



HEALTH
PROFESSIONS
ACCREDITATION
COLLABORATIVE
FORUM

Australia's accreditation authorities
for regulated health professionals

Communiqué: Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum – Interprofessional Education (IPE) Project

The Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum (the Forum) is a 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 the Forums Interprofessional Education (IPE) project to keep stakeholders informed about its work.

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

Project Name: Developing a collaborative practitioner through strengthened accreditation processes

Background to the project

The [Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum \(HPAC Forum\)](#) is working to enhance the provision of interprofessional education (IPE) to Australian healthcare students. The Forum, representing 16 health professions, is committed to partnering with education providers to ensure graduates are equipped to work collaboratively with other members of the healthcare team in the interests of optimal consumer health outcomes.

Aims of the project

The project seeks to contribute to an enhanced collaboration between accreditation authorities and education providers in the delivery of IPE and the development of collaborative practitioners by:

- (a) Exploring the vision of a Collaborative Practitioner from the perspective of consumers, education providers and health services and;
- (b) Developing specific and practical guidance to support education providers and accreditation authorities achieve the goal of developing graduates who are equipped to practice collaboratively. This will include exemplars and case studies applicable to a range of contexts.

Project approach

Research component

A series of focus groups will be conducted with representatives from consumer groups, education providers and health services to achieve the first aim of understanding collaborative practice from the perspective of each participating group. During the focus groups, participants will be asked to describe their experiences with collaborative health practice and their vision for future collaboration.

Participants involved in education will be asked to discuss examples of effective IPE they have encountered. This information may contribute to the development of supporting exemplars.

The 90-minute sessions will be recorded, transcribed verbatim and analysed thematically. Analysis of the details generated by the focus group sessions will provide an understanding of how participants view collaborative practice and highlight important similarities and differences between participant groups and health professions.

Participants who contribute to the focus group sessions will provide voluntary consent for their participation, including an acknowledgment that the sessions will be recorded for subsequent analysis.

The research component of this project has ethical approval from the Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (Project ID 34594, Approval date: 05/09/2022, Expiry date 05/09/2027)

Case studies and exemplar development

We will work with participants to develop case studies and exemplars that describe important aspects of IPE with an emphasis on practical components relevant to the design, development, implementation and/or review of IPE activities. Our goal in developing the case studies and exemplars is to support education providers to achieve their IPE goals.

Individuals and organisations who contribute to the development of exemplars and accreditation guidance will be acknowledged for their contribution.

Project deliverables

The project will generate practical support for the IPE process based on a clear understanding of current collaborative practice experiences, future needs, and profession-specific perspectives. Our aim is to generate exemplars that illustrate best practice, in critical aspects of IPE and general guidance for IPE implementation across professions and education providers consistent with the [HPAC Forum 2020 - 2025 Strategic Plan](#).

Project oversight

This project is funded by the Australian Pharmacy Council (APC) and the Australian Medical Council (AMC) for the Forum. The HPAC Forum IPE Working Group (IPE WG) has oversight over the project. Members of the IPE WG include:

- Ms Bronwyn Clark, APC (Lead)
- Ms Theanne Walters AM, AMC
- Professor Brian Jolly, Medical Radiation Practice Accreditation Committee (MRPAC)
- Clinical Professor Fiona Stoker, Australian Nursing and Midwifery Accreditation Council (ANMAC)
- Associate Professor Sue Kirsas, APC
- Associate Professor Fiona Kent, Monash University,
- Mr David Copley, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Accreditation Committee (ATSIHPAC)
- Ms Glenys Wilkinson, APC

Project team

- Dr Lynda Cardiff, Project Consultant
- Dr Julie Gustavs Manager, Education Development and Projects, AMC
- Dr Josephine Maundu, Project Manager, APC

Contact details

For additional information write to the project manager, HPAC Forum IPE project on hpacforumipeproject@pharmacycouncil.org.au.

If you have any concerns, please contact Ms. Bronwyn Clark (project lead) on bronwyn.clark@pharmacycouncil.org.au or call 02 6188 4288.

Ms Bronwyn Clark
Lead, Interprofessional Education Working Group
Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum
6 September 2022

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

Future communiqués are published on the Forum’s website <http://www.hpacf.org.au> and circulated 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.