

Communiqué

December 2019

November 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 Committee) commenced its accreditation functions under the National Law.

The Communiqué provides information about the Committee's recent activities.

The 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 third meeting of the Accreditation Committee was held on 19 November 2019 in Melbourne.

The November meeting was the final meeting for 2019 and the Committee will reconvene in February 2020.

Committee meetings held in 2019

The Committee met for the first time in July 2019. To date, it has had three meetings in 2019:

- 25 July 2019 (inaugural)
- 24 September 2019, and
- 20 November 2019

The Committee has confirmed its 2020 schedule of meetings, being:

- 12 February 2020
- 22 April 2020
- 18 June 2020
- 17 September 2020
- 19 November 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.

2019/20 Accreditation Committee activities

The first half of 2019 has been a busy time for the Committee, and 2020 will continue to be, with work progressing on the review and development of accreditation standards; professional capabilities; accreditation processes; and evaluation of the routine annual monitoring submissions from education providers. These topics are covered more thoroughly below.

Review and development of accreditation standards and profession capabilities

The 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 approved podiatry programs of study are assessed against when applying for accreditation under the National Law.

At its inaugural meeting in July 2019, the Committee reviewed the current accreditation standards for podiatry and decided to seek the Board's agreement for the Committee to commence a project to review and develop relevant accreditation standards and professional capabilities for podiatry.

At its September 2019 meeting, the Committee agreed to its project plan to review and develop accreditation standards and professional capabilities for podiatry. The Committee also agreed to establish an Expert Reference Group to guide work on professional capabilities, comprising of Committee and Board representation with relevant expertise.

At its November 2019 meeting, the Committee confirmed the Terms of Reference for the Expert Reference Group and will seek expressions of interest from the Committee and Board to join the Expert Reference Group from December 2019.

The review of the accreditation standards and professional capabilities will include a comprehensive period of preliminary and public consultation. It is anticipated that the revised/developed accreditation standards and professional capabilities will 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.

The guidelines will be released for a targeted consultation, anticipated for late 2019/early 2020. It is expected the guidelines will be published in the first half of 2020.

Routine Annual Monitoring

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

At its September 2019 meeting, the Committee agreed on its approach to monitor approved programs of study through a routine annual monitoring package (form and data collection tables). Education Providers have started to receive their routine annual monitoring packages for 2019/20.

At its November 2019 meeting, the Committee considered the proposed allocation of Committee member reviewers of all education providers 2019/2020 Routine annual monitoring submissions.

The Committee will evaluate the routine annual monitoring submissions in 2020. The Committee will advise the education providers and Board on the outcomes of the Committee's evaluations throughout 2020.

Stakeholder engagement

The Program Accreditation Team on behalf of the Committee continues to engage with education providers through correspondence via email; phone calls; and communiques. The Committee will continue to seek stakeholder input on various consultations in 2020, including on relevant accreditation standards and professional capabilities.

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.

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

Follow AHPRA on social media

Connect with AHPRA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#) to receive information about important topics for your profession and participate in the discussion.

