

Communiqué

August 2019

Inaugural Paramedicine Accreditation Committee meetings

Introduction

On 1 December 2018, paramedicine became a regulated profession within the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme (the National Scheme) under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, as in force in each state and territory (the National Law).

The Paramedicine Board of Australia (the Board) determined that the accreditation functions for the paramedicine profession would be exercised by a committee established by the Board. In March 2019, the Board established the Paramedicine Accreditation Committee (the Accreditation Committee) 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.

About the Paramedicine Accreditation Committee

The Accreditation Committee met for the first time in April 2019. Its second meeting was in June 2019. The Accreditation Committee:

- Develops and recommends accreditation standards to the Board for approval.
- Assesses and accredits programs of study and education providers against the accreditation standards.
- Monitors approved programs of study.
- Provides advice to the board on issues in paramedicine education and clinical training.

Committee members

Eileen Willis
Chair and educationalist member

William Lord
Co-Deputy Chair and practitioner member

Alan Morrison
Co-Deputy Chair and practitioner member

Anthony Hucker ASM
Practitioner member

Richard Larsen ASM
Practitioner member

Martin Nichols
Practitioner member

Helen Webb
Practitioner member

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

Accreditation standards development

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 paramedicine programs of study (programs) are assessed when applying for accreditation under the National Law. Prior to the paramedicine profession joining the National Scheme, the Council of Ambulance Authorities (CAA) administered a system for accreditation of paramedicine education programs.

At its inaugural meeting in April 2019, the Accreditation Committee reviewed and agreed to the project plan for the development of its accreditation standards for paramedicine. At that meeting, the Accreditation Committee also agreed that members from the committee will operate as the Expert Reference Group for the project and invited an external member to participate, Dr Brett Williams - Professor and Head, Department of Community Emergency Health and Paramedic Practice, Faculty of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at Monash University.

AHPRA has appointed a project team and has started work on developing the accreditation standards in accordance with the approved project plan. The Expert Reference Group met for the first time in late-June and will continue to provide advice to the project team throughout the project on profession-specific aspects of the draft accreditation standards.

The initial draft accreditation standards place emphasis on safe practice, cultural competence, outcomes relevant to the expected competence of graduates and adopt an outcomes-focused approach.

Throughout the project the Accreditation Committee will have responsibility for:

- providing advice on working drafts of the revised accreditation standards
- approving draft revised accreditation standards as suitable for preliminary and wide-ranging public consultations, and
- agreeing the proposed revised accreditation standards are suitable for submission to the Board.

The review will include a comprehensive period of preliminary and public consultation. It is anticipated that preliminary consultation will start in August and run for eight weeks. Public consultation is anticipated to start in late-2019.

It is anticipated that the project will be finished in eight to 10 months, ready for implementation of the accreditation standards and accreditation of paramedicine programs prior to the National Law transition arrangements ending in December 2021.

Monitoring approved programs of study

In late 2018 the Board approved 27 paramedicine programs under section 310 of the National Law.

At its April 2019 meeting, the Accreditation Committee agreed on its approach to monitor these programs until their initial accreditation assessments under the National Law start. The Accreditation Committee's agreed approach includes routine annual monitoring that requires education providers to submit information about the approved programs of study they offer. Education providers will receive their routine annual monitoring form and data collection tables from late 2019.

Contact information

For any queries related to paramedicine program accreditation, please contact the Paramedicine Accreditation Committee via the Program Accreditation Team via email at program.accreditation@ahpra.gov.au.

For more information on paramedicine accreditation please visit the Board's [accreditation webpage](#). Further information will be added to the website as the Committee's accreditation functions progress.

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