



HEALTH  
PROFESSIONS  
ACCREDITATION  
COLLABORATIVE  
FORUM

Australia's accreditation authorities  
for regulated health professionals

## Communiqué: Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum - Developing a collaborative health practitioner through strengthened accreditation processes

The HPAC Forum has led a research project on the creation of the collaborative health professional. This project provides guidance in good practice in interprofessionalism in health education programs and workforce settings.

### Why this work matters

"This research project offers transformative opportunities for the Australian healthcare system. Standardising interprofessional education competencies and embedding cultural competence prepares health professionals to work effectively across disciplines and diverse populations. Supporting collaborative practices and promoting a seamless care experience from primary to specialised settings will ultimately enhance system efficiency and improve patient care." — Dr Shyamsundar Muthuramalingam, Australian Medical Council, Consumer member.

"No single health professional has all the answers, especially if you have a patient with complex conditions. That's why a team approach is so important—it's about putting the patient first and using everyone's expertise to get the best outcomes. Getting people working together and drawing on each other's expertise requires a degree of respect. It's so important that students learn early in their training about other health professionals and learn to be respectful of the knowledge that each of them brings." — Dr Fiona Tito Wheatland, consumer representative, Australian Pharmacy Council and Canberra Region Medical Education Council.

A report summarising the key findings of this research project and recommendations for further work is available now available on the [HPAC Forum website](#).

The results are organised into four sections to align with the research questions:

- Consumer, education provider and health practitioner expectations of collaborative practice
- Current and future skills required for collaborative practice
- Collaborative practice environments in which learning occurs
- Role of accreditation in developing collaborative practitioners.

This work has been a true interprofessional collaboration across the Forum members. It would not have been possible without the dedication of authors and contributors listed in the report and the participation of individuals who attended focus groups and gave feedback. We are thankful to you all.

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Health Professions Accreditation Collaborative Forum  
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*Our Vision is “Better and safer 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.