe from this mailing list.