

Dear Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Board of Australia members,

Please accept this as the SA Department of Health & Ageing, Statewide Service Strategy, Aboriginal Health Branch's submission for the Consultation Paper – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practice Boards of Australia – Accreditation Committee Membership due COB 15 March 2012.

The Board is seeking submissions on the following:

- 1. Do you agree with the proposed inclusion of an academic, an educationalist and at least one Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner?**

Agree in general with proposed academic & educationalist and I would assume that it would be great that these would also be Aboriginal people. With regards to having Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Practitioners preference would be to have two (2) with experience in the VET sector or be an assessor or have a sound understanding of competency based assessment.

- 2. Do you think a community representative should be on the Accreditation Committee?**

Agree that a member of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community should be included in this Accreditation committee. As one of the conditions of assessment for many of the units of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Primary Health Care Crt IV require specific knowledge to Aboriginal and /or Torres Strait Islander culture.

- 3. Do you think anyone else should be on the committee?**

Strongly believe that there should be more than five (5) members of this group to allow for absences and for the committee to still be functional.

- 4. Do you think there should be specific criteria for the selection of the above persons and if so what should they be eg VET sector experience and/or clinical experience?**

Agree with specific criteria to include VET sector experience and or clinical experience and or sound understanding of competency based assessment process.

- 5. Do you think a Board member should be on the Accreditation Committee?**

No, as it would be a direct conflict of interest as this accreditation committee should be providing independent advice and guidance to the ATSIHPB on Training and accreditation standards.

6. How many members do you think the committee should have? Six (6)

1. Educationalist,
2. Academic,
3. Professional Rep (AHP),
4. Professional Rep (AHP),
5. Community Member (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander)
6. Chairperson

It is critical that this Accreditation Committee is established in such a way that is transparent and without bias as it will have the power to not accredit RTO's and endanger their ability to gain funding and creditability. It is recommended that when a call is publicised to fill the Accreditation Board positions, that members are asked to provide a Confirmation of Aboriginality to confirm their Aboriginality and that they are known and linked to the Aboriginal communities they represent.

This information can be published on the Boards website to encourage discussion and inform the community and stakeholders. For any queries please contact Vickie Dodd, Manager Aboriginal Workforce Improvement on (08) 8226 7038 or Tanya McGregor, Principal Advisor on (08) 8226 0785.

Kind Regards

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