

## Communiqué

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October 2019

### September 2019 Podiatry Accreditation Committee meeting

On 1 July 2018, the Podiatry Board of Australia (the Board) determined that the accreditation functions for the podiatry profession would be exercised by a committee established by the Board. In July 2019, the Podiatry Accreditation Committee (the Accreditation Committee) commenced accreditation functions under the National Law.

The Accreditation Committee publishes this communiqué on the Board's [accreditation webpage](#). Please forward it to your colleagues and employees who may be interested.

#### Accreditation Committee activities

The second meeting of the Accreditation Committee was held on 24 September 2019 in Melbourne.

Following the inaugural meeting, held in July 2019, the Accreditation Committee has turned their attention to reviewing and developing the accreditation standards and professional capabilities, along with reviewing and revising its accreditation process for podiatry.

A key activity for the Accreditation Committee in 2019 is scheduling the commencement of monitoring and assessment of accredited and approved podiatry courses, to ensure graduates from these programs have the skills, knowledge and professional attributes to competently practise in the podiatry profession.

The Accreditation Committee's final meeting of 2019 is in November and they will reconvene in February 2020.

#### Accreditation Committee members

- Meeuwis Boelen  
*Chair and educationalist member*
- Mark Gilheany  
*Deputy Chair and practitioner member*
- Alison Bell  
*Educationalist member*
- Vivienne Chuter  
*Practitioner member*
- Sara Jones  
*Practitioner member*
- Lloyd Reed  
*Practitioner member*

The Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) provides the operational, advisory and secretariat functions for the Accreditation Committee via its Program Accreditation Team.

## Review and development of accreditation standards and profession capabilities

The Accreditation Committee is responsible for developing and reviewing, and the Board is responsible for approving and publishing, the accreditation standards against which education providers and their implementation of podiatry programs of study are assessed against when applying for accreditation under the National Law.

At its inaugural meeting in July 2019, the Accreditation Committee reviewed the current accreditation standards for podiatry and decided to seek the Board's agreement for the Accreditation Committee to commence a review of the accreditation standards and professional capabilities for podiatry. At its September 2019 meeting, the Committee agreed to its project plan for a project to review and develop accreditation standards and professional capabilities for podiatry. The Committee will soon submit its project plan to the Board for its approval.

Any review will include a comprehensive period of preliminary and public consultation. It is anticipated that revised/developed accreditation standards and professional capabilities would be ready for implementation in early 2021.

## Development of revised accreditation processes for podiatry

At its September 2019 meeting, the Committee agreed to adopt draft multi-professional guidelines for accreditation of education and training programs. The guidelines are being developed in conjunction with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice, Chinese Medicine, Medical Radiation Practice and Paramedicine Accreditation Committees. It is expected the guidelines will be ready for publishing in early-to-mid 2020.

The Committee will also review and develop profession-specific processes and procedures for podiatry from late-2019.

## Routine Annual Monitoring

The Committee discussed its obligations under Section 50 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law to monitor approved programs of study and the education providers offering them, to ensure the Committee continues to be satisfied the program and provider meet the approved accreditation standards.

The Accreditation Committee agreed to monitor accredited and approved programs of study in 2019/20 through routine annual monitoring. Routine annual monitoring collects information from providers about their programs that allows the Accreditation Committee to identify any risks, assess the likelihood and possible consequences of any risks, and respond in ways that are proportionate and manage risks. This approach reflects the Regulatory Principles for the National Scheme.

Education Providers will receive their routine annual monitoring form and data collection tables from late 2019.

## Contact information

For any queries related to podiatry program accreditation, please contact the Podiatry Accreditation Committee via the Program Accreditation Team via email at [program.accreditation@ahpra.gov.au](mailto:program.accreditation@ahpra.gov.au).

For more information on podiatry accreditation please visit the Board's [accreditation](#) webpage.

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